

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GLASTONBURY CITIZEN, INC.
PRESORTED STANDARD
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

P.O. BOX 373, GLASTONBURY, CT, 06033

POSTAL CUSTOMER
LOCAL

RIVEREAST

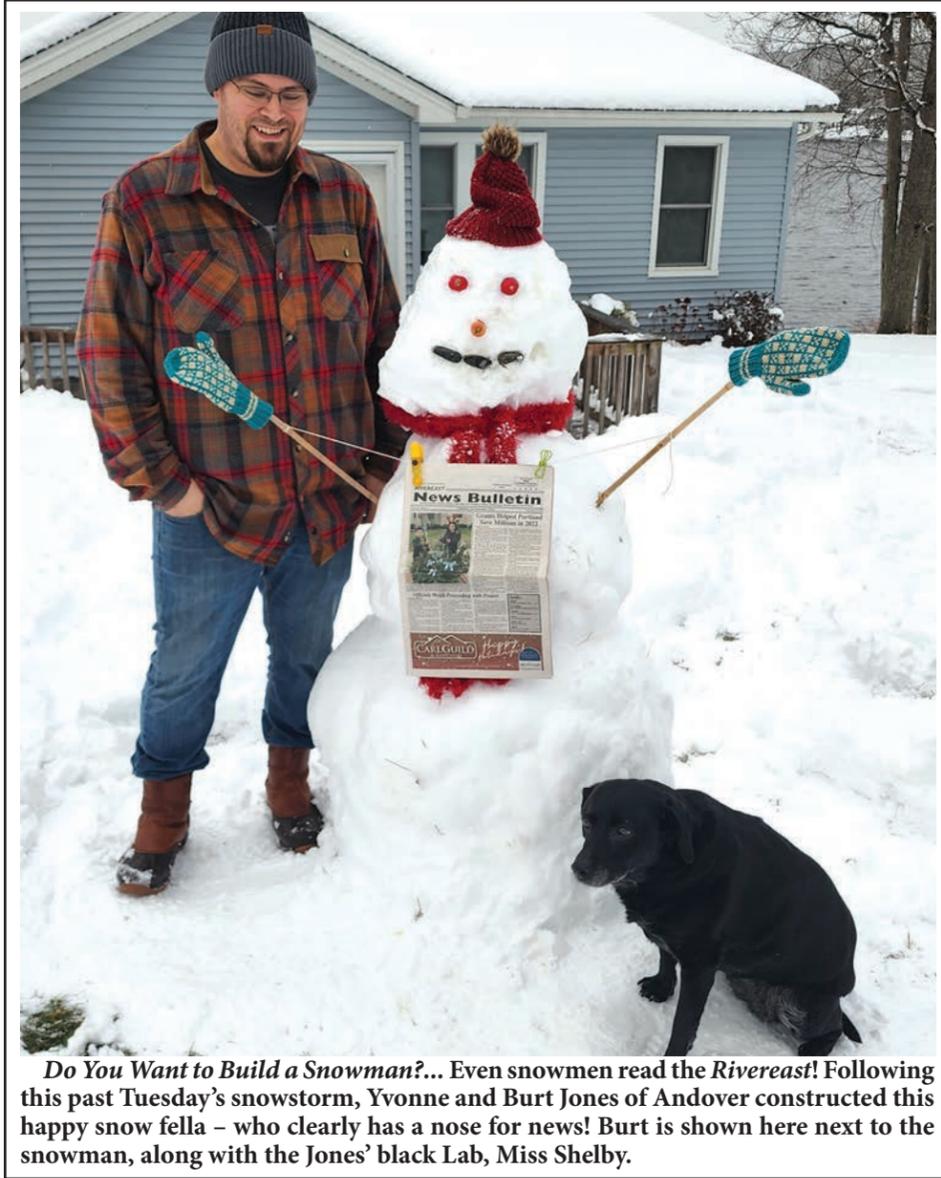
News Bulletin

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

Volume 48, Number 04

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

February 16, 2024



Do You Want to Build a Snowman?... Even snowmen read the Rivereast! Following this past Tuesday's snowstorm, Yvonne and Burt Jones of Andover constructed this happy snow fella – who clearly has a nose for news! Burt is shown here next to the snowman, along with the Jones' black Lab, Miss Shelby.

Hebron DPW Project Making Progress

By Michael Sinkewicz

It's a topic that's generated considerable debate and controversy in Hebron: the public works building project.

Since 2010, the town's Public Building Committee has assessed nearly 40 sites, looking for a feasible location to construct a new facility to replace the current complex, which officials say is outdated and has fallen into disrepair.

This week, Republican Peter Kasper, the chairman of both the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) Action Committee — a new commission formed last fall tasked with handling the day-to-day operations of the project — told the *Rivereast* that progress is being made and the project is steadily moving forward.

"I'm very confident this is the right approach," he said.

The goal, Kasper expressed, is to evaluate the viability of upgrading the DPW's facility at Old Colchester Road — a process that includes updating any cost assessments and schematics — and bring a proposal to the town that would ultimately be voted on at a community-wide referendum.

During his interview, Kasper reviewed the challenges facing the project and the town's efforts to restore public trust in the undertaking — a crucial component for the initiative to be successful.

Enhancing communication is a major priority, Kasper said, and the Action Committee recently established a communications subcommittee to assist with that effort.

"We know we can do better with that," he asserted, adding that updates will be posted on the town website and on social media in the weeks ahead. "It takes time and we'll hopefully keep

earning trust."

Committed to Old Colchester Road

As of now, Kasper said the quickest a referendum would take place is the beginning of 2025. Soliciting updated prices — including the costs of architectural and engineering decisions, along with a final project estimate — will take months.

It's not a process the town wants to rush; one of Kasper's fears is that after presenting a proposal, it's still "not viable from the public's perspective."

"The last thing you want to do is bring something to referendum and have it fail," he said.

If any major detail — such as the bottom-line price tag — conflicts with the public's preference, "we start again."

Much of the controversy with the project stemmed from environmental concerns with building a new DPW complex at the Horton Property on Kinney Road. Residents publicly objected to the facility being constructed in close proximity to their homes, citing a variety of fears — most notably, salt contamination.

Because that site is classified as "GA" by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection — which means that its water is suitable for drinking without treatment — many viewed placing a DPW operation there as an unnecessary risk. Accordingly, the town's Green Committee also wrote a letter to local officials cautioning them against locating the facility at the 88-acre parcel on Kinney Road.

Kasper stressed that the action committee is entirely focused on options at the current DPW site at Old Colchester Road. Ideas relating to Kinney Road are "not something we're looking

See *Hebron DPW Project*, page 31

Marlborough Resident Celebrates 100th Birthday

By Michael Sinkewicz

When Mary Viola was born in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge roamed the halls of the White House; the tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower; and a gallon of milk cost 28 cents.

Next week on Feb. 20, the Marlborough resident will turn 100 years old — a remarkable milestone that few are able to celebrate. Centenarians account for just 0.03% of the country's population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Viola will be joined by her family next Tuesday at the Marlborough Health & Rehabilitation Center, to enjoy a slice of cake and swap stories that capture her fulfilling journey.

"She was a really good mom to me," said Gail Bantle, 64, one of Viola's two children who lives in Glastonbury. "She lived an amazing life."

It's hard to fully imagine a life that weaved through countless historic moments, a world war and the advancement of technology. Many traditions that have become seemingly timeless, were once-novel events. For example, the first-ever Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade rolled through 34th Street in New York City when Viola was just nine months old.

There were insights, though, that only a centenarian could provide. Bantle recalled grocery shopping with her mom, who would complain about the price of bread, which at first seemed mystifying until put into the right perspective.

"She lived through the Depression," Bantle conveyed, adding that her mom would be given a penny to pick up bread at the store.

Born in Ambler, Pa., Viola traveled around the country — enjoying stints locally in Stam-

ford, Norwalk, Vernon and East Hartford, along with nursing home stays in Manchester and Marlborough; she also lived in the Bronx and on the West Coast. She has outlived three husbands, raised two children, has two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. (Bantle is the daughter of Viola and her second husband.)

While reaching 100 seems like an impressive achievement, Viola actually has her sights set on a different number. Her cousin lived to be 104 — a new benchmark.

"I want to live to 105" — that's what she always said!" Bantle expressed. "It blows my mind. She really is special."

What's the secret to longevity?

It's hard to pinpoint one factor, Bantle said, but her mom didn't smoke or drink; she bowled

See *Birthday Celebration*, page 29

Inside...

RHAM	
High School Honor Roll	pg 3
Marlborough	
BOE Adopts Budget	pg 8
East Hampton	
Council Appoints New Member	pg 13
Portland	
Ten Years of 'Chill for Change'	pg 15
Colchester	
Turf Field Possible?	pg 20
Regional	
Obituaries	pg 28



Mark Toledo

For All Your Real Estate Needs

860-301-2339

MarkToledo.com

Top 1% CT - Top 2% Nationally



Proud Sponsor of the Sunshine Kids
Dedicated to Children with Cancer



Look up my Zillow reviews and find out what my clients say about me.

Search online:
"Mark Toledo Realtor Zillow Reviews"



RE2-16-24



Featured Listing!

81 Hollister Way North
Glastonbury
\$399,900

Margaret Wilcox & Kim Tripp



M/W
MARGARET WILCOX TEAM
WILLIAM RAVEIS

Call us for a private showing or to feature your home!
860-916-3517 + 860-202-3330

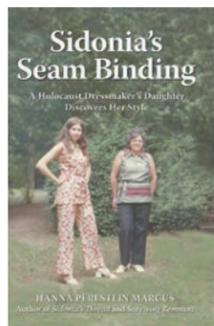
CITZ-15-24



HannaPerlsteinMarcus.com

COLEBROOK AUTHOR SERIES

with award-winning author **Hanna Perlstein Marcus**



Wednesday, February 21ST at 2:00PM

Sidonia's Seam Binding

How did a single-mother Holocaust survivor thrive on her own in America? Through the power of her wits, her imagination, and above all, her hands.

Colebrook Village
at Hebron

860-801-1114 • ColebrookVillage.com
55 John E. Horton Blvd. • Hebron, CT

CITZ-15-24

Saint Clement's
CASTLE & MARINA

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

Join us for a night of Irish cheer, delicious food, great beer, and live music! Admission is \$35!

Date | Friday, March 15, 2024
Time | 6:00PM - 10:00PM
Address | 1931 Portland-Cobalt Rd.
Portland, CT 06480

[Register Here!](#)



MENU

<u>Passed Hors D'oeuvres</u>	<u>Food Stations</u>
Deviled Green Eggs & Ham Irish Bacon Flatbread Mini Reuben Spring Roll	<u>Carving Station</u> Corned Beef, Pastrami, & Brisket
<u>Desserts & Drinks</u>	<u>Irish Potato Bar</u> House-made potato chips, potato wedges & sweet potato fries. <i>Toppings include: Irish beer cheese, Corned beef, Tomatoes, Bacon, Sour cream, Jalapenos, Onions, & Salsa</i>
San Francisco Irish Coffee Station Small Bites of Irish Desserts Cash Bar - Irish Brands	<u>Irish Soda Bread</u>

CITZ-16-24

XPOCANN
PRESENTS THE 3RD ANNUAL CONNECTICUT

CANNABIS EXPO

PRESENTED BY

FEB 24 & 25

SATURDAY 10-6 • SUNDAY 10-5

GLASS BLOWING COMPETITION! featuring local artists

FEATURING THE X CUP CANNABIS COMPETITION! AWARDS ON SAT 2PM!

SKY CONVENTION CENTER AT MOHEGAN SUN UNGASVILLE, CT.

SPONSORED BY:

TICKETS \$20 • WEEKEND TICKET HOLDERS \$30 • VETERANS \$10 OFF W/ ID
• NO SALE, GIFTING, OR CONSUMPTION OF THC PRODUCTS ALLOWED AT THE EVENT •

WWW.XPOCANN.COM

CITZ-15-24

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Last Sunday's Super Bowl was one of the all-time greats. As I wrote two weeks ago, I was rooting for the Chiefs, so I was happy with the outcome – but the game itself was fantastic. A real nail-biter, which featured just the second overtime in Super Bowl history.

The first half was a rather low-scoring affair, and the Chiefs exhibited some of that same sloppiness they'd shown during the regular season, as opposed to the crisp football they'd played in the postseason.

But they seemed to flip a switch in the second half, scoring 10 unanswered points to grab a 13-10 lead over the 49ers. From there, the lead changed hands a couple more times, and regulation ended in a dead heat: a 19-19 tie.

Overtime saw San Francisco score a field goal, but then Patrick Mahomes and the KC offense marched down the field on a great drive and scored a championship-winning touchdown. It was a thrilling end to what was, like I said, just a fantastic Super Bowl.

Also fantastic? The Nielsen ratings for the Big Game. Sunday's game wound up being the highest-rated Super Bowl ever, with more than 123 million viewers turning in. That's 7% more than the amount that tuned in last year. I'm sure the Taylor Swift factor had an impact on the ratings, but whatever the reason, it's very impressive.

On a more local level, congratulations as well to Hebron attorney Kenneth Slater Jr., and East Hampton attorney Michael Rose. The two are among the 27 attorneys recently elected new Fellows by the Connecticut Bar Foundation (CBF) James W. Cooper Fellows Program.

Fellows are nominated by their peers based on their outstanding service to the profession and larger community and are elected by the CBF Board of Directors.

"We are pleased to recognize our new Fellows for their distinguished service to the legal profession, and for their commitment to the principles of equal justice and the rule of law," said Victoria Woodin Chavey, president of the Connecticut Bar Foundation.

The CBF said in a press release its mission is to "facilitate systemic change that advances civil justice for all, regardless of power or resources, to achieve a more just and equitable

society."

The Fellows consist of lawyers in private practice, U.S. Court of Appeals judges, U.S. District Court judges, Connecticut Supreme, Appellate and Superior Court judges, corporate counsel, attorneys in nonprofit associations and legal services agencies, and government lawyers.

Slater is managing partner at Halloran & Sage LLP in Hartford, and Rose is managing partner at Rose Kallor LLP, also in Hartford.

Congratulations, gentlemen!

Are you suffering from a chronic health condition? Well, Norwich-based nonprofit Senior Resources – an agency that provides services to assist older individuals and individuals with disabilities, as well as their families and their caregivers – may be able to help.

Starting next week, Senior Resources is offering "Live Well with Chronic Conditions," a free six-week workshop, offered over Zoom.

In the workshop, folks will learn how to better manage their ongoing health condition. Topics include: healthy eating, physical activity and exercise, dealing with difficult emotions, decision-making and communications skills, working with healthcare providers, action planning, and more.

The workshop will meet Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m., from Feb. 21-March 27. To register, call 860-887-3561 ext. 127 or email Lori at lrygielski@seniorresourcesec.org.

Last week in this space I mentioned the Science Bowl. Well, in keeping with the theme, this week I'm plugging the upcoming Connecticut Spelling Bee!

The seventh annual Connecticut Spelling Bee will take place Sunday, March 3, at the Hoffman Auditorium at the University of Saint Joseph. Participants will compete for the chance to represent the state at the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will take place in May in Maryland. The winner of the Connecticut bee will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Saint Joseph.

Students who have made it to The Connecticut Spelling Bee have already won their school- or town-wide spelling bees. Over 10,000 Connecticut students in grades 2-8 participated in the spelling bee program this

Editor's Desk continued on page 5

Bulletin Board

Surfing through the channels this past weekend, I stumbled across a disconcerting (at least for this old goat) TV commercial. The ad depicted a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed young man stocking up on condoms "just in time for Valentine's Day."

Those of you with daughters will presumably not be surprised that salacious, cloven-hoofed satyrs are masquerading as polite, fresh-faced American boys, but I thought the Valentine's Day angle was a bit over the top—particularly when the ad proceeded to list all the erotic benefits of their product, which made the competition look about as attractive as a second-hand plastic sandwich bag. Apparently, technology has made tremendous strides since I was a hopeful young satyr with a years-old condom wearing a hole in my wallet.

Nevertheless, the decision to market condoms as a Valentine's Day purchase got me to thinking. And, after considerable rumination, I came to two main conclusions:

1) Clearly, despite all the divisiveness and turmoil in our country these days, American optimism among people younger and more energetic than myself is far from dead.

2) The more things change, the more they stay the same: i.e., beneath all the lip service to social progress, men are still basically swine.

I should confess also, lest you take me for an old lecher instead of a mere curmudgeon (though the two are not necessarily incompatible), that in my reckless channel surfing last weekend, I somehow strayed somewhat afield from my normal (and more comfortable) TV audience demographic. The latter typically attracts advertising for products that promise to cure everything from constipation to toe fungus, accompanied by minor side effects such as liver failure, incontinence and uncontrollable seizures followed by death.

I will admit there is no shortage of guaranteed miracles. One commercial geared to my age group hawks a pill full of powdered plant matter that's apparently supposed to be the equivalent of devouring an entire vegetable garden. Now, I'm no mathematical wizard, but it's pretty clear to me that, if you grind up a thimbleful of broccoli and cram it into a pill capsule, you've still only got a thimbleful of broccoli.

Nevertheless, even the ads targeting my decrepit demographic have the decency to stop short of raising unrealistic hopes by trying to sell me condoms for Valentine's Day. Most would seem to be content to just keep me mobile enough to get out to the mailbox and back without coughing up a kidney.

Now if some of you eager young bucks heading out this week with a bouquet of roses, a box of chocolates and a pocket full of condoms find that a little sad, let me offer a reality check. Trust me, the day will come when you'll be content to sit around with your few surviving buddies and brag about how many medications you have to take to keep breathing.

In the meantime, I hope you get hit by a bus.

Jim Hallas

Riverast Hours of Operation

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



Humanitarian Honored... The Portland Lions Club's choice for the 2023 Lions Club District Annual Humanitarian Award was Rosario Rizzo from Portland. Rizzo, as he is known by so many in town, has dedicated much of himself to many activities that affect those in the town of Portland. Pictured are Portland Lions Susan Bransfield, Jim Bransfield, Patty Rizzo (wife of recipient), Lions District Governor Teri Schlosser, Rosario Rizzo (recipient) Liz Tripp, Guy Lardozone, Janet Nocek and Jim Tripp.

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

Your Input Matters!

Colchester Residents:

On Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m., the Board of Finance will conduct its first budget forum. All dates and times for the rest of the upcoming budget season are on the town's calendar at www.colchesterct.gov. These forums are a chance to make your voice heard regarding the town and school budgets and the use of your tax dollars. Your input matters!

Please make every effort to attend in person or via Zoom and participate in this vital process for the community.

Sincerely,

**Scott Chapman, Chair
Colchester Board of Finance**

Spending vs Ethics

To the Editor:

Recently, a *Riverast* article reported that the Portland BOS approved the purchase of a \$525K firetruck chassis at a public hearing on January 17th. No surprise that most participants in attendance were members of the Portland Fire Department. No Zoom link was available, and no meeting minutes have been posted.

It appears First Selectman Curly's second term will mirror his first term, with Selectman Manning as the puppeteer. Over the past two

years, Manning, 1st Lieutenant of the Company 3 firehouse, has publicly advocated and voted on BOS supplemental appropriations that benefited the fire department, totaling \$1.5M. Manning chose not to recuse himself on fire department issues, although there is an appearance of a conflict of interest, which is a violation of Ethics rules. Manning is now advocating for the fire truck that the BOS voted to replace to be "gifted" back to the fire department for personal use. However, he is not the only member of the BOS who has benefited personally while a member of the board.

Selectman Pelton, the Portland High School track coach, spoke publicly at town meetings in favor of the \$1.2M school track renovations. Funding for the track came from a \$500K state grant and \$700K in allocation from town funds. Pelton has also voted on town budgets that include pay raises for himself and revenue increases for the track department. Pelton's list of personal benefits extends beyond BOS meetings.

As the BOS wades into the deep end of the "swamp," how can we trust them to develop fiscally responsible budgets and make sound decisions that will impact the town for years?

When Ethics go unchecked taxpayers lose.

Rose Aletta - Portland

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Published Every Friday by The Glastonbury Citizen

87 Nutmeg Lane • Glastonbury, CT 06033

Telephone (860) 633-4691

Email: bulletin@glcitizen.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 373 • Glastonbury, CT 06033

Email classified line ads to admin@glcitizen.com.

Email Legal Notices to legals@glcitizen.com

and call 860-633-4691 to pay with MC or VISA.

Kevin and Pat Rarey, Publishers

Josh Howard—Office Manager, Sports Editor

Mike Thompson, Editor

Staff Reporters:

London Brazal—East Hampton, Portland

Michael Sinkewicz—Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough & Andover

Advertising Representatives:

Jason Baran, ext. 104 • jason@glcitizen.com

Lisa Sniетка, ext. 103 • lisa@glcitizen.com

Art Department

Jeanne Giovann, Julie Kristoff

and Julie Misuraca

PUBLISHER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL ANY ADVERTISEMENT AT ANY TIME

Standard Mail – Postage Permit #1092 at Hartford, CT • Glastonbury Citizen (USPS-219-360)

News copy deadline for *The Riverast News Bulletin* is Tuesday at noon. Please address all letters & news articles to: *Riverast News Bulletin*, P.O. Box 373, Glastonbury, CT 06033

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

(860) 633-4691 — bulletin@glcitizen.com

Drama Club Silent Auction

To the Editor:

The East Hampton High School Drama Club is hosting a fundraiser event to support their spring musical, *The Wizard of Oz!* Please join us for some fun on Friday, Feb. 16, from 5-9 p.m., at Rule of 3 Brewing right here in East Hampton! Great food, beverages, live music, and fantastic prizes in the tea cup raffle & silent auction. Thank you to our local community for your support!

We are very grateful to our donors including: Black Walnut, Fresca Tequila Bar and Grill, Oz n' Bones, Lakeside Bar and Grill, Walt Jedziniak Photography, Carl Guild & Associates, Lynn Minnick, Jim E Jive – Jeff Taylor, Ace Hardware (East Hampton), Old Bank Flowers & Greenery, Chris and Kendra Dickinson and The Young Peoples Center for Creative Arts.

Hope to see you there!

Donna Goodspeed and Lynn Minnick
Co-Event Coordinators

Citizen Trump

To the Editor:

“For the purpose of this criminal case, former President Trump has become citizen Trump, with all of the defenses of any other criminal defendant. But any executive immunity that may have protected him while he served as President no longer protects him against this prosecution. ... It would be a striking paradox if the president, who alone is vested with the constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, were the sole officer capable of defying those laws with impunity. ... We cannot accept that the office of the presidency places its former occupants above the law for all time thereafter.” – United States Court of Appeals, DC Circuit ruling in *USA v. Donald Trump No. 1:23-cr-00257-1*.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Winter Sowing

To the Editor:

Winter sowing of native plants is a wonderful way to beat the winter blues, jump start your gardening and grow your personal nursery of native flowers at little cost. Nature designed our native plants (phlox, rudbeckia, asters, butterfly weed, lobelia, turtleheads, coneflowers, etc.) to have seeds which can weather the cold, snow and wet of New England winters. In fact, these native plants need the cold, damp and changing temperature conditions for their seeds to germinate. While native seeds can be sown directly on prepared ground and left to be exposed to the snow and cold of winter, native seeds can also be sown in prepared water/milk jugs.

