

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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March 15, 2024



Somewhere Over the Rainbow... The yellow brick road leads to East Hampton High School next weekend as the drama club presents The Wizard of Oz. Staying traditional to the 1939 film, enchanting sets, and whimsical costumes will immerse audiences into the wonderful land of Oz. The show will run March 22-24 at EHHS. From left are cast members Billy Anderman (Nico), Logan Burnham (Flying Monkey), Macie Brazal (Wicked Witch of the West), Charlotte Minnick (Glinda the Good Witch), Brayden Kramer (Cowardly Lion), Aubrey Dallaire (Dorothy), and Jessica (Toto). See story on page 17.

Hebron Maple Fest Returns This Weekend

By Michael Sinkewicz

In 1988, Selden Wells hosted an open house at his sugar house, spawning one of Hebron's proudest traditions: the Maple Festival.

Seemingly timeless traditions such as "sugar on snow" — the tasty treat of shaved ice with syrup drizzled on top — have endured for decades, but in recent editions, some residents believed the festival had separated from its roots, becoming a commercialized event rather than local celebration.

Hebron's Maple Festival returns this Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, from 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. on both days.

The theme: "Bringing it Home."

"We are looking at this year as a rejuvenation to what it was," said Holly Habicht, president of The Town Center Project Inc. (TTCP), the organization overseeing the festival for the first time following a seven year run by the Windham Chamber of Commerce.

As she meandered through last year's extravaganza, Habicht had an "epiphany" that instilled the confidence that a change was not only necessary, but that TTCP — a nonprofit initiative established to restore the center of Hebron — was the right group to restore the festival to its original vision.

Ron Wenzel, of Hebron's Wenzel Sugarhouse, recalled what Wells — who passed away in 2001 — wanted to accomplish.

"You haven't got to go to that state between New Hampshire and New York to buy syrup," he quipped. "That was the genesis of it. That was Selden's main goal."

Wenzel added that Wells wanted it to be about Hebron.

"He was adamant about it," he asserted. "And it worked."

Leading up to the big weekend, the Rivereast caught up with Habicht and the operators of the town's three main sugarhouses — who effectively become celebrities for a brief period — to highlight what residents should expect this year, and why they're excited about this year's festival.

The Sugarhouses

"People are going to be pleasantly surprised, I think," said Wayne Palmer of the Winding Brook Sugarhouse, located at 264 Skinner Lane. "Holly has done her homework."

Habicht stressed that one of the main differences, compared to prior years when the Windham Chamber oversaw the event, is the shift in emphasis back to the sugarhouses themselves.

"That is the backbone of the event and it always has been," Habicht said.

Habicht said that in recent years people had predominantly stayed within the confines of the Douglas Library parking lot, where a plethora of out-of-town vendors would be stationed. Consequently, foot traffic at the sugarhouses seemed to drop and their overall role during the weekend was diminished, she claimed.

This year, there will be a "sugarhouse liaison" downtown who will provide information and their sugarhouse products will also be sold in the parking lot hub. Perhaps the strongest effort to create a town-wide festival was the decision to bring back the shuttle service.

Residents can park at Veterans Memorial Park and hop aboard three different loops; a See Hebron Maple Fest Returns, page 28

Divided Hebron BOS Fills Seat

By Michael Sinkewicz

In a strict party-line vote, the Hebron Board of Selectmen (BOS) last week filled a vacancy on the local Board of Education (BOE) — cementing a slim Republican majority on the school board.

While Republican selectmen stressed they were simply following historical precedent, opponents of the move said the board was ignoring "the voice of the people."

During its March 7 meeting, the BOS appointed Republican Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl to serve out the remainder of a term on the school board ending in 2025. She fills the seat of fellow Republican Keith Petit, who was elected to the Board of Selectmen last November.

Nadeau-Schmeizl, a former member of the BOE, was approved by 3-2 vote along strict party lines; Democrats Tiffany Thiele and Claudia Riley voted in opposition.

With the installation of Nadeau-Schmeizl, the seven-member school board swung back into Republican control after being deadlocked

at 3-3. It further strengthens the party's grasp on local government, as Republicans enjoy majorities on the boards of selectmen, finance and education.

Two candidates had expressed interest in claiming the open seat — one from each of the major political parties. Nadeau-Schmeizl was endorsed by the Republican Town Committee (RTC), while Elizabeth Alexander was advanced by the Democratic Town Committee (DTC).

Both women had run for the local Board of Education last November — Alexander as a newcomer and Nadeau-Schmeizl as an incumbent. While they both lost, Alexander collected more votes than Nadeau-Schmeizl.

And that's when the controversy began.

'Voters Don't Lie'

In supporting Nadeau-Schmeizl, the selectmen's Republican vice chair, Daniel Larson, argued that the board must follow precedent.

"It's always been historical practice that if a person from a party steps out of a position, that

a person from that [same] party be reinstated into that position," he conveyed.

Thiele countered that while she typically would agree with Larson's philosophy, there were additional factors that should outweigh that tradition in this particular circumstance — specifically the results of November election.

"I think had we not just had a recent election, I think this would be a somewhat easier decision for me right?" Thiele expressed. "But the reality is that voters don't lie, and [Alexander] did receive more votes than [Nadeau-Schmeizl]."

According to the town clerk's office, Alexander collected 1,325 votes last November, compared to Nadeau-Schmeizl's 1,303.

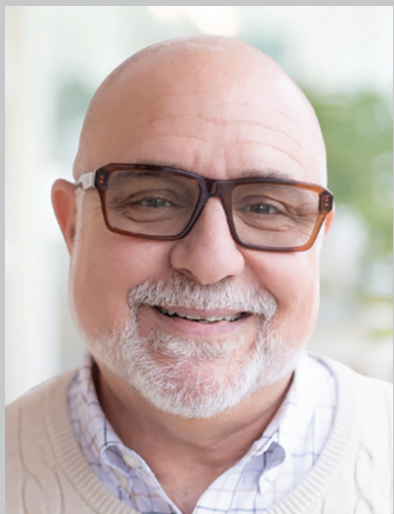
During her pitch to the selectmen, Alexander asserted that the voters were looking for "new voices," and that Nadeau-Schmeizl, an incumbent who served four years on the board, was defeated at the ballot box.

"And I think to ignore that — to ignore the re-

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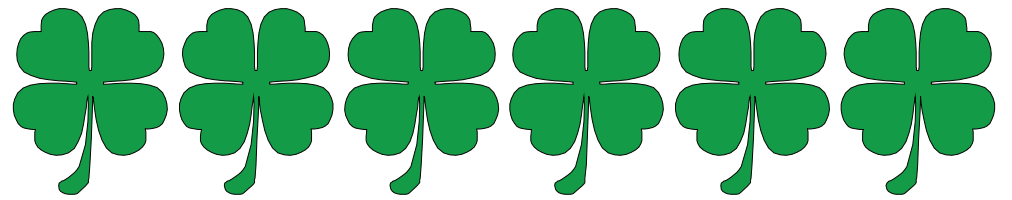
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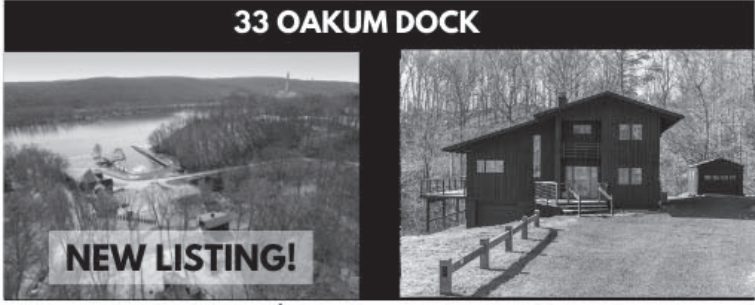


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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

And once again, the Connecticut presidential preference primary will be rather..... meaningless.

Tuesday's primaries brought confirmation of what's basically been a fait accompli for the past several months: President Joe Biden collected enough delegates to officially become the Democratic nominee for president, and former President Donald Trump collected enough delegates to be the Republican nominee.

Thus, Connecticut's April 2 presidential preference primary is essentially a formality – as often seems the case. Maybe one of these years the Nutmeg State can move up in the primary calendar. Better still, maybe one of these years The Powers That Be will figure out how to make this whole primary business not be such a long and drawn-out process.