This Saturday, Feb. 17, the Hebron Pollinator Pathway will be holding a winter sowing workshop at the Douglas Library in Hebron. Stop by from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to learn how easy it is to grow your own perennials using the milk jug technique. And find out how the Hebron Pollinator Pathway is using the direct sown on the ground to grow a wide range of native plants in their gardens at Raymond Brook Preserve. Fully prepared kits complete with a variety of native seeds will be available on a first-come basis. A fun event for all ages!

Candace O'Shea – Hebron

Good Against Evil

To the Editor:

Over the years I have read many letters printed in the reader forum but nothing like the letter from Spencer Killian's reflection on Trump. Any person that writes a letter like that cannot have a functioning brain and is infected with hate, anger, and ignorance. To refer to the “Thousand Year Reich,” “GOP gestapo,” “Trump is a Nazi threat and Hitler,” and condemn Republican legislators and senators. He states we must resist and oppose the Republican poison in local, state and federal election vote them out or there will be a civil war.

If we do what Spencer Killian wants, we

will not have a country. Because of people like Spencer Killian this country is more divided than any time in history; it is now good against evil. The good love this country, want to make it great and keep it great, protect our borders, and our citizens want law and order and respect the constitution. I took an oath to protect this nation against all enemies both foreign and domestic. Duty, honor, country are words I live by. Make America great and keep it great – people like Spencer Killian have no idea what those words mean; people like me are now the enemy. I would suggest that people like Spencer Killian read the book *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff; they might learn something.

The 2024 election could be the turning point in this country. We could continue on a path of destruction or start the long process of rebuilding to what our forefathers started.

David Anderson – Colchester

Contradictory Republicans

To the Editor:

Last week Republicans contradicted their own fear-mongering about immigration on the Southern border. For months Maga Republicans have refused to approve funding for Ukraine, or Israel because they demanded changes in what they define as “an invasion of diseased caravans crossing the border.”

In their moral zeal these same Trumppublicans, who are no strangers to political spectacles, drafted a conservative border bill, followed by a bogus impeachment of Homeland Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. They demanded President Biden enact legislation to save our children from Fentanyl and our cities from violent immigrants. In turn, Biden encouraged Senate Democrats and Republicans to develop legislation that would meet the Republican demands. The outcome was bi-partisan legislation that not only adopted the austere Republican measures but augmented them with the most comprehensive and conservative border legislation in the nation's history.

However, despite the invasion of lawless illegals streaming across our border, the epidemic of Fentanyl killing our children, and the Biden administration handing the MAGA Republican Congress everything they asked for and more, Republicans rejected it, before they even read it. There is of course, something deeply hypocritical about peddling a crisis you are unwilling to resolve.

The reality is Republicans don't actually care about drugs, jobs, or the humanitarian crisis. What they really care about is defending their way of life from a perceived threat from others who don't look, speak or pray like they do. If Republicans really wanted to do something about the border they would begin with enforcing immigration laws within the agriculture, ranching, construction, and service industries who hire illegal immigrants to do the jobs Americans don't want. Rather than building a wall, maybe Americans should build a giant mirror, to reflect who we have become.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

Luncheon Fundraiser Thanks

To the Editor:

The fundraiser to support senior luncheons was held on Sunday, Feb. 4, and was another successful event. My amazing co-chair, Carol Lee, and I want to thank all those who helped make this a success: Emily Timrek for always caring and helping who was there very early Sunday to work and didn't leave until everything was cleaned up. Carol and Emily are awesome workers. Thanks go to Rachael Elam and her daughters, Audrey, Ella and Isabelle for helping run the booths; Tanya Hughes for handling the money for us; Lisa Kurtz in charge of

the bake table, and baking, and her helper Ellie Skoog; Marie Smith for working all day as our floater helping wherever she was needed and for baking. Thanks also to Linda Armstrong who helped and Annemarie Daigle for baking, and to Alicia Lee and Kim and Tony Hawes.

To our vendors we owe many thanks for being steadfast and supporting our efforts at all fundraisers. Melanie Merkel, PCTV was there filming, along with state Rep. Steve Weir who came to visit. Saturday night helpers were Bob Post, Steve Fuss, and his children setting up tables. To those who donated but could not attend the event we want to remember them as well: Eric Anderson, Tiiu and Ylo Anson, Jeff Ballard, Suzanne Heise, Scott Person and those who wish to remain nameless – thank you. Lunch was provided by Chili's for those who wanted to try something different than the usual pizza we serve. Nice change and well-received!

We owe all the people who stopped in to support us a huge thank you, without our helpers, vendors, and shoppers we would not be able to reach our goal. Great job everyone! If anyone has been omitted, please forgive me; I always want to include everyone!

Sincerely,

Cathy Palazzi

Andover Senior Coordinator

Invasive Species in Lake

To the Editor:

The Conservation-Lake Commission was informed last year that Lake Pocotopaug is harboring an invasive species of plant known as hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*, to be exact). Hydrilla is particularly aggressive, and the strain in our lake is the same strain that is found in the Connecticut River. Hydrilla is a submerged plant which is bad because it grows quickly (sometimes up to an inch a day), and crowds out other, native plants by producing a dense canopy near the water surface. It can entangle boat propellers and interfere with recreation and native wildlife.

The Conservation-Lake Commission is studying how widespread the hydrilla is in Lake Pocotopaug and reviewing potential ways to control or eliminate its growth. All boaters to the lake can help with a simple 3 step process of CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

- 1) Clean off visible aquatic plants, animals, mud and algae from all equipment
- 2) Drain the motor, bilge, livewell, and other water containing potential hazards before leaving water access
- 3) Dry everything for at least 5 days or wipe with a towel before reuse

Happy boating to everyone this season!

Cheryl Lobo, Member

East Hampton Conservation & Lake Commission

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

year. Out of that number, 57 are eligible to move on to the Connecticut Spelling Bee.

I'm pleased to report that, this year, Andover Elementary School, Center School in East Hampton, and East Hampton Middle School will all send kids to the Connecticut Spelling Bee. How cool would it be to see a *Rivereast* kid make it to the national competition!

The Connecticut Spelling Bee is free and open to the public (on a first-come, first-

Muddy Grasshoppers

To the Editor:

Do gray beards equate to wisdom? What about Bush League behaviors? Who do you call, at 3 a.m., when you're up to your axels in mud? AAA? Rampart Squad 51? The Chief of Police? Ghostbusters?

At the Feb. 5, DPW Action Committee meeting we heard the good news about dusting off Hebron's 2015 plans to rebuild the Public Works at its present location on Old Colchester Road. The topic of money, to purchase the Eversource land, was also raised. Some suggested the land could be rolled into the project's final costs. Others wondered if Open Space would be willing to contribute. Unfortunately, since 2015, Open Space's budget has been cut several times. However, all is not lost. Open Space has proved itself to be quite resourceful, surviving on its shoe string budget much like the ant in the children's book, *The Ant and the Grasshopper*. Maybe Open Space's industrious ants can come together to rescue a cold and hungry grasshopper.

What do muddy vehicles, grasshoppers and Open Space have to do with each other? Frankly, I don't know. My primary concern is our neighborhoods' drinking water and what's left of Hebron's history. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Trump Supporters

To the Editor:

Trump supporters are an amazing bunch. Whatever they think of Joe Biden, another Trump term is an overwhelming threat to our country. Supporting this would-be tyrant demonstrates unpatriotic disloyalty to our great nation.

They scream about the economy. But by every measure – except inflation, which affected all our peer nations, and is now under control – it's been better under Biden. Trump has been publicly rooting against our economy. He is perfectly happy to inflict misery on everyone to win votes. Supporting Trump is supporting anti-American political extortion.

(A note to Don Denley: yes, people say the economy is bad; they also say their own finances are fine. The disconnect demonstrates the gullible believing right-wing media's incessant lies; that doesn't make it true.)

They follow Trump's lead and talk about crime rates. Outside of a little blip that started with the pandemic, they've been falling for decades, and 2023 had the sharpest drop in murder rate on record. But the facts won't stop their screaming. Supporting Trump is supporting unjustified paranoia.

Then they focus on immigration. When the Democrats gave the Republicans everything they wanted in an immigration bill, Congress-

See Letters, page 6

served basis). Doors open at 12:30 p.m., and the competition will start at 1 p.m. For more information on the bee, contact Alex Gerrish at 860-502-3247 or email at events@noahwebsterhouse.org.

I encourage you to head to West Hartford and cheer the kids on! And who knows, you may even learn something too.

See you next week.

Like us on
Facebook
RivereastNewsBulletin



GLASTONBURY
ANIMAL HOSPITAL
of MARLBOROUGH

NOW OPEN!

Always Accepting
New Patients
& Clients!

21 South Main Street
Marlborough, CT 06447
860-295-3939

Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-3pm

HUGE WINTER SALE
on Trailers.

Contractors Get Ready For The Season With Our Service Specials!



Parts & Service
451 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT
just off rt 2

860-603-2368

A&R ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC
Radon Specialists since 1995

Radon Mitigation & Testing
Specializing in Air & Water Systems

Licensed, Certified & Insured

www.arenvironmental.com **FREE QUOTES**

Serving CT & MA **860-742-6767**

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 5

sional Trump supporters nixed the bill because it might help Biden politically. This is not speculation; they said it out loud. They claim Biden can do it all via executive orders. Remember when Obama set immigration rules through executive orders? They went through the roof. But they were silent when Trump did so. Supporting Trump is supporting crass manipulation.

Now Trump says he'd let Putin invade certain NATO allies. Those supporters will claim justification, as evident in Ken Hjulstrom's notion that Trump is a horrible human being but that's what

we need right now. Supporting Trump is supporting cowardly bullying.

In fact, supporting Trump is supporting evil, plain and simple.

(References: <http://letters.sauyet.com/#/2024-02-16/>)

Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet - Andover

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

Predictable Liberal

To the Editor:

Since Scott Sauyet graciously allowed me to have the last word on his version of "Bidenomics," I will oblige.

Scott used a predictable liberal maneuver in blaming Trump for increased lumber prices (via Canadian tariffs), while justifying an illegitimate rationalization of "most Americans doing better under Bidenomics." His arguments, like most liberal arguments, are based loosely on facts and firmly on the belief that the moon

is made of cheese. Maybe one of Scott's math degrees should have been in reading and writing comprehension because his arguments lack both. It also appears that Scott's math degrees might be in Democratic math because they produce a convoluted interpretation of financial theory.

To approximate a quote from Scott: "Mr. Kozlowski is saying that lumber prices rose 163% (in 2020) during one year of Trump's term and have fallen 46% since, mostly under Biden." Uhm...Scott...do you remember 2020? Remember COVID, buddy? Or are you getting like Biden? Your attempt at statistical misdirection is cute to other liberals, but not to the informed. Prior to 2020 (after three years of Trump), lumber prices were 40% lower than now (after three years of Biden). And that counts as a strike against Trump? Liberal math.

But this isn't about lumber. This is about the residents of Andover understanding who is in a leadership position in their town government, a position that confers authority in the fiscal and educational direction of the town. Although letters are written under the toothless disclaimer of "writing as an individual" town leaders should leave political biases, factual inaccuracies and statistical convolutions to those who are not responsible for shaping an all-inclusive community. Needless to say, if Scott was on the other side of the aisle, freedom to express himself would be short-lived and his government tenure would be even shorter.

Incredulously,
Ed Kozlowski - Colchester

Changes are Underway

To the Editor:

Exciting changes are underway at KOCO Child Care Center, reflecting our unwavering commitment to the children and families of East Hampton and surrounding communities.

Janet Santos, a longstanding member of the KOCO family, assumes the role of executive director, while Laurie Caron continues her vital role as director of KOCO. This strategic decision ensures the seamless continuation of our mission: to provide quality child care to families in East Hampton and neighboring areas.

As a not-for-profit center, we take pride in serving our community's needs, fostering a thriving environment where every child feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential. Our center is more than just a facility; it's a nurturing community where children flourish, supported by dedicated staff and engaged families.

As we embrace these changes, we invite the East Hampton community to celebrate with us. Join us in congratulating Janet on her new role and continuing to support Laurie in her dedicated efforts to enrich the lives of our children.

Marc Risigo, Board President
Donata Barber, Board Vice President
KOCO Child Care Center

Public Works Promise

To the Editor:

It is a relief to see planning underway to fix and update Hebron's Public Works facility at Old Colchester Road. I urge Chairman Peter Kasper and the members of the Department of Public Works Action Committee to keep the promise established by the Public Works Survey. A vast majority of 69% of respondents established a clear mandate: "Keep Public Works at Old Colchester Road." As this effort proceeds I encourage the members of the committee to return to the Survey and familiarize themselves with the hundreds of comments offered. The survey results are on the town website and the comments include:

"Contamination of water, air and land we need to survive on should never be compromised or threatened for any reason."

"Current site but with new ideas on how the town can manage its public works responsibilities in the current environment and with an eye toward the future. Perhaps we need to think differently about how we do things and not focus on the site."

"We are a small town, we do not need a state of the art facility. Stop spending my money."

"Cost. Building costs have increased greatly. Spend the town's budgeted money as you would spend your own and I hope it is frugally and conscience of finances and impact to homeowners."

"Fix what you have. Not many towns are building new facilities - especially small towns like ours. It should not have fallen into the dis-repaired state it is currently in."

I encourage residents of Hebron to attend the
See Letters page 30

ENTERTAINMENT



**43 Hayward Ave.
Colchester, CT**

Our authentic & artisan original barbeque recipes, are made fresh from scratch.

Brunch Is Back!
**Saturday
February 17th**

**Dine In • Take Out
Lunch • Dinner • Catering**

Find out just how kick-ass BBQ can be!!

(860) 537-3355
oznbonesbbq.com

@oznbonesbbq




**Rt. 66, Portland
(860) 342-4968**

Serving Breakfast & Lunch
Open 7 days 5:00AM-1:00PM
Gluten Free Menu Available

**Stop in for
Delicious Breakfast
Specials!**

Check our Facebook page for our weekend specials!!

COME GET YOUR TAKEOUT FOR LUNCH!

Now Open on Franklin Ave.

Adriatic Restaurant

Featuring Italian & Balkan/
Mediterranean Cuisine

Brought to you by the owners of
Portofinos in Berlin

Our Dining Room is Open
Wednesday through Monday,
11am to 9pm

Bring Your Own Wine or Beer –
No Corkage Fee!



Also Offering Take-Out,
Party Platters and
Delicious Family
Meals to Go!

- Chicken Parmigiana
- Chicken Marsala
- Chicken Adriatic
- Adriatic Combo- Cevapi, Cufte, Sudzuk & Grilled Chicken

577 Franklin Ave., Hartford
860-726-4155

Portofinos

Italian Restaurant

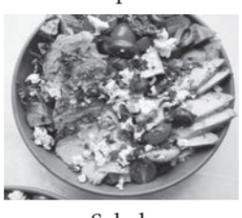
246 New Britain Rd, Kensington, • 860-826-6374

You Deserve a Great Meal!

We specialize in Southern and Northern Italian cuisine. Everything at Portofinos is prepared using only the freshest ingredients and made from original recipes. Our menu includes many traditional as well as a variety of unique dishes. We also offer daily specials for lunch and dinner.



Shrimp & Pasta



Salad



Filet Mignon



Pizza

Hours: Mon. 11am-8:30pm,
Tue. Closed, Wed. & Thur. 11am-9pm,
Fri. & Sat. 11am-9:30pm,
Sun. 11am-8pm

Lunch & Dinner menu
www.portofinosrestaurantct.com

- Dine In
- Outside Patio Open
- Take Out

Order: 860-826-6374
(No Minimum)

We are following strict COVID-19 safety guidelines to ensure your safety.

Andover • Andover

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. Medicals will no longer be available for Tuesdays. They are available for Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Collecting for Auction

The Andover Friends of the Library Auction Committee is collecting donations for its 22nd annual Goods and Services Auction that will be held Friday, May 17.

The committee is looking for new items to create gift baskets. The following are examples of popular items: gift certificates, handmade items like jewelry, scarves, quilts, afghans, sports items, paintings and music/video games.

This auction is the Friends' big fundraiser; proceeds help support library programs. Donations are tax-deductible.

Commission, Committee Members Needed

Any Andover elector interested in serving on one of the following committees or commissions should send a letter of interest via email to townclerk@andoverct.org:

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

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.

Preschool Openings

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

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

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

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

Kindergarten Registration

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

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

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

Shopping Dates: Manchester – Tuesday, 2/20; Willimantic – Tuesday, 2/27.

Senior Luncheon: Friday, Feb. 23 (note the new date) at noon, in the Town Hall Community Room. No walk-ins accepted. Guest speaker will be Scott Yeomans.

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.

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.

Collecting for Senior Tag Sale

The Andover Senior Lunch Fundraising Committee is in the process of collecting donations for its annual Tag Sale, which will be held Saturday, April 27.

The tag sale is a big fundraiser for the senior lunch program; all are asked to help raise funds needed to support this program.

The committee is looking for items to sell. If you have items to donate, they can be brought to the Town Office Building. Call Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 4218 for more information.

Vendors Sought for Tag Sale

Vendors are needed for the senior tag and vendor sale, to be held Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Andover Elementary School, 35 School Rd.

For information, contact Cathy at 860-916-6122 or nanasworld@comcast.net. All money received goes to support the senior program.

Veterans Meeting Canceled

This month's Andover Veterans meeting is canceled, as representatives Susan Camoroda and John Botti are both out of town this month.

The next meeting will be Saturday, March 16, from 1-3 p.m., in the Town Hall Community Room. Camoroda and Botti said they are looking forward to your stories from the recognition ceremony that they both missed.

They will also discuss dates and times for future meetings, as well as some ideas for upcoming events. Suggestions are welcome.

All veterans and currently serving military members are invited. For more information, call Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or Botti at 860-839-3481, or email veterans@andoverct.org.

Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship, 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.

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.

Library Friends Annual Appeal

The Andover Friends of the Library group is holding its annual campaign in support of the library. The Friends ask all community members, including the already lifetime members, to consider joining, renewing and donating.

A donation is required to become a member of this 501(c)(3c) nonprofit organization: \$3 for senior or student; \$5, individual; \$10, family; \$25, business; \$150, lifetime; and \$500, patron.

Donations of any amount are appreciated and can be mailed to: Andover Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 117, Andover, CT 06232.

Membership forms are emailed to current and former members and are also available by visiting the library at 355 Route 6, or by calling 860-742-7428. To access the form online, go to tinyurl.com/y79tnv8j.

Town Hall Closed

The Town Office Building will be closed Monday, Feb. 19, for Presidents Day.

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.

Honor Roll

Melanie Plausse of Andover made the East Catholic High School Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2023-24 school year.

A member of the Class of 2025, Plausse earned Honors with Distinction.

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.

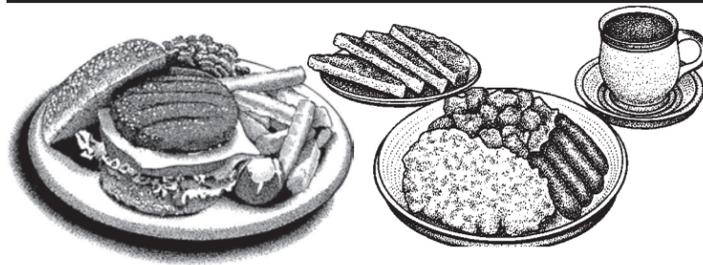
Cemetery Spring Clean-Up

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.

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.

ENTERTAINMENT



Call Ahead for WING ORDERS To Go!

Full Menu Served Daily 11AM-10PM

Butter Balls
GREENLEAF CAFE

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Never A Cover 8:30PM-12:30AM

Friday, 2/16 "Distilled"
Friday, 2/23 "Violent Reign"

HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS 4-6PM

★\$1 OFF 10 Wings ★\$3 Bud & Bud Lt. Draft
★\$2 OFF 20 Wings ★\$2 PBR All Day
★\$3 OFF 30 Wings

47 MAIN ST. (RT. 66) HEBRON • 860-228-8148

Estate Jewelry & Coin Auction From Safe Deposit Boxes — OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC — by B&S Auction Service

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024
6:30PM • Inspections 12:00-6:30PM

Portland Firemens Grounds
Indian Hill Ave., Portland, CT

APPROXIMATELY 100 sales of gold, silver, jewelry, quantity of coins including Silver Dollars, quarters, American and foreign coins, proof sets. Jewelry includes charm bracelet, bangles, Qt. of rings, gold and silver earrings.

See more pictures on: auctionzip.com ID # 14542
Thomas Barrows & Sons Auctioneers • P.O. Box 141 Portland, CT 06480
Telephone: (860) 342-2540 • Day of Sale: (860) 597-1215
15% Buyers Premium Cash or Checks • 18% Buyers Premium Credit Cards
Terms: cash, checks with established credit, most major credit cards accepted
Antiques & Estates Bought or Sold on Consignment
No lot too large or too small!!!

Gina Marie's
Pizzas • Gluten Free Items
Beer/Wine • Catering
— Online Ordering —
Restaurant & Catering Service www.ginamariesct.com

Try one of our freshly ground in-house Steak Burgers

\$2.00 OFF Any Large Pizza

Offer good w/ this ad till 2/29/24. Pick-Up & Takeout Only.
Try one of our other 10 Gourmet Pizzas

71 Main Street, Rt. 66 Hebron, CT
Sun 8am to 7pm; Tues to Thurs 8am to 8pm; Fri & Sat 8am to 8:30pm

860-228-9375

WANTED
Buying Antiques & Old Stuff

Costume Jewelry, Pottery, Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Toys/Games, Glassware, Silver Plated Items, Signs, Typewriters, Sewing Machines, Bar Items, Tools, Sterling, Gold, Watches, Coins, Kitchenware, Cookware, Automotive, Books, Radios, Clocks, Lanterns, Lamps, Knives, Hunting, Fishing, Military, Masonic, Fire Dept & more.

Donald Roy 860-874-8396

Marlborough • Marlborough

School Board Adopts \$8.67M Budget

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Marlborough Board of Education (BOE) last week unanimously adopted a budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year – though not without some complaints from the public.

The BOE adopted an operational budget of \$8.67 million — a \$229,396, or 2.72%, increase over current-year spending.

In addition, a \$75,000 capital plan was approved to address three projects at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School — \$10,000 less than the 2023-24 budget.

After receiving a stamp of approval during the BOE's special meeting on Feb. 7, the spending plan was expected to be presented to the Board of Finance on Thursday, after press time.

The adopted proposal is slightly more than the original blueprint drafted last month by Marlborough Superintendent of Schools Holly Hageman. At its latest meeting, the BOE made two minor modifications that resulted in a net increase of \$2,503 relative to the initial operational budget request.

Hageman told the board that a new bus contract was finalized at a lower price than was originally assigned in the budget. Accordingly, the board unanimously agreed to decrease the proposal by \$5,577.

Then the board decided to increase the budget by \$8,081 to allow the district to post the job description for the pupil services director position — which is a new employee included in the 2024-25 proposal — at “up to” a .5 full-time equivalent (FTE); initially, it was listed as a .45 FTE.

That revision passed by a 4-2 tally; board members Susan Stolfi and Angela Colantonio voted in opposition.

Allowing the district to post the position — only if the budget passes at referendum — at up to .5 FTE potentially welcomes a larger pool

of applicants. In Connecticut, a retired administrator can only be re-employed for up to .45 FTE.

Together, the two changes resulted in a net increase of just over \$2,500.

Overall, the advanced budget is nearly identical to the preliminary figures outlined by Hageman. The percentage increase for 2024-25 (2.72%) is similar to the previous budgets supported by the town. The last three fiscal years included school budget increases of 4.82%, 2.78% and 3.08%.

Too Many Principals?

At the beginning of the meeting, several audience members criticized the proposal, including two elected officials, who said they spoke as private citizens. Selectmen Deb Bourbeau and Betty O'Brien both referenced the cost of employing two school administrators — a principal and vice principal. The current people in those roles — Dan White and Kim Kelley, respectively — have both announced plans to retire at the end of the current school year.

Bourbeau said she “can't understand why” the district continues to fund a principal and a vice principal.

“I don't think it's fiscally responsible,” she added.

Throughout the evening, Hageman offered further insight into the spending plan, at times rebuking some of the assertions made by residents.

In regards to building administrators, she indicated that principals not only oversee the student population, but dozens of staff members as well. They also supervise programs, and check in with a variety of daily operations.

When asked by one school board member if the school could survive with one principal, Hageman said it would not.

“I think it would be a terrible idea,” she said.

That one principal, Hageman continued, would be tied up in meetings and “not engaging with students and not being present in classrooms.”

“They would not be visible,” she stated.

Hageman defended the makeup of the proposed spending plan, including pushing back against one claim by a resident that it was “top-heavy.”

“It's easy to just that we're ‘top-heavy,’” she said. “You really need to do the analysis, and I have.”

She added after the meeting, “I'm always aware of taxpayers' concerns and I want to do right by everybody and at the same time, it takes investments to keep a school district firmly afloat.”

While the district is slated to spend \$417,428 in 2024-25 for a part-time superintendent and two principals, (for a total of 2.45 FTE) — which includes a combined contractual increase of nearly \$8,000 over the current year — it's getting a good deal, according to Hageman. Because she's part-time, the district enjoys a substantial savings on her salary while still getting a devoted school chief.

Much of the budget, she added, is out of her, or the board's, control. Due to contractual obligations, the proposal would've been north of a 2% increase before any new initiatives were added.

“You sort of have to be a little bit realistic about the moving parts that go into a budget,” Hageman said.

The pupil services position was eliminated six

years ago, and its reinstatement would allow the administrative team — specifically the two principals — to shift back to their standard responsibilities. When the role previously existed in the district, it was also part-time, which was the superintendent's recommendation once again.

Hageman asserted that principals are supposed to look after all students, including those involved with special education programs. But a part-time pupil services employee, she conveyed, will be able to assume some of those responsibilities, which will allow the principals to be more engaged with curriculum and be interactive with students.

“Our current administration is really very challenged to be able to do those things,” Hageman said. “And we want to get back to what we envisioned building administrators' roles to be.”

Later in the evening, she explained that White and Kelley often work 12-hour days, and that a new pupil services director would ease that workload.

“I don't think that's sustainable,” Hageman said. “I don't think that's a healthy lifestyle.”

She added, “I think we need to be a better employer than that.”

The capital plan includes three different projects totaling \$75,000. Finishing the waterproofing of the brick exterior of the school will cost \$30,000; it's a four-year project that began during the 2021-22 school year.

Replacing four doors and door frames is slated to cost \$20,000; previously, the district spent \$51,000 to replace 10 other doors. Hageman requested \$25,000 to repair sidewalks outside the school.

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 stjohfisher30@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.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Kindergarten Registration

Elmer Thienes – Mary Hall Elementary School (MES) in Marlborough will accept registration packets for kindergarten students for the 2024-25 school year on two days next month.

Packets will be accepted Wednesday, March 20 (9-11 a.m., 1-2 p.m., and 5-6:30 p.m.) and Thursday, March 21 (9-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.). All completed kindergarten packets should be dropped off at the school's Main Office, located at 25 School Drive.

Under a new state law, starting with the 2024-25 school year, children will need to be five years of age by Sept. 1 in order to attend kindergarten. If your child does not meet the new entry cut-off, they may still be admitted

to kindergarten upon a written request from the parent or guardian that is sent to the MES administration and an assessment completed by the school that determines admitting the child to kindergarten would be developmentally appropriate. All interested families will have their child assessed in the spring along with all the children who meet the new state guidelines of Sept. 1.

If you have an eligible child or a child you would like assessed and you have not received a registration packet, call the school office at 860-295-6220. If you receive a registration packet and do not plan to enroll your child for the 2024-25 school year, please notify the school as soon as possible.

MARLBOROUGH COUNTRY



Bakery TAV&RN

860-295-9251 | 8 Independence Drive | Marlborough

— SERVING BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER —

ALL YOUR BREAKFAST FAVORITES:
Coffee, Muffins, Donuts, Breakfast Sandwiches & More!

DELICIOUS LUNCH SPECIALS DAILY!
including a daily hot lunch special
Monday through Friday

— NEW SANDWICHES —

- Chicken Cutlet Grinder with cheese, lettuce, tomato & mayo
 - Barbecue Pulled Pork with melted cheese
 - Beef Brisket with cheese, caramelized onions & horseradish sauce
 - Cheeseburger with your choice of toppings
- ALL SERVED WITH FRENCH FRIES

Drop off your email address to receive our daily hot & cold lunch specials
SEE OUR EVER-CHANGING MENU ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Open Mon.-Fri. 6AM - 6PM; Sat. & Sun. 6AM - 3PM
8 Independence Dr., Marlborough
(860) 295-9251

De Olde Barber Shop
860-633-1552
882 Main Street
South Glastonbury
TUES-FRI 8:30-5, SAT 8-2



DOUG'S BARBER & STYLING SHOP

9A South Main St., Marlborough, CT
FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

WALK IN OR MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

HOURS: TWF 8:30-5:30, THU 8:30-7:30, SAT 8-3

860-295-9366

Commemorative Mugs Still Available

Marlborough Republicans still have a limited number of 220th anniversary mugs available. These 12-ounce ceramic cups feature Marlborough's town seal on one face.

Mugs are \$12 each. To purchase, call Jack Murray at 860-543-2050 or Louise Concodello at 860-463-7646

Marlborough Lawn & Tree

Got Dead Trees? CALL US TODAY!

Call for Tree Removal
Senior Citizen Discounts
Stump Grinding
Lawn Expansions & Landscape Rejuvenation
Fully Insured
30 Years Experience

Bucket Truck Service Available

MasterCard VISA

Visit us at:
www.marlbroughlawnandtree.com
860-220-3786

Marlborough • Marlborough

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.

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.marlbrougharts.org 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.

Lions Brewery Tour

The Marlborough Lions Club will host a brewery tour Saturday, May 4. The bus will depart Marlborough at noon, with 50 seats available with two brewery stops.

Tickets are \$45 and include raffle prizes, transportation, a private room at Five Churches Brewery in New Britain, food and one more brewery stop yet to be determined.

Beer can be purchased at each site. Five Churches Brewery offers beers which range

from \$5 to \$9, with \$3.00 tasters, wine for \$10, pre-made cocktails for \$8, or soda for \$2.00. There will also be stuffed breads provided by the tour; however, additional food can be purchased if desired.

For more information, visit the Lions' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/connecticut.marlbroughlions or reach out to Lions Club member Jennifer Greloch at jenbruhs@gmail.com.

Oil Painting Classes at Arts Center

The Marlborough Arts Center will hold adult classes in oil painting starting in March.

Classes will run for eight weeks and are offered Mondays from 10 a.m.-noon and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. Classes start the week of March 11, 2024 and end the week of April 29, 2024.

Holly Lavigne, an experienced artist from Glastonbury, will teach. She said the class will be a fun and practical way for beginners to learn the fundamentals of oil painting. Students will explore various techniques, tools, and materials.

with a mix of demonstrations, hands-on practice and constructive feedback.

Cost for the class is \$160. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.marlbrougharts.org, and a check mailed to The Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447.

A materials list will be provided as soon as enough students are enrolled to form a class. For more information, contact Lavigne at hollylavigneart@gmail.com or leave a voicemail message at 860-467-6353.

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.marlbroughchurch.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@marlbroughchurch.org for more information.

Sunday, Feb. 18 is Boy Scout Sunday, with scouts from Troop 39 participating in the service. The service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Server.

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

Parks and Rec Upcoming Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit marlbroughct.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: 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/resident, \$55/non-resident. Drop-in fee is \$10.

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.,

Holiday Closing

Town Hall, the Senior Center, and the Public Works Garage will be closed for Presidents Day on Monday, Feb. 19.

Pre-Kindergarten Screening Information

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

Eligible children must be 3 or 4 years old by Sept. 1. Parents/guardians interested in their child participating in this process must 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@marlbrough.k12.ct.us for more information or to receive a screening questionnaire.

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.

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. 19: Senior center closed in observance of Presidents Day.

Tuesday, Feb. 20: 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. 21: 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: stuffed pepper with sauce, rice, Prince Edward vegetables, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; Setback, 3-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies tap dancing, 5-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 22: 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. 23: 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: cheesy vegetable lasagna with vodka sauce, broccoli, wheat dinner doll, fresh fruit.

Sunday, Feb. 25: Senior/Youth Get-Together, 2-4 p.m.



Planning Commission & Sustainable Marlborough Team Public Forum & Discussion

Tuesday, February 27th 7:00PM

Marlborough Senior Center

Join us for a community discussion about the changing demographics in town & housing opportunities.

With guest speaker Erin Boggs, Esq. Executive Director, Open Communities Alliance

The town is seeking candidates to serve on the new Housing Opportunities Committee that will address housing options in town, including affordable housing options.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the forum & on the town website after the forum at:

www.marlbroughct.net

Carl Guild Scholarships Available

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

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

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

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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



A Family Reunion... Roy and Betty Jane Harrington from East Hampton recently enjoyed a family reunion with the Whites and Millers in Davis, West Virginia.



Good Morning from Machu Picchu!... Kayleigh Kinsella of Portland recently visited Machu Picchu – and of course brought along her *Rivereast*!



Talk to the Animals... Jeff and Beth Rude of Colchester recently visited Jeff's sister and brother-in-law, Tammy and Michael Herren, at their exotic animal farm in Kampsville, Ill. They enjoyed feeding the camels, emus, ostriches, kangaroos and more! They also visited Jesse James' cave hideout in Missouri!



Carting on Cape May... Sarah and Kaila Granata, sisters-in-law from Colchester, visited Cape May this past summer. They enjoyed the day visiting the Cape May Lighthouse, Sunset Beach and downtown Cape May – by golf cart!

Where in the World?

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

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

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

\$25 GIFT CARD

Campagna
Restaurant & Lounge

Fine Italian & American Cuisine
151 Marlborough Street (Rt 66), Portland

East Hampton • East Hampton

Board of Education Evaluates Budget Requests

By London Brazal

The Board of Education met Monday and evaluated the currently proposed budget for the next school year, expressing concerns regarding the allocation of funds towards new clubs and other items.

At the beginning of the budget workshop, students from the high school who are members of DECA explained why they needed funding. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges internationally. One student said the business club was not enough and DECA allows them to get more hands-on experience in business. Another student said the club prepares students professionally and teaches them how to effectively communicate with adults. Funding for the club would help get students to conventions and competitions and pay for branded blazers that add to their professional attire when traveling.

An overarching concern for the budget is the fact that the state is requiring more mandates but is providing less grant funding and reimbursements. According to Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith, the state is not increasing its education cost share (ECS) funding, noting that the number has stayed the same since he started in 2016. "The state is letting us down," said Smith.

When comparing the budget to local schools and those with similar demographics, Smith said the budget is high but so is everyone else. Smith and school business manager Karen Asetta have compared the district's budget and many schools are facing similar challenges in this year's budget.

On Jan. 1, the state increased the minimum wage to \$15.69 per hour. Asetta said that some staff are not far away from that number. With that, the district is competing to keep attractive but appropriate salaries which makes the ability to hire people in the future difficult. Another

looming concern is that future housing developments of any significant size affect the number of staff needed.

One of the district's goals is to fund student's academic future by improving instructional programming. Ten years ago, there were less than 10 advanced placement courses, now there are 16 offered at the high school. Last year, the school received a grant to increase the number of dual enrollment courses that award college credit through the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) and articulated courses with Middlesex Community College. Among the Class of 2024, 99.3% of students are engaged in college and career readiness courses. This is much higher than East Haddam with 83% or Glastonbury with 69.7%. Some of the budget requests at the high school include supplies and the opportunity to add electives.

Fortunately, teachers at the high school have been willing to gain certifications to teach college credit courses. High school Principal Eric Verner explained that most teachers already teach the topic so it does not interfere with current scheduled courses.

Some requests in the budget will be funded through the Perkins Grant and Title IV Grant. These are typically guaranteed but administrators must apply for them. In terms of federal funding and support, many grants require that 40% of students receive free or reduced lunches. East Hampton does not meet that threshold at 19.4%. It is not official but Smith said that a town grant writer does not look like it will be budgeted.

During the budget workshop, another concern among board members was how to justify club stipends. Certain clubs have received funding through grants such as the garden club at Memorial School and Center School. Positions were grant-funded but would need future stipends. Smith explained that some advisors have volunteered for four to five years so it is

worth putting money toward the clubs. He also stressed that grants help establish items but then the school has to pick up the finances afterwards. "These are the boxes, like in past years, are the first things to go [out of the budget]," said Smith.

Board member Michael Buck was worried about how clubs were established throughout the year on an approved budget with volunteers. He said it sets people up for disappointment and if it can't be funded, then it might not continue. "That's not really fair for the kids," Buck said.

According to Smith, there is a liability to bring in volunteers to help run the various clubs. Those who are brought in, typically coaches, are hired but have to get certifications through the state and be CPR/First Aid certified as well. Teachers get the first option to run clubs and stipends are negotiated through the union.

Board member Matt Engelhardt said these stipends were relatively low costs and are vital for engaging students in the education experience. Another goal for the district is to fund the student's personal growth and wellness. Clubs are a simple way for students to stay involved in school and promote mental health and wellness. Mary Clark, director of curriculum and instruction, said that they wanted to look at opportunities to align clubs across the four schools. She added that it helps give students a developmentally appropriate experience.

One complicated proponent of the budget

is special education. In previous years, the school has budgeted for what they expect to happen when it comes to outplacements. There is no way of anticipating the number or needs of students who move into the district. The state increased a programming component where students can be a part of the transition academy program until June 30 following their 22nd birthday. Director of special education and pupil personnel services Rodney Mosier said that change had a "pretty significant impact" on the current budget because it was unexpected and needed an estimated \$250,000 of funding.

In previous years, staffing has also been a major concern among voters. A budget request that did not make it into the budget was five paraeducators for kindergarten classrooms. Currently, there is only one paraeducator who is shared among the six sections of students. The recommended addition of five paraeducators creates a smaller student-to-teacher ratio with opportunities that include small group instruction, behavioral support, assessment support and academic intervention. Many board members support at least one additional paraprofessional for the early learners. Board member Ken Barber said extra staff at the entry-level grades would be beneficial in the long run.

The next Board of Education will be on Monday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. The BOE will vote on the budget which has to be submitted to the town clerk by March 1.

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.

Technology Tutoring Session

Middle Haddam Public Library, located at 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, will offer a One-on-One Technology Tutoring Session with members of the East Hampton High School Interact Club on Tuesday, 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.



Pinewood Champs... Cub Scout Pack 57 held its annual Pinewood Derby race Saturday, Jan. 20. Pictured are the award winners for each rank. The top two racers for each age group advance to the District Pinewood Derby which will be held later this spring. The pack said it is especially thankful for the assistance provided by Troop 57 and the parent and scout volunteers that made this event a success. Pack 57 welcomes boys and girls in grades K-5. For more information, contact Cubmaster Sara Perez at pack57easthampton@gmail.com.

Stuart L. Jablon, D.P.M.

"BOARD CERTIFIED" Podiatrist – Foot Specialist

Our Office Is Now A ConnectiCare, United Healthcare, Aetna, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Blue Cross / Blue Shield, Cigna Participating Provider.

"MEDICARE ASSIGNMENT ACCEPTED"

Complete Medical & Surgical Treatment of the Foot

- Sports Medicine • Geriatric Foot Care • Diabetic Foot Care • Arthritic Feet
- Skin Conditions • Flat Feet • Heel Pain • Fractures/Dislocations • Sprains/Strains
- Bunions • Hammertoes • Infections • Fungus Nails • Plantar Warts

By Appointment Only: (860) 295-8791

9-B South Main Street, Marlborough, CT

www.stuartjablondpm.com



KENNETH BARBER & ASSOCIATES, LLC



Kenneth Barber, Esq.



John H. Porter, Esq.



Joseph Cassidy, Esq.

YOUR ATTORNEYS

"Experience is not what happens to you; it is what you do with what happens to you."

– Aldous Huxley
(March 1956)

Barber-Law-Firm.com
P: 860-267-2263
29 West High Street
East Hampton, CT 06424

Candidate Profile Prepped for Superintendent Search

By London Brazal

Results from the superintendent focus group and survey for the candidate profile were presented at the Board of Education meeting on Monday. Now into March, the search committee will begin to vet and interview candidates.

In December, Mary Broderick with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) was selected as an executive search consultant. Broderick conducted different focus groups and a survey was available between Jan. 8 and 26 to learn more about the school district and opinions about what traits the new superintendent should have. During that time, there were 12 focus group interviews and she spoke with 38 individuals. The largest group was with the current administrators. Other people who made up the interviews were some teachers, parents, students, elected town officials and community organization representatives.

The survey had 108 respondents, including residents and staff. Broderick said more parents and teachers participated in the survey versus the focus groups. Combined, 146 individuals participated in some way. "It's probably statistically significant. It's a low number but it's representative," said Broderick.

One of the data themes was the strengths of the East Hampton public schools. Many of the respondents thought that teacher and staff appreciation was a big strength. Furthermore, people thought that staff were positive, dedicated, hard-working and committed to helping students. Other people thought that kids also feel connected to at least one staff member.

Another strength of the district was that many teachers either lived in the community or grew up in town. With that, many teachers tend to stay in the district and respondents said that it feels more family-like this way. In general, people thought that teachers are generally unified in the sense of direction for the schools.

A good number of interviewees believed that East Hampton has pride in the community and a positive culture. They also said the spirit spreads through the town as well. To further that point, some people said the schools were warm and welcoming.

A district-wide shared goal people mentioned was transparency. Respondents mentioned that there is an open dialogue between students and staff. Some even said that communication is also a strength and saw high value in the Monday morning newsletters to make sure everyone was on the same page.

On the other side, one of the largest challenges respondents mentioned is the budget and finances. People emphasized that the budgeting process can be complex and contentious. Some thought the current rate of spending is not sustainable and Broderick echoed the fact she sees this around other towns in Connecticut. Another concern people mentioned was the generational issues since people see an aging population at odds with families who are new to the area.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, respondents noted that there is a challenge regarding social-emotional learning and mental health.

People highlighted the need for increased support, resources and staffing to address the needs of students.

Another challenge that contributors stated was the disparate concerns regarding diversity and equity. Some interviewees said that there is a lack of sufficient diversity and there needs to be more time spent with the diversity, equity and inclusion framework.

After analyzing the strengths and challenges of the East Hampton public schools, traits for the next superintendent were assessed. The three most common themes were someone who will build trusting relationships with students, staff and the community, communicate and collaborate with the schools and has experience in running a school district and creating a strong budget.

The list of traits was extensive. They ranged from trustworthy and respectful to humble and inspiring. In terms of values, respondents wanted the next superintendent to prioritize open

communication while valuing input from all stakeholders. Furthermore, the person needs to be committed to consensus through negotiation and compromise.

From a student perspective, they want someone who will show up to support their work, performances and other major accomplishments. Many students enjoy it when the superintendent comes to their events. Teachers are also looking for someone who will provide them with unwavering support. Generally, respondents also want a person who will keep political behavior out of the schools.

With all of the information from the surveys and focus groups, Broderick has compiled a candidate profile which will be sent to those who applied for the position. Board of Education chairperson Nancy Kohler previously told the *Rivereast* that they hope to have a finalist for the position by early spring as the new hire would be expected to start on July 1.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

Library Hours: The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 19, for Presidents Day.

Children's Programs: Bubbles & Beats!: Mondays, 10:30 a.m., for ages 18 months to 5 years (drop-ins and siblings welcome.); **Toddler Time:** Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., for children ages 18 months to 3 years; **Stories & Songs:** Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5 years; **Baby Rhyme Time:** Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., for ages birth to 24 months, and their caregivers.

Family Storytime: Saturday, Feb. 17, 10:30 a.m., for ages 3-5; siblings welcome. There will be stories, songs, and open-ended play. Participants will also have the chance to work on a craft to bring home. No registration required.

Latin Night Fundraiser for Library

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

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

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

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.

Ready to Read Book Club: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 4:30 p.m., for grades K-2. Registered participants will receive a book to take home. This month's book is *Arlo and Pips: King of the Birds* by Elise Gravel.

Nintendo Switch Game Play: Saturday, March 2, 2-3 p.m. Grades 1-5 are invited to come play on the library's Nintendo Switch. All skill levels welcome. This month, play *Mario Party Superstars* (rated E).

Teen Programs: 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: 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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

Dick's Barber Shop
Open Wed & Fri 12-5PM
89 Main St., East Hampton
860-267-9189 or 860-754-4709

21
RICK'S REAL ESTATE GROUP
At CENTURY 21 AllPoints Realty


Rick Berkenstock


Lyn Stuart

ricksrealestategroup.com


860-930-3469
1 Main Street
East Hampton

Each office is independently owned and operated

BROTHERS OIL COMPANY
Since 1978
860-289-9468 • 860-289-6292
Automatic Delivery for less than COD
24 Hour Emergency Repair Service
Same Day Oil Delivery Available

WE ACCEPT ENERGY ASSISTANCE

www.BrothersOil.com
HOD 114 • 57-308374

WHEN THE HEAT'S ON US... WE DELIVER!

LIKE US ON Facebook



RivereastNewsBulletin

EAST HAMPTON SOCCER CLUB

Registration Is Now Open
for the Spring 2024 season for both our Recreational and Travel Leagues.

Recreational Programs: Pre-K 3-5 • Kindergarten • Juniors (1st & 2nd Grade) • Seniors (3rd - 5th Grade)

Travel Programs: U8 (Birth Year 2016) and up

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for both our Travel and Rec League teams – please reach out if interested!

Registration deadline is March 3rd, 2024
TO REGISTER, VISIT US AT
<https://clubs.bluesombbrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=818256>



Dr. K Chatham Dental Center
Advanced Dentistry

Dr. Dikshant Kathuria, DDS
www.dentistofeasthampton.com


33 West High St.
East Hampton, CT 06424
860-267-4900

Root Canals, Extractions,
Cosmetic & General Dentistry
All Your Dental Needs Under One Roof

NOW OFFERING Implants & Invisalign® to Our Patients

Open Saturdays by appointment

\$99 Exam & X-Rays To New Patients Without Insurance
Mention offer upon scheduling.