Still, while it's rather anticlimactic, it'll still be interesting to see how next month's primary goes – particularly in the early voting department. Last year, Connecticut joined the other 46 states in the union and officially passed early voting. Folks will no longer have to juggle their schedule to make sure they can cast a ballot on a particular day. They now will have options beforehand – not just weekdays

but, for most elections, on Saturday and Sunday as well. (Election Day should be a federal holiday, but it's not and probably never will be, so why not have voting available on weekends?)

As veteran readers of this column know, I'm a big fan of the more people getting the chance to vote, the better. So I welcome this development. For the upcoming primary, early voting in Connecticut will take place Tuesday, March 26 through Thursday, March 28 and Saturday, March 30.

It will be interesting to see what the turnout is on those dates. I'm sure overall turnout for the primary will be on the low side, but I'll be intrigued to see how many of those votes are cast on the early voting days. And for the general election in November, I predict early voting will be a big hit.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to the Moodus Post Office – which officially has the best customer service in the country!

The Moodus Post Office earned first place in a national United States Postal Service (USPS) retail challenge, which began last October and lasted for five weeks. As with many

**Editor's Desk continued on page 13**

## Bulletin Board

I was sitting in the lounge of an auto service center last week waiting for an oil change for my car when the verdict in the Michelle Troconis trial came over the TV. There were probably three or four of us watching—all men—and we were all a little surprised that she was found guilty on all counts. There was quite a bit of head shaking going on.

Personally, I guess I could understand where a jury might accept there was evidence of tampering or obstruction after the fact. But the Big One—conspiracy to commit murder? Beyond a reasonable doubt? Sorry, folks, but that seemed like a pretty big stretch. I'm no legal expert, but it seems to me that the prosecution offered a whole lot of weak speculation and called it "evidence" when it came to that one.

It also seems more than a little gratuitous that they've now charged the woman with contempt of court for looking at a forbidden document on her computer during the proceedings. Talk about piling it on. Thank God they finally took her out of the courtroom in handcuffs. Who knows? She might have thrown a gum wrapper on the floor or something.

Anyway, like you (presumably) I obviously have some opinions following the verdict and the process. For what it's worth, here are a few of my takeaways, some probably petty, some maybe not so petty, from the long-running ordeal.

--I thought the prosecution did a great job during the month-long trial of convicting Fotis Dulos of murdering his wife, Jennifer Farber Dulos. They certainly convinced me. Unfortunately, this shining achievement was somewhat diminished by the fact that Mr. Dulos was unable to attend the trial because he's dead.

--A multitude of newspaper articles over the past few years have observed that murder suspect Fotis Dulos "died after attempting to commit suicide" in January 2020. The logic of this phrasing puzzles me a bit. It seems to me if you attempt suicide and end up dying of the effects, you've succeeded in killing yourself, no? Is there some sort of grace period if you fail to immediately exit but inconveniently linger for a couple of days? Are we to gather that because it took Mr. Dulos two days to die, he passed away from natural causes?

--The media's insistence on incessantly referring to victim Jennifer Farber Dulos as "the mother of five" in what seemed like every other sentence gave Troconis's accusers a sympathy weapon Troconis—as the mother merely of one—could never overcome. (If you think jury trials are strictly about law, I would beg to differ with you.)

--Not to beat a dead horse (but what the hell). Am I the only one who finds the insistence on defining the murder victim constantly, and almost solely, as "the mother of five" extremely one-dimensional and even insulting? Surely there was more to Jennifer Farber Dulos than just having five children, wonderful as that may be. It might have been illuminating to hear more about the rest of her instead of just mother of five, mother of five, mother of five ... I mean, I won't mind being recalled as the father of two when I take my leave, but I do hope my heirs can find a little something else to say as well. Like maybe, "Despite the assurances of multiple school guidance counselors through the years, he never served a day in prison." (So far, anyway.)

--On the other hand (one last kick at the horse), I can certainly understand why the media did not show similar enthusiasm for referring to presumed murderer and (in my opinion) manipulative monster Fotis Dulos as "the father of five," though he obviously qualified.

--Then there's what I call "the sourpuss factor." Some court watchers and pundits criticized defendant Troconis for her deadpan expression throughout the trial, saying it didn't help her cause. Indeed, her apparent stoicism provided an unsettling contrast to the constant display of that flattering photograph of Jennifer, smiling widely and glowing with good feeling, that became a favorite graphic in the television coverage of events. In Troconis's defense, I can only say that it's probably tough to be Princess Personality when you're facing up to 50 years in prison for something you insist you didn't do. Nevertheless, chalk up another loss in the "marketing" column.