Town Council Appoints New Member

By London Brazal

The Town Council began its meeting Tuesday with a goodbye – officially accepting the resignation of council member Brandon Goff. The Republican submitted his resignation on Jan. 31, as he has taken a new job out of state.

In his resignation letter, Goff thanked the town for allowing him to serve on the council for the last few years. He wished the best of luck to everyone.

On behalf of the Republican Town Committee, council member Deb Cunningham nominated former Town Council member Tim Feegel to fill the vacancy. Following state law, the new member must be of the same party as the vacating member.

Cunningham said that Feegel is no stranger to the community and comes with years of experience, serving on the Town Council as well as various committees.

“He would truly be an asset to our council and to our community,” added Cunningham. Feegel was a member of the previous council but did not seek reelection last November. The nomination was accepted and Feegel was sworn in by new town clerk, Patty Burnham.

Following the new appointment, the Council reviewed an ordinance that would explain various regulations as they related to the construction or maintenance of public roads. The ordinance states the requirement for permits and bonds from those working and would identify

certain standards for the protection of workers, motorists and pedestrians in and around those sites. In particular, the ordinance added a requirement that those working on or adjacent to all public roads in the community notify the police chief, who could, based on the conditions and characteristics of the particular road, require additional safety measures. This was intended to improve the safety of work sites that were subject to heavy traffic or reduced sightlines. A required public hearing will take place as part of the next regular Town Council meeting.

On Tuesday, the council also established the East Hampton Water Committee as an advisory body as requested by council chairperson, Dean Markham. Their responsibility would include overseeing, publicizing, receiving community input on and advising the Town Council on the effort to establish a new water source, interconnect existing water systems and expand municipal water. The committee consists of seven members, up to three of which may be members of the Town Council. It establishes two-year terms for the citizen members and establishes the Town Manager and the Public Utilities Administrator as non-voting ex officio members.

The council also accepted two clarifications about the Firefighter Awards Program, which is a retirement plan for volunteer firefighters. The plan is managed by a group called the Board of

Trustees, which includes the Finance Director Jeff Jylkka and representatives from the Fire Commission and the firefighters. The first clarification confirmed the current members of the Board of Trustees. The original members were the Finance Director, the Fire Chief, the Chair of the Fire Commissioners and a firefighter member. The second decision picked a new investment advisor for the program. The Board of Trustees recommended Fiducient Advisors for the job and was approved by the council.

Following that, the council approved a revised general order regarding family violence. The state’s Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) has established a new state-wide policy for officer and department response to crimes of family violence and this policy must be adopted and trained in the department. This standard is part of the accreditation require-

ments of the State for police agencies.

As the 2024-25 budget preparation process continues, the members of the Town Council, Board of Finance and the Board of Education will meet for a tri-board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 22, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Town Hall. The boards will review draft information on the town’s budget, including education, general government and capital expenses. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend and can express comments publicly. Additionally, the Town Council will be discussing at its upcoming meeting additional opportunities for the public to provide input on the town’s budget in informal sessions.

Drafts for the town and education budget must be submitted to the town clerk by March 1. Throughout the week of March 18, the Board of Finance will review the budgets in detail.

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.; **Setback:** Mondays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Cross-Stitch & Embroidery with Shannon:** Tuesdays, 2 p.m. -- Bring projects to share and work on together; **Yoga with Kitch:** Wednesdays through Feb. 28, 1 p.m. (started Dec. 27; fee is \$20); **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; registration required.

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.

Line Dancing: Tuesday, Feb. 20, 10 a.m. Learn some new dance steps with the interactive program. Classes are on YouTube.

Meditations and Reflection Sessions: Thursday, Feb. 21, at 10:45 a.m. Rachel Lincoln will lead this group on meditation practice and a follow up on technique.

Scrabble Challenge: Friday, Feb. 23, 1 p.m.

Art with Karen: Sunday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m. All levels of creativity welcome. Cost is \$5.

Calling All Volunteers: Save the date for a Special Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on Wednesday, April 10, from 1-3 p.m. All volunteers from the community are welcome to attend.

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

Drive Yourself to Lunch for Seniors at Cheney Technical High School, Manchester: Wednesday, March 7. Leave at 10:30 a.m. for an 11:30 a.m. lunch prepared by the school’s culinary students. Drive yourself to the school; cost is \$11.

Volunteer Shopping: The center has a program where a volunteer will shop for you. Call in your list to 860-267-4426 or email it to Jewing@easthampton.gov. The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a prearranged designated spot.

Watercolorist to Present Program

The next meeting of the East Hampton Art Association will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m., at the East Hampton Community Center, 105 Main St. The artist of the evening will be Mary Horrigan. She will present a watercolor demonstration.

Horrigan is a member of the Connecticut Watercolor Society and the Connecticut Academy of Fine Artists. She holds associate memberships in the New England and American Watercolor Societies. Locally, she is a member of the Marlborough Arts Center, Essex Art Association, the Lyme Art Association, and the East Hampton Art Association. She has had numerous exhibits in Connecticut and Massachusetts and has taught watercolor classes throughout the area.

Horrigan will share her expertise in executing the beauty of watercolor painting.

The public is invited to attend all East Hampton Art Association meetings. There is a suggested donation of \$4 for nonmembers. Students can attend at no charge.



Mary Horrigan

Belltown Motors

Tire & Service Center

We know, we know...we’ve just seen some snow. **BUT, Spring is just a month away so we’re preparing for the new season and want to get your car ready!**



Follow these six tips from Belltown to get your vehicle ready for spring:

- 1) **Inspect your cooling system** and check for any cracks or leaks in the radiator or hoses. Be sure the coolant and antifreeze levels are at least half full.
- 2) **Inspect your tires** – measure your tire’s tread and be sure none of your tires are balding. Proper traction is important for the rainy spring weather ahead.
- 3) **Check your windshield wipers!** Between ice, snow and salt, your windshield wipers are really put to work during the winter months. It is recommended to change your windshield wipers each season, especially as the rainy spring season approaches. Well-functioning windshield wipers will improve visibility and reduce the risk of an accident.
- 4) **Check your battery.** The average car battery lasts 4 to 5 years. Your vehicle’s battery works extra hard during extremely hot and cold weather, and these conditions can drain your battery.
- 5) **Top off your fluids** including windshield wiper fluid, engine oil and brake fluid.
- 6) **Wash your vehicle...** because a shiny, clean car isn’t just for looks. Your vehicle’s paint and undercarriage need to be thoroughly cleaned because salt and other winter chemicals can accumulate and cause rusting and/or grime build up.

Call today to schedule your appointment: **860-267-7222**

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

80 East High Street, East Hampton
www.belltownmotors.com

RE2-16-24



Better Dental HEALTH

A Practice For Optimal Dental Fitness

by George M. Mantikas, DMD



THE FOUR TYPES OF TEETH AND THEIR ROLES

There are four types of teeth, each one having its own shape and function. Incisors, the eight teeth in the front center of your mouth (four on both bottom and top), are primarily used to bite into food. Canines, the next teeth that develop in the mouth, are the four sharpest teeth, used for tearing food apart. Premolars account for eight teeth; they are used for tearing and crushing food and have a flat biting surface. Molars are the largest and sturdiest teeth. Their function is similar to that of the premolars: to grind, tear, and crush food. Molars also have a large and flat biting surface, making them perfect for the job.

We’ll use all the tools at our disposal to help keep all your incisors, canines, premolars, and molars strong and healthy. We fervently believe that one of the most important services we deliver to our patients is a plan for preventive care. Along with daily brushing and flossing, one crucial tool to your good oral health is regular visits to the dentist. We have office hours by appointment.

P.S. Also called third molars, the last set of teeth to come in are the four wisdom teeth.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC
The Ridge • 142 East High Street • East Hampton, CT 06424
860-267-6666 • www.DrMantikas.com

RE2-16-24



The early stages of communication disorders are easier to spot when you know the signs.

IDENTIFY@SIGNS

Early detection can improve treatment and quality of life. For more information visit IdentifyTheSigns.org.



East Hampton • East Hampton



Masked Ball... Epoch Arts will hold its annual Teen Masked Ball Dance Friday, Feb. 23, from 7-9 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St. Teens in grades six and up are invited to dress in their best, funkier or most original clothes and come for a night of dancing to a live DJ. There will be food, a photo booth, games and more. Admission is \$10. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org. Pictured are some teens from last year's ball.

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.

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

Police News

1/30: Daniel Sanzo, 71, of 44 Mallard Cove, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, East Hampton Police said.

2/1: Griffin Shafer, 18, of 186 Jobs Pond Rd., Portland, was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

2/7: Giuseppe Angileri, 48, of East Haven, was

arrested and charged with third-degree larceny police said.

2/8: Santo Ficara, 41, of South Windsor, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

From Feb. 5-11, officers responded to eight medical calls and six alarms, and made 25 traffic stops, police said.

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. 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.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or for more information on any program, email middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com, 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.

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.

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

Yoga for Kids: Continues on Fridays at 10 a.m. Cost is \$12 per child/caretaker team. To register email kmarshall0227@yahoo.com or call 860-638-9097.

Thursday Night Pilates: Begins Feb. 29 at 6 p.m. Sign up for six classes at \$10 per class and get a seventh class free, or pay \$12 to drop in. To register, call 203-592-4448 or email abstite@sbcglobal.net.

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

Fly Fishing with Rowan Lytle - Fly-Tying Discussion and Presentation: Thursday, March 14, at 7 p.m. Lytle will offer a fly-tying discussion and presentation. Bring your own materials.

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. Tick-

ets must be purchased by March 6 - if they don't sell out first. The event is snow or shine. Contact the organizer to request a refund.

The CDHR is a nonprofit organization (located in East Hampton) 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.

Library Planning for the Future

East Hampton Public Library is planning for the future by developing a new Strategic Plan and is looking for input from the community to help guide services in the coming years.

The library will host three different Community Conversations next month in order to gain a better understanding of people's aspirations for East Hampton and what role the library can play in achieving those goals.

Community Conversations will be held Saturday, March 2, from 10:30 a.m.-noon; Friday,

March 15, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, March 26, from 6:30-8 p.m. No registration is required and all are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

The library said it also hopes to conduct a community-wide survey during March to gather ideas and information, which would be available digitally on the library's website (www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org) or as a paper version at the library.

Cabin Fever History Talk

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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 is tonight, Feb. 16, and the next one will be Friday, Feb. 23.

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 Feb. 23 will be provided by Bill Naughton Jr.

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.



Bill Naughton Jr.

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

Republicans Meet Next Week

The next meeting of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee will be Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m., at The Dublin, located at 42 East High St.

All are invited as the RTC continues to work on strategizing for 2024. For more information, email ehctgop@gmail.com.

gmail.com for information/dates, as classes are sometimes rescheduled.

Annual Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 18, directly after the service. 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 revdianarogers@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.

Little League Registration Ends Tomorrow

East Hampton Little League registration for the spring season will end tomorrow, Saturday, Feb. 17. Head to Belltownll.org for more information.

Portland • Portland

Camp Ingersoll Celebrates 10 Years of ‘Chill for Change’

By London Brazal

It may seem a distant memory after Tuesday’s snowstorm, but last Saturday featured a taste of spring; the sun was starting to appear, along with 50-degree weather. And, folks lined up to jump into the chilly waters of Jobs Pond at YMCA Camp Ingersoll, to raise money to help send students to camp.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of “Chill for Change.” Camp Director Ben Silliman explained that each year, the event has grown in different ways. Though polar plunges are common in the area as a fundraising method, Camp Ingersoll modeled theirs after YMCA Camp Sloper in Southington who will be hosting their 19th annual plunge later this month.

Over the 10 years of the event, there have been progressively more jumpers and donors. And in the last few years, they have switched to an online registration and donation page that has helped streamline the process. At the plunge on Feb. 10, roughly 65 people jumped into the water. Though the water was just as cold as in previous years, the 50-degree weather made it more enjoyable after getting out and people warmed up faster than normal.

“It was probably the warmest one yet. Stepping into warmer temperatures was more comfortable and created a more fun and positive atmosphere,” said Silliman. “It’s not that bad. You can be uncomfortable for a little bit to help lifelong change.”

As of publication, more than \$31,100 was raised. Silliman expects the number to increase as the link to donate will remain open for a few more weeks. The proceeds are used for scholarships and financial aid to help send kids to camp.

To enhance accessibility for all families, the camp has a tiered pricing system. Families select the tier that best suits their needs. Tier selections are treated confidentially and can be submitted during online registration. All children enjoy the same camp experience regardless of financial aid.

As music played to lighten spirits, jumpers were also competing for awards. Sherri Condon won “best dressed” in her Devil in the Blue Dress costume. The “best team theme” went to the Crazy Caps who dressed as old-timey swimmers with striped swimsuits and mustaches. The Crazy Caps also won the “largest pigsty” for raising the most money as a group. Members included Alex Pullium, Cheryl Silliman, Kristen Capitanio, Nate Bresson and Nathan Capitanio. Silliman also won the “largest piggy bank” bringing in the most fundraised money as an individual.

Camp Ingersoll staff said they would also like to highlight the three largest sponsors for the plunge: Butler Construction, Prime Source CT for shirts and Redi-Rooter. They would also like to thank the Portland Dive Team for helping to make sure everyone was safe.



Many participants of the Camp Ingersoll fundraiser dressed up while jumping into the chilly waters in early February. Sherri Condon won “best-dressed” in her Devil in the Blue Dress costume pictured with her husband James.

Every month, Camp Ingersoll hosts a family event. A family hike and fire-building workshop is scheduled for March 23, from 2-4 p.m. at Camp Ingersoll. Families are invited to a day of outdoor enjoyment under the sun. Activities include a scavenger hunt, a serene nature walk, a one-mile hike through the forest and a fire-building workshop. The day concludes with toasted marshmallows provided for all attendees. A suggested donation of \$10 is appreciated.

Camp Ingersoll offers two types of camp: traditional and specialty. The traditional camp has a wide range of activities and experiences with eight, 45-minute periods. Specialty camps cater to interests such as mountain biking, dance, theater, sports and art.

Silliman added that Camp Ingersoll is also a place for kids to learn helpful values while making connections. “It’s important to learn values, especially now when technology is so prominent,” explained Silliman. “We want these kids to make connections and positively display their emotions. We want the campers to go home happy and tired.”

Outside of the traditional facility use, Camp Ingersoll also offers custom programs for schools, churches, the community and corporate organizations. These programs include the YMCA High Hopes program for team building, group picnics and field days. With these, the camp can stay affordable while the facilities remain up to the highest standard.

For more information about Camp Ingersoll or to donate to “Chill for Change,” visit campingersoll.org. Any questions can be emailed to Ben Silliman at bsilliman@midymca.org.

Black History Month Panel

On Saturday Feb. 24, 1 p.m. at the Brownstone Intermediate School auditorium (314 Main St.), the Portland Historical Society, Town Committee on Solidarity and Public Library are presenting “Gallery of Portland,” a panel discussion to commemorate and honor some of the Black community members from Portland who have helped to shape the town’s history.

Registration is not required, but is encouraged.

aged, 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.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., offers in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. 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.

On Wednesdays during Lent, Zion will once again participate in a Soup and Substance program together with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton. Participants will meet together at 6 p.m. for a simple meal and discussion, alternating between the two churches. Dates are: Feb. 21 at Bethlehem; Feb. 28 at Zion; March 6 at Bethlehem; March 13 at Zion; March 20 at Bethlehem.

Also throughout Lent, Zion will collect items on Sundays for Portland Food Bank. Items to be collected include: Feb. 18, shampoo, conditioner; Feb. 25, soap, bodywash; March 3, paper goods – toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins; March 10, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, dental floss; March 17, deodorant, feminine products; March 24, shaving cream,

hand lotion, and body lotion. Any items are welcome at any time.

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.

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.

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.

Dean’s List

Portland residents Rose Koffman and Chelsey Winchell made the fall 2023 Dean’s List at Goodwin University.

DiMauro Oil Company, LLC

Heating Oil – Diesel Fuel – Kerosene

24 Hour Emergency Burner Service

Pre-Buy Price Protection Plans	Budget Plans
Service Contracts	Senior Citizen Discount
Automatic Delivery	Volume Discount
Prompt Delivery	On-Site Diesel Delivery

(860) 342-2969

CT Reg # HOD. 596 REG-19-20
Portland

Check out our tire prices!

COMPLETE TRANSMISSION SERVICE AND AUTO REPAIR

- Domestic
- Standard
- Automatic Cars
- Light Trucks
- 4x4

PORTLAND TRANSMISSION

25 SILVER STREET, PORTLAND

860-342-4273



Wood Pellets & Bio Bricks

NOW IN STOCK!

Ready for Pick-Up or Delivery

CALL TODAY!

East Hampton

ACE Hardware

Route 66, East Hampton

(860) 267-7943

OPEN: Mon-Wed 8-6;
Thurs & Fri 8-7; Sat 8-6; Sun 9-5

Portland Home & Hardware

724 Portland Cobalt Rd.
Route 66, Portland

(860) 342-4847

OPEN: Mon-Fri 8-6;
Sat 8-5; Sun 9-2

Portland • Portland

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.

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. All ages are invited to train to compete in the Portland Chess Battle Royale on March 26. Registration is not required, but is recommended.

Adult Programs: February Art Exhibit: The “Jennifer Hart: Snowpaintings” exhibit runs through Feb. 28.

Monthly Writers’ Café: Saturday, Feb. 17, 12:30 p.m., in the Van Beynum Room. The first hour is 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 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.



Happy Valentine’s Day!... Chatham Children’s Connection recently held a Valentine’s event for local children to create special valentines for the residents at Portland Care and Rehab. Over 75 valentines were created so that each resident would have a special treat to brighten up their day. Nicki Crawford, Vice President of Chatham Children’s Connection, is shown distributing the cards to Alysha Winiarski, Director of Recreation at Portland Care and Rehab. Chatham Children’s Connection is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Portland whose mission is to create no-cost positive events and activities for all youth and families in Portland. The all-volunteer board creates several events a year and is funded by donations from local individuals and businesses. For more information on upcoming events, visit Chatham Children’s Connection on Facebook.

Suburban Sanitation Service

The winter weather doesn’t stop us!
We clean septic tanks all year long.
CALL 860-267-6102 TODAY!

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CLEANED THE SEPTIC TANK?

1% Full-Service Listings! Why Pay More to Sell Your Home?!

The Internet has changed the way homes are bought and sold, but Realtor’s pricing models haven’t. Most Realtors charge 2.5%, even 3% to list and sell your home. Not at Rockoff Realty! We don’t have offices all over CT that buyers and sellers rarely if ever go to. So we are able to deliver our highly-experienced home selling service, including professional photography, for a fraction of the competitors’ commission and can pass the savings on to you, the home seller. We’ve sold 435 homes with a 1% full-service listing fee all across CT since we introduced our service in 2017, and there are no gimmicks or hidden fees.

To learn more, visit rockoffrealty.com and call Kevin, Broker/Co-owner, at 860-882-9598.

Services Offered:	2.5% Broker	Rockoff Realty
Market Analysis & Value Optimization Strategy	✓	✓
Professional Home Photography	?	✓
Full Listing Visibility on All MLS Websites	✓	✓
Sign & Electronic Lock Box	✓	✓
Open Houses Conducted	?	✓
Experienced, Responsive, Professional Service	?	✓
Contract Term	6 months +	90 days
Listing Commission	\$12,500	\$5,000

Example of the savings on the sale of a \$500,000 home →

Rockoff Realty LLC
87 Main Street, Hebron, CT 06248
www.facebook.com/rockoffrealty

Kevin Rockoff, Broker/Co-owner

Call us today to see what Marlborough Health & Rehabilitation Center can do for you!

Renovations are complete, including a new secure memory care unit. Call us today for a visit and tour.

Short-Term Care | Post-Acute Rehabilitation
Long-Term Care | Respite Care

860.295.9531

Scan Now to Step Inside Marlborough

MarlboroughHealthCare.com

85 Stage Harbor Rd | Marlborough, CT

An affiliate of National Health Care Associates, Inc.

Biggy's Colchester

WINE & SPIRITS



15 BROADWAY STREET, NOEL'S PLAZA
COLCHESTER, CT • 860-537-2455



Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester



Souper Bowl Sunday... Westchester Congregational Church, located at 98 Cemetery Rd., celebrated "Souper Bowl Sunday" on Feb. 11, after the Sunday morning worship service. Church members shared several flavors of soups and homemade rolls and butter. For more information about the church, visit westchesterconchurch.org or email westconchurch@gmail.com. Photo by Alice Csere.

THE BEST FIRESIDE DINING AROUND!

SADLER'S

RESTAURANT • BAKERY

and Patio!

IT'S WARM INSIDE!

Come warm your spirits at Sadler's this week. Bring this ad for these weekday dinner savings:

TUESDAY take 20% Off your entire dinner bill
WEDNESDAY \$10 OFF \$50 or \$20 OFF \$100
THURSDAY take 20% Off your entire dinner bill
 (Good Feb.20-22nd, after 4pm) online use code WARM24

Don't forget a take-home bag from the bakery!

61 north main street, marlborough **860.295.0006**
 tuesday-saturday 11am-8pm, sunday 11am-7pm

EATATSADLERS.COM

Market Reports

Marlborough, CT January 2024	Hebron, CT January 2024	Colchester, CT January 2024
Days on Market +650.0% <small>45</small>	Days on Market -60.6% <small>26</small>	Days on Market -50.0% <small>26</small>
Median Sale +14.5% <small>\$355,000</small>	Median Sale -16.1% <small>\$322,000</small>	Median Sale -13.1% <small>\$430,000</small>
Active Listings +57.1% <small>11</small>	Active Listings -9.1% <small>10</small>	Active Listings -50.0% <small>12</small>
Units Sold UNCHANGED <small>3</small>	Units Sold UNCHANGED <small>6</small>	Units Sold +40.0% <small>7</small>

SELLING a home?

WHO YOU HIRE MATTERS!
 Selling a home can be a stressful process if you don't have the right real estate agent. With 22+ years of experience, you can rely on me to get you the best possible result.

WILLIAM RAVEIS
 REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE
 The Largest Family-Owned Real Estate Company in the Northeast

Corinne MACHOWSKI
 ENERGY • EXPERIENCE • ENTHUSIASM

C 860.614.9240 | O 860.633.0111
 CORINNE@REALHOMES.COM | MACHOWSKI@RAVEIS.COM
 218 NEW LONDON TPKE | GLASTONBURY | CT 06033

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.

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.

Winter Special!

DIAMOND SPARKLE CAR WASH

Sign up for **ANY** package for the price of a wash
 OFFER GOOD THROUGH 2/29/24

PLATINUM
 Includes everything! Best value!
 \$24 SINGLE WASH
 GO UNLIMITED \$40/MO

GOLD
 \$19 SINGLE WASH
 GO UNLIMITED \$35/MO

SILVER
 \$15 SINGLE WASH
 GO UNLIMITED \$30/MO

BASIC
 EXTERIOR WASH & DRY
 \$12 SINGLE WASH
 GO UNLIMITED \$25/MO

44 Amston Road, Route 85, Colchester, CT
NOW OPEN! 860-537-4325 Mon-Sat 7:00AM-7:30PM Sun 7:00AM-7:00PM

Home & auto. Bundle & save.

Call me for a quote today

State Farm

Catalano Ins And Fin Svcs
 Paul Catalano, Agent

87 Lebanon Ave
 Colchester, CT 06415-1293

Bus: 860-537-3338
www.insurect.com

Availability and amount of discounts and savings vary by state.
 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
 State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
 State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL

Lions Club Accepting Grant Applications

The Colchester Lions Club is now accepting applications for grant requests from community groups and organizations in preparation for its annual Community Night of Giving in April.

Organizations should be prepared to demonstrate how the funds would be used to benefit the community. Applications can be found on the club's website, colchesterlions.org, or may be obtained in writing: Colchester Lions Club, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT, 06415. Completed applications must be submitted by March 15.

Last year, the club distributed more than \$20,000 to 27 organizations.

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 christian-lifechapel.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.

Colchester • Colchester

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 lterrihageman@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.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Sunday School: Held during worship from

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

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

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

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.

Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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

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

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.



Hebron Property Owners!!!

Thinking of selling or buying?

Call Jim Celio – Century 21 AllPoints Realty

47 YEARS OF LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE

Hebron's #1 Agent – Total Transactions Closed

2016 – 2017 – 2018 – 2019 – 2020 – 2021 – 2022

Hebron's #1 Agent – Total Closed Market Volume

2016 – 2017 – 2018 – 2019 – 2020 – 2021 – 2022

**Based on ranking of ALL agents as compiled by CT MLS.

Want References and Recommendations?

Please visit the link below to view unfiltered reviews and comments on Jim's performance from past buyer and seller clients!

www.realsatisfied.com/Jim-Celio

For complete professional real estate service:

Call Jim Celio Today 860-463-2563

Jim Celio, Associate Broker
Century 21 AllPoints Realty
Cell: 860-463-2563
Email: jimcelio@aol.com



17 Main Street, Hebron, CT 06348 • Office 860-228-9425 Ext: 2107

RE1-27-23

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE

Protectors of Animals

Mardi Paws Gala

TPC River Highlands
Cromwell, CT
Saturday, February 24th, 2024
6-10pm

CT2-15-24

Gerhardt

INSURANCE AGENCY

Protection for Your
BUSINESS, HOME, AUTO & MORE!

www.GerhardtInsurance.com (860) 537-4661
176 Norwich Avenue, Colchester

RE2-9-24

Your Local Medicare Specialists

Let Us Help You Navigate Medicare

- Free personalized consultations
- Trust our capable team for your Medicare needs
- Dedicated to satisfying customers
- Providing exceptional Medicare solutions & quality plans
- Family owned & operated for over 30 years

7 Dickinson Road
Marlborough, CT
860-295-9350

RE5-26-23

We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. We are licensed with AARP, Aetna, Anthem BCBS, CarePartners, Cigna, ConnecticutCare, Humana, Trinity, UnitedHealthCare, and Wellcare. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

School District Makes Pitch for Turf Field

By Michael Sinkewicz

A turf field for Colchester? Momentum for new athletic fields has continued to grow in the community, culminating this week after the Board of Education (BOE) reviewed a presentation outlining the condition the fields at Bacon Academy High School.

During its Feb. 13 meeting, the BOE listened to district leaders who showcased the demand and necessity for upgrading the school's athletic complex, which has fallen into disrepair.

Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III was joined by Bacon Academy Principal Amy Begué and Athletic Director Kevin Burke in over-viewing poor condition of the school's fields, appearing to make the argument for possibly installing a turf field, or a new natural grass renovation.

The district's presentation didn't include any cost estimates for turf installation, or what the community's contribution would entail. There was also limited details on the type or number of upgrades the district was recommending. Additional information is expected to be provided at a future BOE meeting on Feb. 22, if FieldTurf — a company Sullivan said had already assessed the high school's complex — was available to provide an overview.

Sullivan and Begué could not immediately be reached for comment before press time.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler III told the *Rivereast* that he was aware in advance of the district's presentation and that field safety, especially at the high school, has become a "major

topic." "Everybody understands that we need to make some sort of improvement," he said. "I think it's clear we identified a problem."

The first selectman added that finding the right solution will be collaborative effort between the town and school district.

Earlier this month, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) established a new five-member Recreation Needs and Coordination Committee charged with evaluating town and school recreation assets. At the top of its list of priorities to examine, Dennler said, is the feasibility of a new turf field in the community.

While membership for that committee is expected to be appointed in the weeks ahead, once it formally begins its work, the BOE's presentation will likely be item one on the agenda.

"It's great that we a proposal on the table," Dennler said. "Let's get it in front of the committee."

Sullivan stated during the BOE meeting this week that he was simply seeking approval for the district to bring in a company to provide more context regarding a potentially substantial undertaking, which due to the expected price tag, will likely require taxpayer approval at a town-wide referendum. The total cost of turf fields can range drastically from hundreds of thousands of dollars, to millions.

Board member Donna Antonacci noted that it would be difficult to move ahead without more "detail information."

What was presented on Tuesday evening largely served as the backdrop for why some form of an upgrade was necessary. The district included "community perspectives" highlight, and potentially give further credibility, to the idea of turf fields.

Dave Shea, a longtime coach at Bacon Academy, is quoted in the slideshow as saying that the town's fields are amongst the poorest in the athletic conference.

"It's an embarrassment to our students and parents," he stated, adding that "Colchester needs to catch up."

Several local sports leaders also spoke live during the meeting, conveying their thoughts on the field conditions.

Skip Starks, the varsity boys soccer coach, expressed that the fields were "outdated" and "dangerous and embarrassing at best."

Lacrosse coach Brian Martin added that his squad couldn't play state tournament games in 2019 because of the inadequate fields. He described the athletic complex as a "competitive disadvantage" and a "morale issue" for students. A change, he said, was necessary.

"Our kids deserve it." The remarks made during the meeting align with interviews conducted by the *Rivereast* with other local sports officials.

"Nobody wants to play here," Tim Daniels, president of Colchester Youth Soccer, previously said. He explained that 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.

Beyond the cancellation or movement of game locations, Burke explained that drainage issues at the fields often lead to at least 5-10 outdoor practices being canceled in both the fall and spring sports seasons. The lacrosse and football programs have had to rent practice space at a facility in Montville to allow early-season practices.

The absence of lights also impacts school sports. Begué said that early afternoon start-times for games has led to student athletes being pulled out of class.

Listed amongst its reasons for turf, the district stated the fields would not worn and torn. For example, the patches in front of the soccer nets become mostly dirt as the grass gets repeatedly trampled and when it rains, those spots turn into mud.

Lights, meanwhile, would extend the field use hours by 50%.

The district labeled Bacon Academy as an anomaly; in Colchester's district reference group — a collection of schools with similar socioeconomic conditions — 21 out of 26 schools have turf fields and 23 of out 26 have lighted fields. There is only one school besides Bacon Academy that doesn't either, which is East Granby.

According to the presentation, the current annual cost to maintain the fields is over \$35,000.

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 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.

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.

Dean's List

Giovanna Balderacchi of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Tampa in Tampa, Fla.

Balderacchi is a senior majoring in communication and media studies.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Kortney Alix, Marie Manero, Megan Marvin, Leeauna Stagni and Sierra Young made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Goodwin University.

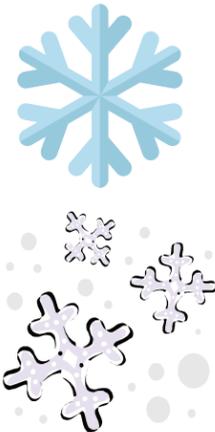
Want or Need to Sell? Call Now!!!



Call Today!

(860) 228-8512

30 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248



Let Our Family Take Care of Your Family

— Family Owned & Operated Since 1994 —



30 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248

(860) 228-8512 • www.countrysiderealtyct.com

Loyal, Dependable Service and Top-Rated Agents...We Have It All!

Ranked #1 for 2022 of SOLD in total for Hebron, Lebanon, Columbia, Colchester, Coventry and Andover

CAMPAGNA

Fine Italian Restaurant and Bar

Five Course Menu Offering on Sun, Mon, Tues and Thur

Five Course Meal \$30.00 • \$15 plate charge for sharing

APPETIZERS

Stuffed Mushrooms Mushroom caps stuffed with seafood stuffing

Zuppa D' Mussels Sautéed in fresh tomato sauce or white wine sauce

Fried Mozzarella Topped with marinara sauce

PASTA COURSE

Penne Aglio Olio • Penne with garlic and oil • Penne Marinara

Penne Alla Vodka Asparagus, sun dried tomatoes in a vodka blush sauce

SOUP OR SALAD Cup of soup of the day or garden salad

DINNER CHOICES

Chicken Parmigiana

Stuffed Pork Chop Stuffed with

stuffed with ricotta, prosciutto and roasted peppers

broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz

crackers in a brown cognac sauce

Chicken Marsala Sautéed with

Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing

mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce

served over spinach

Balkan Meatballs Beef meatballs sautéed with scallions,

roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

DESSERTS — Ask your server for our selections

WINE & DINE MENU

\$80 per couple / \$50 for single

Served Every Friday and Saturday

Wednesday is

Pasta Night!

Serving Prime Rib Every Friday Night!

151 Marlborough St. (Rt 66), Portland • (860) 398-5411

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH & DINNER

LAKESIDE



BAR & GRILL

Lakeside Bar & Grill is the place where the locals go to dine, drink, and socialize. Our menu features dishes assembled from the freshest ingredients, sure to bring bold and inspiring flavor into your life.

NEW LUNCH MENU!

81 N. Main Street
East Hampton, CT 06424

860-467-6891

www.lakesidebar-grill.com



Colchester • Colchester

Boy Scout Pasta Dinner

Boy Scout Troop 13 will hold its second annual Pasta Dinner Saturday, March 2, from 4-7 p.m., at the St. Andrew Parish Center, located at 128 Norwich Ave. In case of inclement weather, the date will be moved to Sunday, March 3.

Both dine-in and take-out meals will be available. Preorder your meal at troop-

13pastadinner.square.site for a discounted rate. Meal prices at the door are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors; children under 5 are free. The meal will include a salad, bread, and dessert. Drinks are available for dine-in patrons only.

Proceeds help support the various troop activities throughout the year.

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.

Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

Colchester Elementary School will host the Incoming Kindergarten Story Time program Thursdays, 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 session, 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.

Community Theatre to Get Kinky

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

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

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

will be allowed before the general audience. Seating for the general audience will take place 20-30 minutes before the performance time.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pinewood Derby Success... BSA Pack 109 recently held its annual Pinewood Derby along with Troop 109. The scouts had fun and success with the wooden cars they built. Pictured are Cub Scouts and their leaders with their first-, second- and third-place awards. From left are Den Leader Becky Berta, Drew Martin, Liam Raulerson and Delaney Berta, and Cubmaster Aaron Berta. For more information about Pack and Troop 109, email westcongchurch@gmail.com.

Girls on the Run

The Girls on the Run Colchester team is holding online registration 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.

Ahavath Achim News

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

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

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.



TROIANO

Now Open Saturdays 8-12

Service Hours:
Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm & Sat 8-12



860-537-2331

860-889-0304

Route 85, Colchester

CHRYSLER

Jeep

DODGE

MOPAR

VISA

MasterCard

We Accept Approved Personal Checks

LIFT KITS INSTALLED!

VARIABLE DISCOUNT COUPON

Receive a discount on service or parts depending on the dollar value of the purchase.

\$5 OFF Any purchase of \$35-\$49.99	\$15 OFF Any purchase of \$100-\$199.99
\$10 OFF Any purchase of \$50-\$99.99	\$25 OFF Any purchase of \$200 or more

PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

With this coupon. Please present coupon when order is written. Not valid with any other offer or on body shop repairs. Offer expires 2/29/24.

Includes: Engine oil replacement up to 6 qts. • New Mopar oil filter • Complete chassis lube • Fluid levels check • Inspect front suspension components

With this coupon. Diesel & V-10 trucks extra. Synthetic & specialty oils slightly higher. \$2.00 charge for fluid disposal. Not valid with any other offers. Offer expires 2/29/24.



15% OFF

ANY ORDER

Dine In or Take Out

Please present coupon when ordering. Excludes Happy Hour. Not to be combined with any other offers. Valid thru 2/29/2024.



QUALITY SEAFOOD

Dine In or Take Out

Catering • Gift Certificates

179 Linwood Ave., Unit #D, Colchester, CT

860-537-6888 Fax 860-537-1678

New Hours: Tues-Thur 11:00AM-9:30PM • Fri-Sun 11:00AM-10:00PM • Closed Monday

www.ichibancolchester.com

Estate Planning

Probate/Elder Law

Wills, Trusts, Health Care Instructions

Helping You Make the Decisions • Asset Protection

Guarnaccia, Connors, Kalom & Zorn, LLC

Giacomo J. Guarnaccia, Jr. & Kevin C. Connors

www.attorneysatlawct.com

Colchester 860-537-4400 • Willimantic 860-423-6308

Colchester • Colchester

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. 19: Senior center closed for the Presidents Day holiday.

Tuesday, Feb. 20: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., CHOICES Counseling, Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, Feb. 21: 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; 11 a.m., Love Boat Luncheon; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

Thursday, Feb. 22: 9 a.m., Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Feb. 23: 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., AARP Tax Aide; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:15 a.m., Across the Ages; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:30 a.m., Lunch Bunch to Po's Rice &

Spice; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 2 p.m., Ham Radio.

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.

Parks & Rec News & Notes

Colchester Parks and Recreation has announced the following programs and events. Registration required unless noted. For full descriptions and to register, visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. 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.

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.

Internships: Are you a college student looking for an internship in the recreation field? Parks and Rec. can work with you and your school to get an internship set up. Internships are available any time of the year. Call the office to discuss your options, at 860-537-7297.

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.

Counselor-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.

President's List

Sarah Grant of Colchester made the fall 2023 President's List at Vermont State University in Randolph Center, Vt.

Dean's List

Clare Gillerlone of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Emmanuel College in Boston.



Donation for Honor Guard... Bonnie Johnson, treasurer for Honor Rotary, A Foundation for Colchester, Inc., recently presented a donation to Bob Kvederas, commander of the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard, with (from left) John Mainella, Vic Battaglioli, Tom O'Meara, Dave Johnson, Bob Hamilton and Al Letendre attending. The Honor Guard serves at military funerals.

Members Sought for Honor Guard

Members are sought for the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard, which provides military funeral honors for a veteran's families and friends.

The Colchester Honor Guard meets the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 7-8 p.m. in the Veterans Room of the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave. Most funeral honors are performed between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

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

'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.

Rotary Scholarships

Upcoming 2024 Colchester graduates who will be pursuing either a traditional college program or a trade school can apply for a chance to be awarded one of two \$1,000 scholarships from Honor Rotary! A Foundation for Colchester, Inc.

For more information, contact the Bacon Academy counseling office.

Kindergarten Registration

Colchester Elementary School has announced kindergarten registration is now open for the 2024-25 school year.

To register, go to colchesterct.org and follow the link to Registration then Pre-Register. Be sure to select the 2024-25 school year.

For more information, call 860-537-7628.

Dean's List

The following Colchester residents made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Hartford:

Mackenzie Root, Sokheta Nguon, Jade Hostetler, Alicia Burroughs, Alyssa Rubbo, Kaitlyn Sierra, Samantha Ciaglo, Lucas Slomski, Kayden Sargent, Matthew Guerriere.

President's List

The following Colchester residents made the fall 2023 President's List at the University of Hartford:

Kayden Sargent, Jade Hostetler, Sokheta Nguon, Mackenzie Root, Alyssa Rubbo, Kaitlyn Sierra and Lucas Slomski.



Cursive Champs... At Jack Jackter Intermediate School, students competed in a cursive handwriting contest. Caroline Frasier, pictured here, was the fourth-grade. The fifth-grade winner is Olive Boyd-Bingham (not shown). The winners now move on to the regional level, where they will compete against schools across New England.

Fireside Supply, Inc.
33B East St., Hebron

- Garage Doors & Openers, Sales, Service
- Metal Carports & Buildings
- Harman Pellet Stoves
- Vermont Casting, Hearthstone, Hampton & Regency Wood Stoves
- Ultra & Super Premium Softwood Pellets
- BioBricks - XL & regular
- Palletized Firewood

Discounts for cash & carry appliance sales

30% Federal Tax Credit (must qualify)

OUR 31ST YEAR!!!

860-228-1383 M-F 9-5 SAT. 10-2

Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & The Rivereast News Bulletin

Email your Classified Line Ad to admin@glcitizen.com and call with your credit card number.

(We regret we cannot take ads over the phone)

Burn Oil COMPANY
(860) 295-9046

Residential & Commercial Heating Oil Senior & Volume Discounts

Minimum **100** Gallons! No Pre-Buys Available

Now offering on and off road Diesel Sales. Please call for competitive pricing.

P.O. Box 32 • Marlborough H.O.D. #1087

YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR #1 PRIORITY

BRAKE SERVICE SPECIAL

\$20⁰⁰ OFF

Coupon good through 2/29/2024. One per customer. Most vehicles. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

EVANS
Automotive Repair

29 Mill Hill Road
Colchester, CT 06415

860-537-0640
evansautomotiverepair.com

FIND US ON Facebook & Instagram

Celebrating 32 Years in Colchester

Foreign & Domestic • Medium & Heavy Duty Trucks • Engine Repair (Gas & Diesel) • Transmissions • Brakes • Electrical • Suspension & Steering • Heating & Air Conditioning • Towing

BELLTOWN RECYCLING
Quality Used Auto Parts

Roll Off Dumpster Services

40 YARD 30 YARD 20 YARD

15, 20, 30 & 40 yard Dumpsters available for your next job, renovation, or clean up

- Construction & Demolition Debris
- Bulky House Debris (Appliances, Furniture, Boxes, Cabinets, Metal, and more)
- Brush, Stumps, Trees, Wood Chip Debris
- We provide Dumpsters for Steel & Aluminum

Call about our 1 week dumpster special!
860-267-7140

24 Old Coach Road
East Hampton, CT 06424

15 YARD 20 YARD

www.BelltownRecycling.com

Colchester • Colchester

College Football Awaits Bacon's All-Conference Lineman

By Josh Howard

Bacon Academy senior P.J. Walsh described his high school football career as a "roller coaster."

Now, his wild ride is headed to new heights. "I am beyond blessed to announce my commitment to play Division II football at The University of New Haven," Walsh declared on Jan. 24. "I would like to thank my family, friends, teammates and coaches, who without I would not be where I am today as a person and a player."

Walsh is coming off an award-winning senior season at Bacon Academy in which he earned First Team All-Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) honors for his work in the trenches for a talented Bobcats' offensive line.

Bacon Academy head coach Bill Chaffin said Walsh was a "staple" of the team's potent running game that continually overpowered opponents this season.

"We would always run the ball to his side," Chaffin said of Walsh, also a team captain. "He's a good kid and was always willing to help with younger kids and guide them in the right direction. We'll miss that next year."

The way Walsh's football career at the local high school finished was vastly different from the way it started.

After playing youth football for the Colchester Cougars in middle school, Walsh's first season at Bacon Academy was nixed because of the pandemic.

Things continued to take a downward turn during his sophomore season in 2021 as the team lost their first seven games and then were forced to forfeit the final three games because of a Title IX investigation levied against the football program.

That's when Chaffin entered the picture, and the coaster began to tick upwards.

As a junior, Walsh was an integral part in Chaffin's rebuilding process as the team was

competitive in most games, winning one.

Walsh and fellow all-conference guard Kevin Claffey formed a formidable one-two punch on the left side of the offensive line.

This fall, the progress continued as Walsh became a bona fide stud at offensive tackle, powering a potent ground game as the Bobcats won three of their first six games.

Heading into his final year at Bacon Academy, Walsh knew what he put on film would determine his future on the football fields.

"I knew I wanted to play college football, so I knew I had to really perform," recalled Walsh.

The team would end with four straight losses, yet the final two losses were one-score contests, including a 27-21 loss to RHAM in the season finale.

Despite being on the losing end of the "Battle for the Rail," Walsh reflected fondly on his final high school game, calling it his favorite memory on the local fields.

"I played football with these seniors for seven years, so just being out there was special," recalled Walsh. "It was bittersweet. When it was sweet, it was really sweet."

Walsh said the players left the field with their heads held high in defeat because they had weathered the early turbulence and stuck together.

"It was a fun ride and when I really look back I know it's one of the best years of my life," added Walsh. "It sucks that we lost, but it was still a feeling you can never get back — it was like my high school football life flashed before my eyes in that game."

Along with possessing an ideal frame, standing nearly six and a half feet tall, Walsh also has football in his blood.

His dad, Patrick Walsh, was a standout player at the University of Connecticut and later signed with the Jacksonville Jaguars before playing a season for the London Monarchs of the World Football League.



P.J. Walsh, a senior at Bacon Academy, has committed to the University of New Haven for college football. Walsh is flanked by his mom, Karyn, and dad, Patrick, along with his sister, Delaney in the background.

Patrick Walsh was also on Chaffin's staff at Bacon Academy. It was an on- and off-the-field opportunity that the father-son duo embraced.

"He taught me so much," P.J. Walsh said of his father. "I will want to coach my kids because how he coached me. I want to have that sports relationship with my son or daughter because of him."

After growing up his entire life in Colchester, the soon-to-be graduate expressed that he is ready for something different.

Walsh said he always knew he wanted to continue to play football, but the question was where?

His checklist included two main things. He wanted a program with a history of winning and a college with a sense of community.

He noted that he got both in New Haven, saying, "I would have been stupid to turn it down."

"They win a lot and there is this connection between coaches and players, players and students, fans and players that is really strong," noted Walsh, who attended the team's homecoming game this past fall. "The campus is so beautiful, and I knew it was a place I wanted to be for four or five years. It's not too big and not too small, it worked out perfectly."

On the gridiron, the Chargers of New Haven have had 13 consecutive winning seasons, which includes a pair of undefeated seasons and six Northeast-10 Conference Championships.

Chaffin said that Walsh's ability to play all five positions on the offensive line will be a luxury for the coaching staff in New Haven run by head

coach Chris Pincince, who has led the program since 2014.

"Over the last two years he really worked on his technique and footwork and all those things that are required to be a high-level offensive lineman," added Chaffin.

Walsh understands that he may get redshirted his first year in college, giving him an extra year of eligibility, but that won't be a problem for someone who wants to study sports marketing and eyes a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in the future.

"My dad has always told me that the bond you have with your scout team players that you go to college with is a bond that you'll have forever," stated Walsh.

Off the field, Walsh said he is also ready to meet people from all over the country and beyond as well as live in a city that is famous for its gourmet food.

"I'm excited to have a few good meals," joked Walsh, who considers Pepe's Pizza the gold standard.

Although he is ready to take his next ride, Walsh said he will always be grateful for his time in Colchester and the opportunity it has presented, saying he feels he and the rest of the Class of 2024 is leaving the football program "on good terms."

"It took everyone," added Walsh. "Coach Chaffin knew what he was getting himself into and he knew what it took to rebuild a program, and I very much thank him for what he did."

DeCaprio Announces Re-Election Bid

Republican Mark DeCaprio has announced he is running for reelection for state representative in the 48th District, which includes Bozrah, Colchester, Franklin and part of Lebanon.

DeCaprio, who was elected to his first term in 2022, currently serves on the state legislature's Appropriations, Public Health and Transportation Committees.

"I am running for re-election because I love our state and have a desire to serve our community, help people wherever I can, and make our state and the 48th District a better place for our future — a future which is our children and grandchildren," Rep. DeCaprio said. "In the coming months, I will be meeting and speaking to our friends and neighbors, along with business people all around the 48th District to better understand the issues and challenges we face. If I have the privilege to be reelected in November, I will continue to work diligently to represent the 48th District and will work to the best of my ability to help solve problems and bring the needed necessary recovery back to Connecticut. I am hopeful to again earn your support so we all will work together to make positive change for our communities and the state."

During the 2023 legislative session, DeCaprio voted in favor of the state budget, and also voted in favor of legislation that supports law enforcement, enhancing safeguards for survivors of domestic violence, as well as financial protection for senior citizens. Locally, DeCaprio successfully advocated for \$500,000 in funding for the Norton Park Project in Colchester.

DeCaprio currently serves on the Lebanon Board of Selectmen and had been elected prior



State Rep. Mark DeCaprio

to local offices, including the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Lebanon Board of Education. He is a United States Navy Submarine Service veteran, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Eastern Connecticut State University and a Master of Public Health from the University of Connecticut. Most recently, he worked and retired from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, with the last 20 years working as a division director and 15 years as the administrator for the Connecticut State Emergency Response Commission. DeCaprio volunteered for a number of years at a local soup kitchen in Willimantic.

PIANO TUNER
CITY-22-20

Tuning, Repairs & Cleaning

Contact
TED WILLIAMS
Certified by
Hartt School of Music
(860) 228-0309
www.ConnecticutPianoTuning.com



Skyview REALTY

Jack Faski
Owner/Broker

Matt Faski
Sales Associate

Now Is The Time To Sell!

Inventory is low.

Are you ready for a change this spring?

— 860-214-1147 • www.skyview-realty.com —
35 Hayward Ave., Colchester, CT 06415

Star Wars at Disneyworld OR Harry Potter at Universal Orlando

OR BOTH!

Hebron Travel's experts will plan it all for you!

Hebron Travel SINCE 1994
61-B Main Street, Hebron, CT 06248
860.228.8221
Toll Free 888.881.3545 • hebrontravel@cs.com

ADVERTISERS

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 insertion. 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.

Mobil 1

\$5.00 OFF

Full Service Oil Change

includes fluid top off, vacuuming, tire pressure

WE DRIVE VEHICLE IN, YOU RELAX!

EXPIRES 2/29/24

Performance Tire & Auto Repair

FULL SERVICE AUTO REPAIR

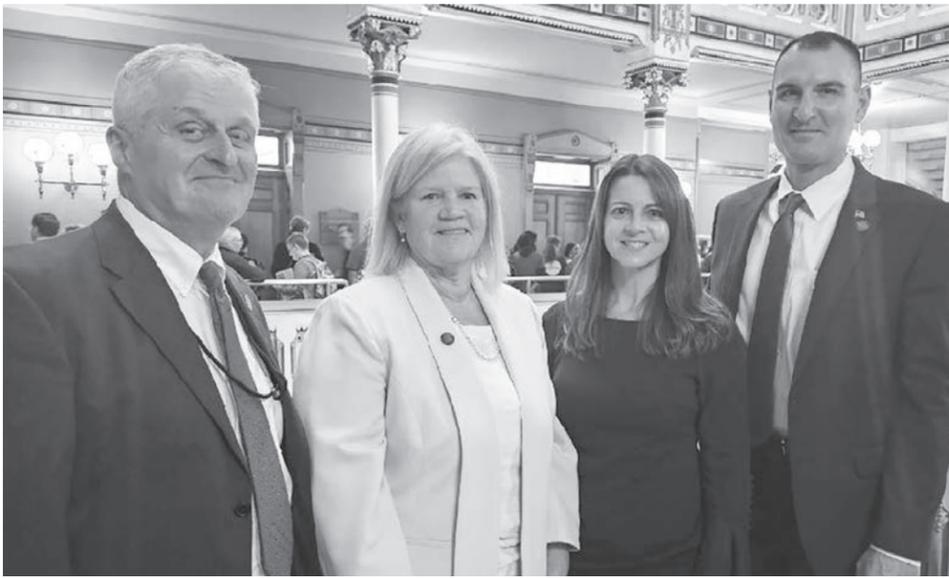
Brakes, Oil Changes, Tires, Tune-Ups, Exhaust

* No Appointment Necessary *

240 Old Hartford Road
Colchester, CT • 860-537-2515

We welcome all previous Hebron Quick Lube customers!

Regional • Regional



Republican state representatives (from left) Mark DeCaprio, Irene Haines, Christie Carpino and Steve Weir recently celebrated the start of the 2024 legislative session.

Area Legislators Celebrate Start of Session

Area state representatives Christie Carpino (R-32), Mark DeCaprio (R-48), Irene Haines (R-34) and Steve Weir (R-55) Hebron convened with her colleagues in the General Assembly as they marked the start of the 2024 legislative session.

Carpino's district includes the *Rivereast* town of Portland; DeCaprio's, the *Rivereast* town of Colchester; Haines, the *Rivereast* town of East Hampton; and Weir, the *Rivereast* towns of Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

The representatives submitted the following joint statement regarding the start of session:

"We are excited to begin the 2024 legislative session as we prepare to address issues such as crime, education funding, and especially afford-

ability. This session will be shorter, primarily including legislation associated with last year's state budget agreement. We look forward to collaborating with our colleagues and proposing solutions that promote affordability and safety statewide, while continuing to prioritize our concerns at home."

The 2024 legislative session will conclude on May 8th and a list of bills, deadlines, and other information can be found at: www.cga.ct.gov. For more information, contact their offices at 860-240-8700, or by using the following emails: Christie.Carpino@housegop.ct.gov, Mark.DeCaprio@housegop.ct.gov, Irene.Haines@housegop.ct.gov or Steve.Weir@housegop.ct.gov.

ECSU Dean's List

The following area students made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Eastern Connecticut State University:

Amston: Mollylynn Doherty, a senior who majors in computer science and data science; Colleen Garrity, a junior who majors in elementary education and liberal studies; Skylar Popp of Amston, a senior who majors in criminology and sociology; Tyler Piascik, a sophomore who majors in art; April Breen, a senior who majors in computer science; Taylor Ferrari, a junior who majors in finance; Brendan Burke, a senior who majors in physical education; Charlotte Pintavalle, a senior who majors in psychology; Karleigh Steiner, a junior who majors in psychology.

Andover: Jessica Day, a sophomore who majors in English and art; Ashley Moore, a sophomore who majors in early childhood education and English; Mykenzie Mawdsley, a senior who majors in criminology and sociology; Kane Waggoner, a senior who majors in communication and theatre; Shae Hoisington, a sophomore who majors in art; Amanda Pedro, a senior who majors in business administration; Julia Carso, a senior who majors in communication; Ethan Byers, a junior who majors in computer science; Madison Brainard, a junior who majors in criminology; Ava Byers, a junior who majors in finance; Mikayla Oman, a junior who majors in health sciences; Gianella Miano, a sophomore who majors in psychology; Emily Balula, a junior who majors in social work.

Colchester: Aidan Zimmitti, a junior who majors in business administration and accounting; Kaitlyn Tracey, a first-year student who majors in elementary education and mathematics; Steven Laliberte, a first-year student who majors in secondary education certification and mathematics; Olivia Lenares, a senior who majors in early childhood education and psychology; Daniel Slayton, a senior who majors in accounting; Nico Matteucci, a junior who majors in biology; Patrick Mawhiney, a junior who majors in business administration; Vincent May, a sophomore who majors in communication; Alex Turner, a senior who majors in communication; Olivia Zumpano, a senior who majors in communication; Christopher Stephenson, a sophomore who majors in data science; Taryn Beisel, a sophomore who majors in English; Vivian Lubinsky, a sophomore who majors in English; Rexford Welch, a junior who majors in English; Meaghan Malone, a sophomore who majors in exploratory - undecided; Avery Raber, a senior who majors in labor relations/human resources management; Kira Swain, a senior who majors in new media studies; Luca DiStefano, a sophomore who majors in physical education; Kailee Dickinson, a junior who majors in psychology; Catheryn Neudecker, a junior who majors in psychology; Gabrielle Papale, a junior who majors in psychology; Addison Belcamino,

a senior who majors in social work; Sandra Geis, a sophomore who majors in social work.

East Hampton: Kristina Lintz, a senior who majors in English, history and social science; Ava Sanchez, a junior who majors in business administration; Christopher Kourtzidis, a senior who majors in communication; Nalah Valley, a senior who majors in communication; Lillian Brooks, a sophomore who majors in computer science; Caiden Hettrick-Rivera, a sophomore who majors in finance; Isabella Diaz, a senior who majors in health sciences; James Crotty, a junior who majors in music; Jennifer Tripp, a junior who majors in political science; Bailey Lombardi, a sophomore who majors in psychology; Julia Stone, a first-year student who majors in psychology; Taylor Sylvester, a first-year student who majors in psychology.

Haddam Neck: Grace Michalowski, a senior who majors in music.

Hebron: Lindsay Anderson, a junior who majors in early childhood education and sociology; Maggie Chanski, a sophomore who majors in early childhood education and sociology; Olivia Walsh-Scott, a junior who majors in accounting; Megan Raimondo, a senior who majors in art; Anna Beard, a sophomore who majors in business administration; Jeremy Velez, a sophomore who majors in communication; Ethan Lessard, a first-year student who majors in exploratory - undecided; James Lukow, a junior who majors in finance; Ingrid Taute, a sophomore who majors in finance; Emma McCormack, a junior who majors in history; Elliott Kalisher, a junior who majors in new media studies; Emily Cook, a senior who majors in psychology; Hannah Tingley, a senior who majors in psychology.

Marlborough: Bradley D'Amico, a sophomore who majors in secondary education certification and English; Cristina Catarino, a junior who majors in early childhood education and psychology; Daniel Cormier, a senior who majors in accounting; Gracey DuBois, a senior who majors in business administration; Ryan Fries, a junior who majors in business administration; Matthew Bielaczyc, a junior who majors in business information systems; Cameron Soulagnet, a senior who majors in environmental earth science; Gregory Gomez, a junior who majors in finance; Emily Boyd, a senior who majors in health sciences; Cory Hunt, a senior who majors in physical education.

Portland: Zachary Doncet, a sophomore who majors in business administration; Lindsey King, a sophomore who majors in business administration; Madeline Myers, a senior who majors in business administration; Jake Thompson, a sophomore who majors in business administration; Bryan Dinnis, a senior who majors in finance; Julia Berthiaume, a junior who majors in health sciences; Eli Evison, a sophomore who majors in physical education.

From the State Senator's Desk

With this month's start of the legislative session at the State Capitol, there will be hundreds of bills being considered by lawmakers through the spring that can bring significant changes to our state. It's important for people to make their voices heard, especially if the legislation could impact them directly. Here's how you can testify at public hearings and submit testimony for bills.

Whether you're tracking the progress of a bill online at cga.ct.gov or saw a news story about a proposed change that caught your interest, you have every right to tell legislators how you feel about it. You can easily testify at a public hearing in person by visiting the Capitol on the day it's scheduled, but given that work, school and life can cause complications to such plans, you can also submit testimony online or testify through Zoom.

When you are aware of a bill that interests you, you can sign up to receive bill tracker updates on cga.ct.gov under "Bill Information." Once you do that, you'll get regular updates on how legislators vote on the bill in committee and, importantly, will get updates whenever a hearing is scheduled. If you want to participate in-person at such an event, hearings will take place at 300 Capitol Avenue in Hartford, the Legislative Office Building (located next to the Capitol building).

If you'd prefer to testify via Zoom, when the public hearing is scheduled, there should be an "agenda" listing on the website as well as further information on committee websites. (There are 22 committees in the General Assembly where lawmakers are focused on different topics from education to judicial to veteran's affairs matters.) To participate in a hybrid public hearing, you will need to pre-register with information on that agenda or in a bulletin announcing it. Make sure your name and contact information is correct in filling it out. In addition to Zoom, you can also testify over the phone.

Submitting written testimony is a bit easier, as committee websites will contain instructions on how to do so. You will generally need to submit your information and the bill in question you wish to testify on.

In all of these cases, you will need to make your argument quickly. Try to remain focused on the reasons why you support, oppose, or wish to make changes to a given bill. You will likely only have a few minutes to speak, and you may be asked questions by legislators if testifying over Zoom, phone or in-person. Public hearings are livestreamed online on YouTube and the Connecticut Network.

As a lawmaker, I can say that the more we hear from our constituents, the better-prepared we are to take action in a way that supports every resident of our state. Please feel free to reach out to us whenever you can; we appreciate your feedback.

State Sen. Norm Needleman, D-33rd District



Bacon Academy senior Carson Brown won a conference championship on Feb. 10, pinning his opponent to win the 165-lbs. bracket at the ECC championships.

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here is a double dose of *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of Feb. 5-11:

Carson Brown - Bacon Academy (Wrestling): Brown won a conference championship, taking home first place in the 165-pound bracket at the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championships at Killingly High School on Feb. 10. Brown, a senior, entered the tourney as the No. 2-ranked wrestler in his weight division, before winning a pair of matches and pinning top-seeded Devon Powers of Waterford in the championship bout. Brown and the Bobcats now compete at the Class S state championships on Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at Killingly High School.

Troy Johnson - Bacon Academy (Basketball): Johnson averaged 20 points and 10 rebounds per game as the Bobcats won three of four games to qualify for the Division IV state tournament. Johnson, a sophomore, also averaged four steals and two blocks per game, while shooting 86% from the foul line. The Bobcats close the regular season tonight (Friday, Feb. 16), hosting Killingly at 6:30 p.m.

Gracie DeRing - Portland High School (Basketball): DeRing, a sophomore, posted her first career double-double, scoring a season-high 12 points and grabbing 18 rebounds as the Highlanders beat Westbrook 44-36 on Feb. 10. It marked Portland's first conference win and also avenged an earlier loss (40-25) to Westbrook in early January.

Lily Tabellone and Samuel LaMalfa - Portland High School (Track and Field): Tabellone and LaMalfa each brought home individual state championships at the Class S Indoor Track and Field finals on Feb. 9. Tabellone, a senior, won the 1000 meters with a time of 3:05.88, holding off runner-up Briana Belanger (3:06.94) of Thomaston. LaMalfa, a junior, won the 600 meters with a time of 1:25.98, besting runner-up Charles Dalles (1:26.60) of Coganchoag. Both Tabellone and LaMalfa qualified for the State Open, slated for Sat-

urday, Feb. 17, at the Floyd Little Athletic Center in New Haven, starting at noon.

Nina Krawczyk - RHAM High School (Basketball): Krawczyk, a sophomore, scored a game-high 22 points, including a go-ahead bucket in overtime as the Raptors beat South Windsor 53-51 on Feb. 9. With the score tied at 51 in the extra session, Krawczyk grabbed and offensive rebound before scoring for what turned out to be the game-winner in a dramatic triumph that qualified the Raptors for the Class MM tournament, starting Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Samuel Fortin - RHAM High School (Track & Field): Fortin ran a personal-best 2:42.03, finishing fourth in the 1000 meters at the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Floyd Athletic Center on Jan. 27. Fortin, a senior, then duplicated his feat by placing fourth at the Class M state championship on Feb. 10, qualifying him for the State Open set to take place Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Floyd Athletic Center, starting at noon.

Liana Salamone - East Hampton High School (Basketball): Salamone scored 33 points as the Bellringers blew by Cromwell 60-33 on Feb. 9. Salamone, a junior, is the reigning Shoreline Conference Player of the Year and is the leading scorer for a Bellringers squad that has not lost this season and aims for a fifth straight Shoreline Conference title and looks to repeat as Class S state champions.

Evan LoPresti - East Hampton High School (Track & Field): LoPresti tied for second overall in the 1000 meters at the Class S Indoor Track and Field State Championships on Feb. 9. LoPresti, a junior, ran a 2:38.82 to cross the line the same time as Matthew Kraszewski of Hale Ray and finished behind only Dylan Bathrick (2:36.42) of Cromwell. LoPresti's time qualified him for the State Open, taking place Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Floyd Athletic Center starting at noon.

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

RHAM • RHAM

Cover Story • Cover Story

Registration for KinderRHAMa Preschool

AHM Youth and Family Services' KinderRHAMa Preschool, located at RHAM High School, will be registering for the 2024-25 school year starting in March. Children ages 3-5 can attend the program. Children must be 3 by Sept. 1 and toilet-trained to attend.

Two experienced teachers staff the program and RHAM students assist in the classroom. The program follows the Early Learning Development Standards from the State of Connecticut for preschool-aged children. Regular activities include circle/story time, outside play, science and math-based activities, and daily arts and crafts projects.

There will be part-day and full-day options. The 3-year-old program will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m.-noon, and the 4-year-old program will be held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The full-day option is offered from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Limited spaces are available to have your child attend five days a week from 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

The two-day/week, 8:30 a.m.-noon, program is \$2,345/year; the three-day/week, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., program is \$4,205/year; and the five-day/week, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., program is \$6,990/year. The two-day/week program with extended day (T/Th from 7 a.m.-3 p.m.) is \$3,390/year, and the three-day/week program with extended day (M/W/F from 7 a.m.-3 p.m.), is \$5,085/year. Tu-

ition can be paid in 10 installments. Financial aid may be available for families who qualify.

Initial registration for the public will be online starting Monday, March 25, through RecDesk, at ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home. Families will be informed as to whether their child has a space within one week. If they have a space, families will be asked to pay a \$45 registration fee and \$150 deposit to hold that space.

For more information visit ahmyouth.org/programs-services/kinderrhama-preschool-program, or contact Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org or 860-228-0871.

Difficult Behavior in Young Children

AHM Youth and Family Services will offer a workshop for early care providers on "Dealing with Difficult Behavior in Young Children" on Monday, March 5, from 7-8 p.m., via Zoom.

The workshop will cover how to deal with tantrums, how to set consequences effectively, helping children to manage emotions, sharing, and other issues that arise. This program is free for participants, and care providers will receive a gift for participating.

Email Becky at Beckym@ahmyouth.org or Ashlee at ashleep@ahmyouth.org to register and receive the Zoom link.



Mary Viola, a resident at Marlborough Health & Rehabilitation, is getting ready for her 100th birthday next week. She'll celebrate at the center next Tuesday, Feb. 20. Viola is pictured here with her robotic cat, Chubby II – named after a beloved kitty she had growing up.

★ Birthday Celebration cont. from page 1

(in two separate leagues) and danced a ton — often traveling to New York to maximize the fun.

Perhaps the key component was something else entirely: Las Vegas.

From 1987-98, Viola lived in Nevada after moving rather spontaneously to Sin City with her third husband, Frank Viola — a man she previously knew earlier in her life through dancing.

The way Bantle remembers it, her mom packed up the car with what could fit — she stored or sold the rest — and drove thousands of miles to her new home. Initially, the trip was described as a one-year visit, but it ultimately turned into Viola managing a 65-unit apartment complex for close to 12 years.

"That kind of blew us all away," Bantle joked.

The move and marriage took place when Viola was well into her '60s and proved to be a beautiful experience. Casino culture — specifically the craps tables — fit her intoxicating personality.

"That was the highlight of her life," Bantle said. "She deserved the happiness."

When returning back to Connecticut, Viola brought the fun with her. Bantle recalled one excursion when her mom rented a limo for the family to ride to Atlantic City, N.J.

"She was always looking for stuff to do and keeping people on their toes," Bantle said.

At her previous nursing home, casino-night was the theme for Viola's 99th birthday. This time, Bantle was hesitant to plan the party after entering a new facility, but the staff insisted on organizing a gathering to celebrate the occasion. Father Mickey Danyluk, who attended the prior celebration, will be doing a blessing this time as

well.

If Vegas was Viola's not-so-secret home, her other love has to be "Chubby," her cat. Growing up, she had a cat named Chubby. Then, as Bantle was a kid, they also had a cat named Chubby, who was essentially kidnapped by her parents. There was always a cat outside near Bantle's childhood home, and her dad would sneak out to feed it; the real owner didn't appear to pay much attention to his pet. Eventually, Viola snatched the cat and brought it home.

Nearly three years ago, Bantle bought her mom a robotic cat, which she'd bring into the nursing home in a carrier. Her mom asked, "Is it real?" Bantle replied, "If you want it to be."

You can probably guess the name of that cat too.

"The name has carried on her entire life," Bantle said.

Technically, robotic Chubby's motor died, and now her mom enjoys "Chubby II."

As 100 approaches, Bantle reflected on her relationship with her mom. Because her brother is 15 years older than her, and her father passed away when she was just 12, the two formed a "dynamic duo."

At Viola's third wedding, she handed the bouquet of flowers to Bantle. Not long after, she married her own husband.

"She foresaw something," Bantle recalled. "It brought me good luck."

Viola operated a luncheonette in Stamford called "Town Coffee House," with Bantle's father when she was a young kid. As a four-year-old, Bantle would hop onto the counter and enjoy a sundae. As a proud Italian cook, Viola has her signature dishes. Bantle's favorite: eggplant parmigiana — she wouldn't eat anyone else's!



Undefeated and it feels so good Hebron's 7/8 boys basketball team finished 11-0 and won the 2024 Lakes League Basketball Championship. Head Coach Lee McPeck (far right) and assistant coach Pat Sullivan (far left) led the undefeated team that featured (from right) Caleb McPeck, Owen Borque, Tyler Luca, Lucas Fortin, Trevor King, Peyton Sullivan, Vince Quiros and Declan Dougherty.

CLASSIFIEDS PAY

in The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

Fill out, clip and mail to:

The Glastonbury Citizen, P.O. Box 373,
Glastonbury, CT 06033-0373

Citizen Deadline: Mon. NOON • Bulletin Deadline: Wed. NOON

Category (example: For Sale) _____

Classified Text: A word is anything with spaces around it. For example: Rd., 2BR, 6-cyl. are all one word each. A phone number is one word.)

Additional Words (20¢ per word): _____

Email Your Classified Line Ad

to admin@glcitizen.com and call with your credit card number.

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- \$10.00 per week for 25 words or less in *The Glastonbury Citizen*; 20¢ ea. add'l word
- \$9.00 per week for 25 words or less in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*; 20¢ ea. add'l word
- \$18.00 per week combination rate, 20¢ ea. add'l word for insertion in both in both papers.

Please make checks payable to: *The Glastonbury Citizen*.

Volunteer. The Benefits Are Extraordinary!



Extraordinary Benefits:

- You'll feel really, really good!
- You'll meet delightful dogs, fabulous felines, and some pretty special humans too!

PROTECTORS OF ANIMALS

Scan for more info

Volunteer Positions Available — Day & Evening Hours:

- **East Hampton & Wethersfield facilities**
Dogs: walking; clean & feed; socialization
- **East Hartford facility** – Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams



Please call 860-569-0722 or visit www.poinc.org

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ *Letters cont. from page 6*

DPW Action Committee meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 20, held at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall and online. Details will be included in the agenda, which should be posted at www.hebronct.com by the time this letter is published. For additional information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulumieri – Amston

Take Ethics Seriously

To the Editor:

I am currently serving as the chair of a town commission, after having been a member on that commission for several years. Although I am writing about my experiences during my tenure on that commission, I am not speaking for the commission.

Several years ago, an application came before the commission that I thought might affect my property, so I submitted a request for a ruling to the town Ethics Commission, as stipulated in the annual ethics training we are required to complete. I never got a response, not even an

acknowledgment that they had received my request.

As I mentioned, every town board member and commissioner is required to take ethics training each year. They are also required to send a certificate of completion to the Ethics Commission once they have completed the training. When I mailed in my certificate one year, the Post Office returned it to me because the post office box had been closed. I went to the first selectman's office and was told that the rental for the box had not been paid.

These events make me wonder how dedicated the members of the Ethics Commission are to doing their job. I realize all appointed commission members are volunteers and that many of them have full-time jobs in addition to their service on their respective commissions. However, I believe the Ethics Commission has an inherent obligation to set an example for the other boards and commissions in the town.

Sincerely,
Martha Taylor Dumas – Portland

Note: Dumas is chair of the Portland Inland Wetlands Commission, but said she is writing as an individual.

Hiyo Silver!

To the Editor:

Do you remember the Lone Ranger and his horse, Silver? Well, the Silver I am introducing here is a bat, and it's a "lone ranger" too.

Silver-haired bats (*Lasiurus noctivagans*) are among the most common bats in forested areas of America, especially old growth forests. They form maternity colonies – or may roost singly – almost exclusively in tree cavities or small hollows, and they switch roosts throughout the maternity season. A female of breeding age gives birth to two pups each season, with an equal sex ratio.

This medium-sized bat is predominantly black, including wings and fur, with white-tipped hairs, thus giving the bat a frosted appearance. It weighs around 8–12 g, with a 12" wingspan.

Because silver-haired bats are dependent upon roosts in old growth areas, maintaining forested corridors are important to sustaining them, they require an abundance of dead and dying trees. Unfortunately, forest management practices have fallen far short of providing that

necessity.

Silver-haired bats hibernate mainly in forested areas, though they may make long migrations from their summer forest roosts to winter forest sites. Typical hibernation roosts include small tree hollows, beneath exfoliating bark, in woodpiles, and in the crevices of cliff faces. Occasionally they will hibernate in cave entrances, especially in northern regions of their range.

Silver-haired bats feed on many insects that are pests to humans, agriculture and forestry. Even though they depend upon old-growth forest areas for roosts, they feed predominantly in disturbed areas, at treetop levels, in small clearings and along roadways or watercourses. Though their diets vary widely, these bats feed chiefly on small, soft-bodied insects and arachnids, including flies, midges, leafhoppers, moths, mosquitoes, beetles, crane flies, ants, crickets, and spiders.

Silvers are among the first bats to emerge in the evenings and are distinguished by their fluttering, erratic flight.

Thank you,
Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

You Be the Judge

To the Editor:

"Trump was recently ordered to pay E. Jean Carroll \$83 million in a defamation lawsuit for defending himself in the media against her politically motivated and baseless accusation of sexual assault. When Joe Biden was accused of sexual assault by Tara Reid, he accused her of lying, and nothing happened to him. When Bill Clinton was accused of sexual assault by multiple women, Hillary called those women 'trailer park trash' and 'bimbos,' and she had to pay nothing. Yet Trump has to pay \$83 million in this defamation suit.

"The jury ruled in Ms. Carroll's favor even though she didn't bring in a shred of evidence to support her accusation. She produced no witnesses, no surveillance video, nothing, except her word which she changed on numerous occasions. She didn't know the day, the month, or even the year of the alleged assault. She changed which year it supposedly happened several times, giving Trump no way to disprove the accusation by accounting for his whereabouts. She said she was wearing a Donna Karan dress that had not been produced by the designer yet. In a 1993 column of hers, she joked about having sex on the fourth floor of Bergdorf's, the place where she claims Trump assaulted her. She only came forward with these accusations in 2019 – 25 years after the alleged incident occurred, and it happened to coincide with the release of her new book." – Judd Garrett

If you were a member of the jury, would you find the defendant guilty? It looks like these jurors were hand chosen by someone in a higher authority that despised Donald Trump.

Frank Blume – Colchester

Your Culpability

To the Editor:

Although it may seem unfair (and it is), we as individuals can be judged harshly on the basis of little evidence. After all, who really knows us? Here is one judgment that conservatives must consider when they vote. If you vote for Donald Trump, you will be associated not only with any sound ideas he may have (if any), but also with many vile and onerous attitudes and actions. A vote for Trump is an acceptance of xenophobia, homophobia, misogyny, and suppression. It is not only a rejection of Joe Biden, but an acceptance of Joe McCarthy and a paranoid police state. It is acquiescence to the rabble masquerading as patriots such as Oath Keepers and Proud Boys. They justify hooliganism and hate under the guise of constitutional sanctions, and their apologists/supporters in government allow and champion their vigilante tactics.

If you vote for Trump you are culpable for the actions of the far-right groups who will be empowered by him. You will have added to the decline of America, not its greatness, which is based on freedom and civility, not coercion and hatred. If you vote for Trump you should not blanch at the iniquity and wickedness that follows, for you will have condoned it with your vote. The same goes for votes for Trump sycophants running for other offices.

As a "liberal" I am not asking anyone to forswear Jesus, fiscal responsibility, patriotism, mom and apple pie. However, unless a Republican renounces Trumpism and its adherents, he or she will be lumped in with the radical right and their extreme interpretations of conservatism. And if you aren't fully aligned with them (and the correct "them"!), watch your back. They'll be coming for you next!

John Barnowski – Colchester

Spring
Home & Garden

2024 GUIDE

Published:
Thursday, March 28th

Deadline:
Friday, March 15th

Delivered inside that
week's Special Edition of
The Glastonbury Citizen
which will be mailed
to 17,000 HOMES!

100%
Market
Coverage



To take advantage of this great opportunity
to promote your business in *The Glastonbury Citizen's*
Spring Home & Garden Guide

call Lisa at 860-937-7391 or email lisa@glcitizen.com

Rivereast News Bulletin advertisers can call

Jason at 860-633-4691 x231 or email jason@glcitizen.com

Cover Story • Cover

★ **Hebron DPW Project cont. from page 1**
at at all.”

Still, he acknowledged that since the property is owned by the town, a concept or goal for that land “has to be addressed” at some point.

The unambiguous shift towards revamping the town’s current site — one that is listed at “GB” site, or an area that has impaired groundwater — came after a community survey revealed residents had little desire to relocate the project.

The survey period extended from June 6 through July 15, with 725 people completing it, in addition to over 700 submitted comments and reactions.

When asked for a preferred DPW site choice, 69% of respondents selected the current facility location on Old Colchester Road; construction at Kinney Road was the second highest preference with 16%; a hybrid option that would primarily involve construction at Kinney Road, except with the proposed salt storage shed being shifted to an off-site location, was listed at 10%. An additional 9% of respondents opted for another site, while 5% had no site preference.

Kasper said those results gave the action committee a clear charge to provide a proposal for reconstructing or expanding the current site.

However, one of the reasons the town initially pivoted away from that idea was due to space constraints — an issue that still exists. To solve that problem, the town has looked into acquiring an adjacent property owned by Eversource — a purchase that Kasper said residents would also need to approve.

He explained that Eversource would likely want to sell the entire property, roughly 32 acres, rather than a smaller portion. The town would only need around 2.5 acres to efficiently expand the current facility, but Kasper said the town may explore an open-space option if it needs to obtain more.

Without acquiring extra land, reconstructing the Old Colchester Road site becomes significantly more challenging.

“It’s definitely possible,” Kasper said regarding whether the site would still be workable without the additional parcel. “We would have to compromise on something at that site.”

Most likely, the transfer station that is currently located at that property would need to be reduced in some capacity, or even entirely relocated. The town would seek public input in that scenario and determine whether sacrificing the current system is worthwhile and acceptable. Kasper added that the town would need to come up with an alternative plan in case the transfer station was impacted, expressing that there’s been “no discussion of providing less services.”

Both the town and Eversource are seeking appraisals for the property, and the acquisition would also require approval from the state Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

Simply repairing the current complex on an

ongoing basis is also not an option, Kasper explained, stating that substantial upgrades are needed rather than a quick fix.

“We’re beyond the point of urgency,” he conveyed, listing an array of safety hazards and facility shortfalls. “They need to be changed.”

Next Steps

The action committee is working to update the schematics for the Old Colchester Road site. A space analysis was conducted roughly 10 years ago by Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates and BL Companies; those reports require further information, including operational needs, in order to enter a new design phase.

Previously, the town received estimates from both companies to design a facility at Kinney Road totaling \$244,800. That funding was originally included in the 2023-24 budget proposal, but was ultimately removed. It’s unknown how much modernized plans at Old Colchester Road would cost.

As the town receives modern, updated cost assessments, Kasper warned that residents may find the total project cost “alarming,” especially compared to what it likely would’ve cost a decade ago.

Included with the informational document attached to the community survey was a potential bottom-line figure of \$15-\$20 million, with an annual taxpayer increase of \$150-\$325. Kasper expressed that whatever the exact taxpayer burden ends up being will likely be the most relevant number when assessing the feasibility of the project.

At times, the project has appeared stalled; one survey respondent relayed the ongoing toll on the community.

“I was always proud of my town but since this controversy began I have become disheartened,” the respondent wrote.

The town previously hired a consultant, DK Advertising, out of Bloomfield, on a \$15,000 contract to assist with the production and roll-out of that survey; that arrangement is now over.

As the project moves ahead — possibly a year out from a referendum — Kasper expressed confidence that a vote will eventually take place and that the committee’s work has been productive.

“I think it’s a good idea in the sense that the public asked for it,” he said.

ADVERTISERS

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 insertion. 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.

LIQUOR PERMIT

Notice of Application
This is to give notice that I,
Alexander Levere, 9 Sanford Bridge Road,
East Haddam, CT 06423
Have filed an application placarded 02/14/2024 with the
Department of Consumer Protection
for a CAFE LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of
alcoholic liquor on the premises at
4BOYZ LLC
16 Main Street
Colchester, CT 06415
The business will be owned by: 4 BOYZ LLC
Entertainment will consist of: No Live Entertainment
Objections must be filed by: 03-27-2024
Visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/remonstrance> for more information
4BOYZ LLC
2TB 2/16, 2/23

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

LEGALS

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission held a regular meeting on February 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Eaton Smith Council Chambers Room 107 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:
Application PZC-24-001: Jessicas Designed Landscapes, LLC, 87 Main Street, Site Plan Modification in VC Zone – Section 5.1.B, Retail to Restaurant, and Liquor permit within 500’ of school and church. Map 06A/ Block 61/ Lot 7 - Approved
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman
1TB 2/16

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

**LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions at their Regular Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7:00pm on the following:
Petition 2024-04 – Petition of JonNick Enterprises LLC to modify the approved Site Plan of an existing motor vehicle repair facility for the construction of a building addition, and driveway and parking improvements at 24 Wall St, Main Street District. **Approved.** The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting can be seen using the following link:
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/739e8723db1b3ff126a3426cd831a233e4a70d84b48fffee280295332606a152>
Legal Notice will be published in the Riverast News Bulletin on February 16, 2024.
1TB 2/16

**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

My current legal name is JOHN PAUL DION, without prejudice and in an abundance of caution, petitioner seeks civil exoneration under the doctrine of suretyship. I wish to assume the new legal name, John Paul Dion. Equity regards done what ought to be done.
1TB 2/16

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

The East Hampton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 6:30pm during the Regular Town Council Meeting in the East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. The Town Council will review amendments to Chapter 273 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Streets and Sidewalks Concerning Excavation of Streets; Traffic and Site Safety to increase safety measures on work sites on main roads in the community. A copy of the draft ordinance will be available in the Town Clerk’s Office.

EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

Dean Markham, Chairman
Karen Wanat, Vice Chairperson
Deborah Cunningham
Timothy Feegel
Richard Knotek
Jack Solomon
Jordan Werme
1TB 2/16

**LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS
HEBRON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
15 GILEAD STREET, HEBRON CT**

At its February 8, 2024, meeting, the Hebron Conservation Commission took the following actions:

Petition 24-02, 24 Wall Street, Map 70, Lot 12, Hebron, c/o Richard Breski, JonNick Enterprises. Construction of Emissions Bay, and Driveway within the upland review area – **Approved**, with the following conditions:

1. The berm design, grading plan, stormwater management measures and plan of vegetation to be approved by the Town Engineer and Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent
2. The applicant will confer with his engineer regarding proper site vegetation pursuant to CT DEEP Guidelines and incorporate the foregoing into the overall site plan
3. Silt fencing will be installed along the rear of the property prior to any site excavation or grading
4. The Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent will be contacted to inspect SEC measures at the time of construction

Petition 24-01, 30 Pendleton Drive, 42 Pendleton Drive, 22 Main Street and 28 Main Street, Town of Hebron. Construction of a pedestrian bridge and trail and associated site improvements- **Approved**, with the following conditions:

1. Work with the Town Engineer to determine the feasibility of the installation of a water quality swale between the paved leak-off and culvert outlet
2. Examine the state of the stone walls and have the PZC take a closer look at their disposition
3. Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent will inspect SEC measures prior to and during construction

James P. Cordier, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent
For: Thomas Loto, Chairman, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission
<https://app.goto.com/meetings/history/sessions/3794488731838246443>
Legal Notice of Actions will be published in the Riverast News Bulletin on Friday, February 16, 2024.
1TB 2/16

LEGALS

**MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC
DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 22, 2024
6:30pm at Town Hall
LEGAL NOTICE**

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:
Application 591 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 97 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam – to replace the current gutters with copper gutters – for applicant Casey Donnelly.
Application 592 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 46 Keighley Pond Road, Middle Haddam – to install arena lighting – for applicant Theodore Hintz, Jr.
The foregoing applications are available for public review at the East Hampton Town Hall. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.
1TB 2/16

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

THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS WILL HOLD HEARINGS AND/OR DELIBERATIONS AT THE **SENIOR CENTER: 17 SCHOOL DRIVE, MARLBOROUGH CT**
THE DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
2023 REAL ESTATE, PERSONAL PROPERTY & 2022 SUPPLEMENTAL MOTOR VEHICLE GRAND LISTS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 06 2024: 6:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
SENIOR CENTER
2023 MOTOR VEHICLE GRAND LIST
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18 2024: 6:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. SENIOR CENTER
Applications and other information will be available online on the Town of Marlborough’s Assessor page www.marlbroughct.net or in person from the Assessor’s office.
An application can be requested by email at assessor@marlbroughct.net from Thursday February 1st and must be returned on or before the end of the working day Tuesday, February 20th . All applications must be physically returned to the assessor’s office (no emails or postmarks) applications must have an original signature or an appointment for hearing will be denied.
2TB 1/26, 2/16

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.

WANTED TO BUY

NOW MAKING APPOINTMENTS: to purchase Grandma’s old stuff! Costume jewelry, china, pottery, mirrors, glassware, linens. Anything old and in good shape. Call Debbie 860-593-6226.

CASH PAID for any Toyota
Other makes, running or not, crashed ok. Will take other makes and models.
\$ Free pickup. Call any time: \$
203-600-4431

Like us on Facebook
RiverastNewsBulletin

EMPLOYMENT

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.

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

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

INSTALLER WANTED: Progressive and growing Shade and Blind company in need of additional installer. Will train person who is neat, thorough, flexible, and trustworthy. 860-416-0133. Leave message.

HELP MOM! Medicine Reminders, Meals, Transportation, Housekeeping, Companions. All of our caregivers are aged 50+, with many years of experience. Bonded, insured, background checked. We truly are **YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY LLC COLCHESTER** 860-967-0831
REB-13-21



**WELDER/PIPE FITTER
POSITION AVAILABLE**

AISC Certified Steel Fabrication Shop is looking for experienced, motivated individuals to work in a fast paced environment. Prior experience in blueprint reading and all types of metal working equipment is a must. Perform GMAW welding, simple fabrications, welding of components per AWS Code. Certified Welding Inspectors Certificate and or past welding experience to state and local welding codes is a plus. Must pass Certification in processes per AWS D1.5. We will train qualified applicants to our methods of operation given the desired attitude and aptitude qualities are found to be present. Benefits include: Health Insurance, 401(k), Vacation, Life and Disability Insurance.
Please send resumes to: **P.O. Box 186, Colchester, CT 06415** or email your resume to: **beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com**
REB-12-24

EMPLOYMENT

Colebrook Village at Hebron:
NOW HIRING!
Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)

We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Shifts available for hire: 3p-11p & 11p-7a! Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details!

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

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

CIT1-18-24

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

Preschool Director/Head Teacher Wanted

We are looking for a passionate and dedicated Preschool Director/Head Teacher to lead our program. Our program runs ten months for children aged three to five.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

- Hours of Operation: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m., Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
- Length of the Program: September- June*
- Number of Children: 3 day program up to 20 children, 2 day program up to 12 children

Salary to start is \$26,312 payable in 20 payments bi weekly from September 15- June 30. Preparation for the school year is required two weeks prior to the first day of school.

To apply for the position, please send resume, certification(s), letter of intent, and three letters of recommendations:
1stchurchnuserschool@gmail.com

First Church Nursery School, 554 Main St., Portland, CT 06480

RE2-9-24

Volunteer. The Benefits Are Extraordinary!

PROTECTORS OF ANIMALS

Extraordinary Benefits: You'll feel really, really good! You'll meet delightful dogs, fabulous felines, and some pretty special humans, too!

Volunteer Positions
Day & Evening Hours:

East Hampton & Wethersfield facilities -
Dogs: walking; clean & feed; socialization

East Hartford facility -
Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams

860-569-0722
www.poainc.org

Shop Manager/QC Manager Position

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

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

To apply, please email your resume to: beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com

RE1-5-24

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

CIT1-25-23



TREE & LAND

Lawn TECS SR LLC.
Yard Grooming / Lawn Maintenance
H (860) 295-1479 • C (860) 214-9923
RLFrancks@comcast.net

See you in the spring with services such as:
Weekly/Bi-Weekly Mowing • Brush Removal
Downed Tree & Debris Removal
Mulch Installation • Light Moving
Light Hauling • Spring & Fall Cleanups

— CT LICENSED & FULLY INSURED —
LOCATED IN MARLBOROUGH, CT

RE2-2-24

TREE & LANDSCAPING

THOMPSON LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT:
Winter discount rates. Tree work, stump grinding, land clearing & excavating. Backhoe, bulldozer & bobcat work. Call 860-659-1438. www.thompsonlandscape.com.

DeLeo Fence
Custom Fences: Wood, Vinyl, Aluminum & Chain Link
FENCE REPAIR
Quality Work at a Competitive Price
OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
860-930-5492
FULLY INSURED • HIC #0657705
WE WORK YEAR ROUND!

CIT1-18-24

TREE REMOVAL
We Climb
Licensed Arborist
on Staff

YARD EXPANSIONS
FIREWOOD FOR SALE

We Now Accept All Major Credit Cards • Fully Insured
C & C Lawncare – East Hampton
(203) 435-5355

RE10-13-23

TREE TRIMMING SERVICE: Fully insured company. Coelho's. Call Deividy and Lucaino 860-993-1625.

CALL JACK TODAY
Tree Removal & Tree Trimming

Property Maintenance • Weekly Lawn Care
Landscaping • Spring & Fall Cleanups
Walkways, Patios, Retaining Walls
Bobcat & Excavation Services • Lot Cleaning
— COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL —
Call Jack for FREE ESTIMATE
(860) 818-2773

RE11-26-21

ROOF SHOVELING

Commercial & Residential
Call for an estimate today!
— Lawns-N-Stuff —
(860) 295-9692

RE12-18-20

RYANS TREE SERVICE
Hazardous Tree Removal We Climb or Bucket Truck Service

CALL NOW FOR WINTER SAVINGS while the ground is frozen!
Hard to reach areas and septic areas are now reachable for tree removal.

- Lot Clearing & Yard Expansions
- Stumpgrinding & Grading (including muddy driveways)

Accepting Most Major Credit Cards

FULLY INSURED State Lic. #SFP000902 **FREE ESTIMATES**

Call 860-228-5009

CIT1-18-24

AMV LANDSCAPING
Commercial - Residential
Locally in East Hampton, CT

COMPLETE LAWN MAINTENANCE
Plowing / Salting / Dump Runs
Scheduled Mowings
Mulching / Garden Installs
Irrigation Services
Water Features
Spring / Fall Cleanups
Lawn Renovations / Clearing

NOW SCHEDULING:
Fall Cleanups & Snow Removal

Fully Licensed & Insured – HIC # 0661818
860.913.6203

RE9-29-23

HOWES Landscaping & Tree Service LLC
860-608-1480

Specializing in
TREE REMOVAL and all
your **LANDSCAPING NEEDS!**
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
Free Estimates • Fully Insured
Howes your yard?

RE6-2-23

Dorsey Construction
WINTER IS HERE!

Cleanups • Gutter & Leader Cleaning • Painting
Powerwashing • Waterproofing • Landscaping

Concrete Work – sidewalks, stairs, patios, colored concrete & stamped concrete

Roof Repair – rubber roof, torchdown, metal roofs, and slate roof repair

— Looking For New Mowing Accounts —
John Dorsey • 860-890-9884

RE12-29-23

Ray The Tree Guy
Bucket Truck
Class A Climbers
Cranes

Hazardous Tree Removal
Storm Damage

Winter Pruning & Brush Removal
WE WORK ALL WINTER!
Call today for low rates!

Free Tree Survey & Consulting by a Licensed Arborist
LICENSED TREE EXPERTS
Raythetreeguy.com • Raystrees@hotmail.com
Licensed Arborist # S-3998

860-206-3851

CIT1-4-24



LIKE US ON Facebook

RivereastNewsBulletin

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME DESIGNS BY BRUNO
See Me Before You Build!
3D Plans • Permit Plans
Budgets
860-537-5345

RE3-13-20

SPRING Home Improvement

BENGSTON HANDYMAN & PAINTING SERVICE

Carpentry / Windows / Doors / Painting
Texture Ceilings Repair/Drywall & Taping
Power Washing / Plumbing & Electrical Repairs
860-729-9387 East Hampton, CT
CT#0633081

RE12-4-20

R.J. Swider Contracting, L.L.C.
Specializing in Additions & Remodeling
860-228-3912
www.rjswidercontracting.com Ct. Lic.#541663

CIT1-2-20

KKS Construction
Property Maintenance Residential / Commercial

Carpentry – Roofing o – 860.633.6015
Windows – Doors c – 860.550.0932
Lic 0570333 / Ins - Est. 1995 kimsadlon@cox.net

CIT1-5-20

HOME IMPROVEMENT

STARKEY HOME REMODELLING: Call today for a free estimate on all your Interior and Exterior needs. Roofing, decks, sheds, windows/doors, gutters, landscape services, porches, patios, framing, carpentry, siding, kitchens/baths, basements, flooring (tile, hardwood, laminate & vinyl), painting/staining, insulation, trim, etc. Locally owned. Licensed/Insured. James 860-573-3597.

GENERAL HOME REPAIRS: Handyman, painting, rotted wood, junk and debris removal, back hoe, dump truck, septic. Fully licensed and insured. Ben Egri 860-712-6257.

HANDYMAN SERVICES: Have home maintenance or general home repairs? Don't stress! We can help. Let us take care of them. Free quotes. Licensed and insured. Call Dan to book a free appointment today. 860-917-3154.

D&A TILE: Free estimates. Licensed and insured. All types of tile work, kitchens, baths. All work guaranteed. 16 years experience. Call 860-508-0893.

HARDWOOD FLOORING: Installation, repairs, sanding, staining, dustless refinishing. Carpet and vinyl, LVT and ceramic, all flooring. Finish carpentry and decks. HIC#0624266. Fully insured. Free estimates. BROTHERS HOME IMPROVEMENT & FLOORING, LLC. Locally owned/operated info@brothershomeimprovementct.com, www.BrothersHomeImprove mentCT.com 860-432-5716, 860-882-7672.

J & S MASONRY: Design patio, pool patio, Chimney repair. Stone walls, brick walls, retaining walls, steps. Roofs done, veneers done, walkways. Cement, tiles, paving and building maintenance. All kinds of masonry and home repairs. Call John, 860-796-0006.

ADMasonry
ALL TYPES OF MASONRY
Patios • Walls • Paver Driveways
Stone for Pools, Patios, Decks
Stone & Bluestone Brick & Pavers
Free Estimates • CT Lic. #602717 • Insured
— GLASTONBURY BASED —
860.657.9185 29 Years Experience

Bud Stula Home Improvement
Kitchen & Bath Remodels
Ceramic • Hardwood • Vinyl Floors
Carpet Restretching • Trimwork & Painting
No Job Too Small — HIC # 0632650 • Insured
Call 860.377.0380

All-Wood Flooring, LLC™
Complete Remodeling Services
Connecticut's One Stop Shop That Does It ALL
Specializing in Hardwood Flooring, Installation & Refinishing
— All Floors, Tile, etc. — Ceilings — Sheetrock
— Painting — Bathrooms — Basements — Doors
— Windows — Kitchens — Stairs
Specializing in Serving You and Your Budget
Private Master Carpenters
860-498-1060 CT HIC. 567284 Insured
www.myallwoodflooring.com

Alan Soucy ROOF REPAIRS
Home Improvement
ROOFING
Full Roofing Systems
Leaks • Rec Rooms • Bathrooms
Decks • Windows • Doors
860.657.6462 Lic# 0622777

GET YOUR HOUSE IN SHAPE
BILL'S REMODELING & HOME REPAIR LLC
Phone: **860-402-0508** License #HIC 0656593
Additions Doors Molding
Basements Floors Repair Work
Bathrooms Kitchens Siding
Decks Garages Windows
DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

CT Framing & Drywall, LLC
— 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE —
860-781-0797
LICENSED & INSURED HIC #0671467
Residential & Commercial Drywall & Carpentry
Water Damage Repairs – Insurance Claims
Drywall New & Repairs • Wood Framing
Metal Stud Framing Remodels • Additions
\$100 OFF For New Customers

SHAW DRYWALL
HANGING & TAPING
First Class Service & Quality Work
860-228-0680
CT. LIC. #0623063 FULLY INSURED

Elliott Construction, Inc.
new construction, home improvements,
roofs, decks, additions, renovations,
interior painting
860.303.8265 elliotfflom27@gmail.com
in business since 1977 • licensed & insured

Licensed HIC# 0587738 & Fully Insured
STARR BUILDERS LLC
From Additions, Decks, Roofs & Doors to
Finished Basements, Siding & Floors
(860) 267-1496
starrbuilders@sbcglobal.net Free Estimates

Deart Associates LLC
• Painting, Staining, Powerwashing
• Cedar & Vinyl Trim & Siding Repair
• Deck Repairs & Flooring
• Carpentry & Wallpaper Removal
Call Today!
FREE ESTIMATES – LICENSED & INSURED
860-295-6475 • 860-916-7939

FOUR SEASONS PAINTERS LLC
INTERIOR
• All Phases of Interior Painting, Staining,
Textured Ceilings, Texture Removal
• WP Removal, Rep. Windows
• Home Improvements & Carpentry
Kevin Greer **860-646-7760** Lic. # 574298
www.FOURSEASONSPAINTERS.net
FREE ESTIMATES INSURED

Sharp Eye HOME IMPROVEMENT
OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
• Decks
• Remodels
• Finished Basements
• Sill Rot Replacement
• Replacement Windows & Doors
• Finish Trim
• Structural Repair (rot)
• To Do Lists
860-604-3411 Marc Viccaro
HIC # 0650133 - CT Licensed & Insured

Reliable Quality Workmanship
KC MASONRY
Stonewalls • Brick Walls • Bluestone • Steps
Fireplaces • Chimneys • Patios • Sidewalks
We can also do all Masonry Repairs!
Free Estimates Lic. No. 0604514 **KEN (203) 558-4951**

CHARTER PAINTING & RESTORATION 53rd ANNIVERSARY Family Operated
PAINTING / CARPENTRY
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING
"WITH ATTENTION TO DETAIL"
• Home/Church/Historic Restoration – Int & Ext
• Preparation Specialist – Menu Format Proposals
• Since 1973 Over 2300 Aluminum Sided Homes Repainted
• Textured Ceilings/Removal of Popcorn & Paper/Drywall & Crack Repair
• Carpentry Services
• Hardwood Floor Finishing
• Water Damage
• Powerwashing
Our loyal tradesmen have rejuvenated 1000's of Connecticut homes. LET YOUR HOME BE NEXT!
Call Christian Charter **860-646-7668**
www.charterpainting.com
Email: chinchart4u@hotmail.com Insured #HIC.0619547



Since 1992
MARK'S PAINTING
860-267-4125
Freshen Up for the New Year!
All Phases of Painting & Carpentry
Quality Interior Painting
MARK PESZYNSKI
LIC. #563897

Premier Painting CT
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING
Deck & Fence Staining
Carpentry / Power Washing
Experienced, Professional, Exceptional Service
FREE ESTIMATES
CALL / TEXT **860-944-5614**
www.premierpaintingct.com
premierpaintingct@gmail.com
Licensed & Insured HIC# 0670230

A BEST GUTTERS
Seamless Gutter Installation
White or Custom Colors
Leaf Relief Gutter Protection
Fascia Replacement
New Roofing
FOR A FREE ESTIMATE, CALL **(860) 537-0819**
Visit us at www.abestgutters.com
Fully Insured • CT Lic# 0646855

GLASTONBURY PAINT & DESIGN LLC
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
LICENSED & INSURED HIC.0671637
Interior & Exterior Painting
Drywall Repair / Installation
Carpentry, Accent Walls & more
Interior Design & Home Staging
Modernization /Remodeling
Power Washing FREE ESTIMATES
Call / Text **(860) 328-8032**
GlastonburyPaintDesign@gmail.com

TURNER HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS, LLC
CALL/TEXT **860.633.1400**
FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
• GAF Master Elite Certified • Glastonbury-Based •
• Family-Owned • Industry Leading Warranties •
A family tradition since 1955.

HOME EXTERIOR EXPERTS FOR 65+ YEARS
• ROOFING
• SIDING
• WINDOWS
• DOORS
• DECKS
• CARPENTRY

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Alan Soucy 860-657-6462
www.alansoucy.com

We Specialize In Creating New Kitchens & Baths

From design to finish you'll love our work!
If it's time to upgrade your kitchen or bath, visit us online for virtual tours of our projects.
— Call Us Today for a FREE Consultation —

PARKER PAINTING

Interior/Exterior • Powerwashing
Light Carpentry
Ceiling & Sheetrock Repair
Water Damage Repair

— FREE ESTIMATES —
LICENSED & INSURED **860-338-0156**

Be Happy. Call Kateline.

Kitchens
Basements
Bathrooms
Remodeling
Mud Rooms

Kateline
860-633-5296
860-965-8084 - cell

We Always Call You Back
Free Estimates • License #552540
www.KatelineLLC.com

MR. HANDYMAN
Home Improvement Professionals

• Residential & Commercial
• Prompt, Safe & Reliable
• All Household Jobs, Large or Small
• Professional, Insured & Bonded

Decks & Bathrooms • Small Jobs as well
Mr. Handyman of Glastonbury, Norwich & New London
norwich@mrhandyman.com
860-359-1776 • www.mrhandyman.com

PAQUETTE ROOFING LLC

Specializing in Residential & Commercial Roofing for over 20 years

— No Salesman — No Subcontractors
— Free Competitive Estimates
— Financing Options Available

Hebron, CT Fully Insured LIC# 0615769
860.748.8410

Swanson PAINTING

Michael Swanson, owner

Powerwashing, Light Carpentry,
Laminate Flooring

**OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
MAKING HOMES BEAUTIFUL!**

CALL: 219-575-0370

E.L. CONTRACTING
— NO JOB TOO SMALL —

Ed Loveland

860-680-1832 (C)
EDL7@comcast.net

License #609553
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL • FULLY INSURED

SM WELCH
REMODELING SPECIALIST
860.295.1295

• ADDITIONS • BASEMENTS • DECKS
• DORMERS • BATHROOMS • SIDING
• GARAGES • KITCHENS • ROOFING

Certified Green Professional
Certified Aging in Place Specialist
smwelch.com • Insured • CT 607510

SERVICES

CHIMNEY MAINTENANCE:
Cleaning, caps, dampers, flashing, furnace liners and more. No nonsense, no sales pitch, just the work you want done. 35 yrs. actual experience as the owner of Glastonbury's local chimney service. William Allen 860-633-1033.

DUMP RUNS/LIGHT HAULING: Same day appointments available. Cleanouts, basements, garages. Even junk in the backyard. We can take as much or as little as you want. Mark 860-295-9692 or 860-916-9577.

FLOOR SANDING AND REFINISHING:
Custom staining and finishing. Repairing and laying of all wood floors. Free estimates. James Gorman 860-647-9261

IS YOUR RETAINING WALL: leaning or bulging? But your material still good? We can rebuild, save \$\$\$! Is your walkway not level or collecting water? But material still good? We can re-base, re-use your old material and save \$\$\$! Dondero Lawn Care 860-228-2003.

JOHN LACY PAINTING
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR
Quality Craftsmanship

Walls - \$159
18' x 16' avg. room

40 YEARS EXPERIENCE **860-416-8354**

Snow Septic Repair, LLC
— FREE ESTIMATES —

A fully licensed & insured specialist of sub surface waste water disposal systems for residential & commercial properties.

New Installations • Real Estate Inspections
Repairs • System Diagnostic Services
Soil Testing • Video Camera Pipe Inspections

Over 20 Years of Professional Experience
Guaranteed Pricing & Warranties Available
SnowSepticRepair.com • 860-221-8735

Caso's HVAC, LLC
Heating • Cooling • Installation • Service
Natural Gas Conversions

We Install High Efficiency Heating & Cooling Equipment (HIGH EFFICIENCY BURNS LESS FUEL)

Specializing in Boiler Repair, Central Air, Hydro Systems, and Sheetmetal for new and existing homes.

We Offer Maintenance Contracts
Residential & Commercial • Over 20 Years Experience

CT Lic# S1 394141 **(860) 267-5851** Insured

J & S PAINTING & HOME IMPROVEMENT: Interior/exterior painting, window/door installation. Pool patio & deck patio. Stucco, finish basement, ceramic tiles, bathroom, remodeling. Building maintenance, fence installation. House and office cleaning. Call John, 860-796-0006.

JOSH'S JUNK REMOVAL: All items removed at a reasonable rate. Call for estimate. We also remove sheds and hot tubs. Insured. Josh Langdon 48hrs. Cleaning Service. 860-922-4621.

BLACK GOOSE CHIMNEY SWEEP:
Dirty chimneys can burn! Having your chimney cleaned yearly ensures peace of mind. Dust-free professional cleaning. Fully insured. Dave 860-267-8422.

Wellis Painting
Where Quality Still Counts
EST. 1986 - Lic# 568591

Ceiling Repair Specialists
(860) 652-9259

SPECIALIZING IN:
All phases of Painting
Custom Textured Ceilings
Sheetrock/Taping
Water Damage

PLUMBING & HEATING
from dripping faucets to all your major plumbing/heating needs

Water Heaters • Zoned Heat
Boiler Replacement
Bathroom Remodeling

Call Leo at 860-267-2354
Lic. # P204015H389727 Insured

Licensed & Insured • LIC #0408372

MIDDLESEX MECHANICAL SERVICES LLC
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Winter is here, call us for all your HOME HEATING needs!

Hot Water & Ductless Splits
Energy Efficient Heat Pumps • Air Conditioning

FREE ESTIMATES **860.949.5711** We offer financing!

middlessexmechanicalservices@gmail.com

COLUMBIA GRAVEL
Driveway Repair & Regrade
FREE ESTIMATES
— LICENSED & INSURED —
860-228-7171

Columbia Sealcoat Co.
COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL
Protect & Renew Your Pavement

Crack & Patch Repair
FREE ESTIMATES
860-228-7171 LIC/INS

TUTHILL ELECTRIC

Family Owned Local Electricians specializing in service changes, generators, remodels, outlets, lighting and more!

www.Tuthillelectric.com 860-395-7638
FREE ESTIMATES • Fully Licensed & Insured E1 #0197601

AIR FLO MECHANICAL LLC

Installation & Service Available

Specializing in Natural Gas & Propane
Oil to Gas Conversions

Central & Ductless AC • Furnace • Boilers
Pool Heaters • Water Heaters • Sheet Metal

— FINANCING AVAILABLE —
CT Lic #393394 **860-989-5079**

NEED A PLUMBER?
Call/Text Phil: **203-506-7371**

East Hampton, Portland, Middletown, Glastonbury, Colchester

MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, L.L.C.
PLUMBING | HEATING | KITCHEN & BATH

• Water Heaters • Disposals • Additions
• Sump Pumps • Water Filtration • Well Pumps
• Toilets • New Construction • Gas Lines
• Faucets • Bathroom Remodels • And more...!!!

— COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL —
Fully Licensed & Insured — P1. 0289420 | HIC. 0650960

FULLER PAVING & GRADING

• Reclaiming • Residential • Commercial

Save \$ on in place recycling of your old pavement creating a great base to pave on.

FREE ESTIMATES
See us on the web www.fullerpavingct.com

195 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough, CT
860-295-9566
Established 1990 - Proud of Our Great Service Record
FULLY INSURED • CT LIC. # 0537749

HYDROPURE
Water Treatment, LLC

SALES • SERVICE • REPAIRS

**WATER SOFTENERS • FILTERS
REVERSE OSMOSIS • UV UNITS**

Treat For: Iron, Manganese, Bacteria
Hardness, Low pH, Sulfur, Nitrates
Sediment, Taste & Odor Removal
www.hydro-pure.com
info@hydro-pure.com
Lic #PLM280191

860-537-1949

AAA Electrician Services

FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS
Residential & Commercial Wiring

Don't Pay the Big Company Prices!
Service Upgrades, New Construction, Remodels Additions,
Outlets & Lights Added, Generators, Kitchens

Installation of Automatic or Portable Generator Systems

LICENSED — No Job Too Big or Too Small — INSURED

Call Shawn **860-759-6652**
aaelectricianservices.com

STREAMLINE GENERATOR
a division of ELECTRIC LLC

www.thepowerisout.com

860.467.6466

There is a better option than the brand you hear so much about. Ask us WHY!

SALES - SERVICE - INSTALLATION

KOHLER GENERATORS
PLATINUM DEALER

IN STOCK!

SERVICES

DCT, LLC
 Light Excavation & Grading
 Bush Hogging • Walkways & Patios
 Drainage Work Curtain & Yard Drains, Gutter Tie Ins
 Stone & Gravel Driveways
 Flat Concrete Work
860-228-0556
860-604-6477
 CT Lic. 0566119 & Insured

Brilliant Basement Waterproofing, LLC
 Egress Windows, Foundation Repair, Crawl Spaces
 Sump Pumps, Pumps Eliminated in Most Homes.
 Deal Direct With Owner - No Middle Man, Yard Drainage
 HIC. 0653192 • CALL US
860-598-8091
 www.brilliantbasementwaterproofing.com

CLEAR BLUE WATER SYSTEMS, LLC
 Residential & Commercial

- ◆ Well Pumps & Holding Tanks
- ◆ Water Softeners & Filtration
- ◆ Rust & Iron Removal
- ◆ PH Correction
- ◆ Odors Eliminated
- ◆ Radon & Uranium Mitigation
- ◆ Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water Systems

860.342.0432
 clearbluews@yahoo.com
 www.clearbluewatersystems.com

Complete Service & Installation of
 Well Pumps & Tanks
 Water Softening Filtration
 Drinking Water Systems

Lic.# W1-357 • PLM-0284625 • HIC-0627753

WARRIOR ABATEMENT SERVICES LLC

MOLD TESTING | **ASBESTOS TESTING & REMOVAL** | **LEAD REMOVAL**

PROVIDING THE BEST SERVICE IN CONNECTICUT
 RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL
 FULLY LICENSED & INSURED

ASK ABOUT OUR DISCOUNTS FOR BOTH
 HOME OWNERS & VETERANS

860-846-0771
 office@warriorabatement.com
 PORTLAND • PLAINVILLE

USA VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS

OH DEER! IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!

CALL M.J. EMONDS FOR ALL YOUR HVAC NEEDS THIS WINTER!

860-657-4554

With 25 years of service, you can trust the M.J. Emonds family with all your HVAC needs.

M.J. Emonds MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS
 LIC. #392776

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.

GLASTONBURY OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: Individual offices or space up to 1000-2400 square foot suites. Use of conference room included. Call 860-633-3545.



Palm Beach Oceanfront
Living the Dream – Beautiful Oceanfront, fully furnished condo. 2/2. Awesome private beach. Walk to golf or tennis. Seasonal or Annual.
 floridaacq@att.net
 561.889.2264



Your local friend in Real Estate

Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending!

ANGELA ARESKO
 Better Service | Better Marketing | Better Results
 Better Real Estate

860.883.9005
 angelaaresko@sbcglobal.net
 www.angelaaresko.com

**COMING SOON!
 FOR SALE**

Hale Farms Condominium:
 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath
 Completely remodeled

NEW:

- Kitchen with Granite Counters
- Bathroom
- Flooring
- Kitchen
- Wall to Wall Carpet

\$170,000 — Cash only
 — CALL JOE —
860-280-8080

Century 21 Allpoints Realty

Whether you're considering selling your home, or beginning the quest to find your first/next home, let me partner with you to accomplish your goals! As a team member of Century 21 Allpoints, we have the experience, resources, relationships and proven track record to guide you through this volatile Market.

Mark Kehrhan,
for all Your real estate needs!

860-638-9485
 Markk.realestate@gmail.com

#1 CENTURY 21 Firm in Connecticut Since 2000. We have been Family Owned & Operated since opening in 1989. With 11 offices in CT. Awarded the prestigious Centurion Award

CLEANING SERVICES

HOUSE CLEANING: Need some help to get your home clean? I'd be happy to help. I have 10+ years of experience, I offer reliable service, reasonable rates and I do an amazing job. References upon request. Please call or text for free estimates. ARIANE' S CLEANING, 860-331-5309.

TOTAL-CLEAN: taking new clients, houses, apartments. Colchester and surrounding towns. Call Peggy for free estimate. 860-501-0527.

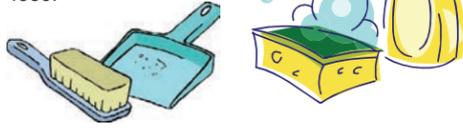
CARPET CLEANING: Have your carpets deep dry cleaned. Eliminate problems associated with water (mold, mildew). Best method available for removal of pet stains, etc. Removes allergens. Immediate use. Upholstery cleaning. Completely safe. Experienced, references, insured. William Agostinelli 860-704-8486 calls only.

DO YOU NEED YOUR HOUSE CLEANED? I have good prices and references. Free estimates. Please call Priscila at 860-680-0777.

EUROPEAN SUPER CLEANING: Responsible Polish woman seeking cleaning work. For more information call Halina at 860-305-8131.

BRAZILIAN CLEANING SERVICE: Responsible, Brazilian woman seeking house cleaning clients. Very professional and punctual. Also good with pets. Call Ana Paula 860-212-4586.

CHRISTINE'S CLEANING
COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL
Building Maintenance
Services. Economical Rates
& Prof. Skills. New Customer
Discount Available.
860-798-7961



FOR SALE

HAY FOR SALE: Square bales, Alfalfa mix, 2nd crop. Call 860-267-2194.

HOME GENERATOR: Generac 7000 watt, electric start. New battery. \$475 or best off. Call 860-463-2962.

QUALITY SEASONED HARDWOOD: Fireplace length. \$260 per CORD, Delivered within Glastonbury. Small delivery fee for surrounding areas. Call 860-659-1438.

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL TICKETS: two pairs at Gampel, sec 209, row 4, center court on the aisle. 2/24 8:30pm start against Villanova, \$500 for pair. 3/3 12:00pm start against Seton Hall, \$450 for pair. Call 860-833-3479.

END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT: Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. **THE GLASTONBURY CITIZEN.** 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE: cut, split, delivered locally \$290/ CORD. Can custom cut to size. Multiple cord discount. Call/text 860-202-8950.

PITBULL PUPPIES FOR SALE: Nine weeks old. Vetted. Three females, five males. Three gray, three brindle, and three brown. Registered parents. \$450. Text for pictures, 860-617-6539.



Buy or sell with me... Use my truck for free!

3 LOCAL OFFICES
90+ REAL ESTATE AGENTS
INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITY

www.carlguild.com
(860) 474-3500

REALTOR EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



LLINAS LAW
CRIMINAL DEFENSE & DUI LAWYER

Facing a DUI in CT?
Don't engage the legal system alone. My experience fighting DUI charges can protect your license and future.

FREE CONSULTATION

860-530-1781

www.llinasdefense.com

ABSOLUTE AIR SERVICES LLC

Keep your home warm & cozy this winter!

Special Savings, 0% Financing, & Instant Rebates on a New Mitsubishi Electric Heating and Cooling System"

Call to schedule a Free In-Home Consultation or visit our Showroom in Portland CT for more info.

Heating
Cooling
Heat Pump
Furnace & AC
Installation
Repair & Maintenance

Call Now! 860-613-5230

1116 Portland Cobalt Rd. (Rt. 66), Portland
Hours: Mon - Fri 8 AM - 4 PM

absoluteairservices.com

Heating & Cooling Installation and Service

HIC. 0630546 ~ HTG.0393975-S1

Serving Central CT & Middlesex County