--Regarding speculation by the prosecution. There seemed to be a lot of it, but one memorable bit was a fascination with some puffs of smoke emanating from a chimney at the Fotis Dulos house. From this, the prosecution extrapolated that Troconis was probably burning evidence. Okay. Possibly. Or maybe the College of Cardinals was indicating that they had yet to decide on a new pope. Or maybe some people actually enjoy a fire in the fireplace for its own sake. You're going to have to show me more than a picture of some smoke before I buy into the home crematorium theory.

--And then there's the cell phone alibi. When the prosecution displayed footage of Troconis in Fotis Dulos's pick-up truck in Hartford as he disposed of incriminating material, she claimed she was so engrossed in her cell phone that she wasn't really paying much attention to what he was doing. The jury apparently didn't buy that explanation. All I can say, having seen substantial numbers of people walk into highway traffic because they're unable to look up from their cell phone, is that Troconis's explanation isn't completely beyond the pale.

Of course, I was not on the jury, nor am I familiar with all the particulars of the evidence offered during the trial. I'm not even arguing that Troconis isn't guilty of something, just that some of what was offered against her seems pretty thin.

One thing we can probably all agree on. Jennifer Farber Dulos and Michelle Troconis apparently had at least one thing in common: both of them seem to have been terrible judges of character when it comes to men.

**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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).



**Snow Fun...** Colchester scout troops 72 and 13 recently had their annual snow sports event. The scouts enjoyed snowboarding, skiing, snow tubing and snow shoeing at Pats Peak in New Hampshire. They arrived for the Saturday afternoon shift of fun until the mountain closes at 10 p.m. in between stopping for dinner, snacks, and hot chocolate at the lodge. The scouts spent the night in the lodge, had breakfast, and continued the fun on Sunday.

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## Deeply Disturbed

To the Editor:

I was deeply disturbed to learn last week that the Board of Selectmen ignored the will of the voters of Hebron when selecting an additional member for the Board of Education. Instead of replacing the exiting member with the person who had received the next highest number of votes last November, they chose to appoint the person who received the least votes. Be aware, Hebronites, it is not just in Washington, D.C. that our rights are being eroded. It seems that the shenanigans have reached here too and we need to pay attention if we want to continue to practice democracy.

Mary J. Rose – Hebron

## Going Backwards

To the Editor:

Western civilization is regressing. The forward progress that has been evident for a thousand years has slowed and is now reversing. Hopefully, this is an aberration. Civilizational progress for a millennium has not been a constant trend to the better, but generally meets the criteria of advancements in technology, science, and social organization. In the latter 20th century these criteria prevailed. Wars, nationalist movements, dictators, and fundamentalism are the aberrations. The key to civilizational progress is that it should benefit all mankind and the American Century seemed to accomplish that, but not just because America fostered it. America seemed great, and it was, but other nations contributed. There was technical progress on many fronts. Social progress was made as various groups that were historically suppressed gained their rights. Human rights seemed to

be improving around the world, as democracy gained ground. Since then, a series of reversals has undermined that progress. To some it was a clash of cultures, roughly along Christina/Muslim lines. But the culture clash has become more pervasive, more specific, more local. Archaic beliefs, superstitions and animosities have spawned an us-versus-them mentality in many people. For too many people, anyone who disagrees with them is wrong, not simply of different opinion or lifestyle.

It is strange how the party that screams loudest of freedom and liberty is the same party that wants to deny those things to anyone who does not conform to their narrow profile. Because they don't believe in or agree with something, they aim to compel everyone to accept their narrow world view. America led the march of progress last century, now she is leading the regression by yearning for the past. I used to think that past was the 1950s, but now it seems more likely the 1850s.

John Barnowski – Colchester

## Bacon Athletic Complex

To the Editor:

Colchester residents, we need to evaluate the facilities and athletic complex at Bacon Academy and carry out the needed improvements this year. As we saw recently, the longer we kick cans down the road, the more it's going to cost us. I'm very grateful for the superintendent's and BOE's hard work this year ensuring funding for our educational programming, and appreciate them putting forth a status quo budget after last year's significant increase. However, I know that there is still work to be done and a status quo budget is not in our best interest in the long run.

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We need to ensure the physical structure of Bacon Academy is safe and well maintained for the students and staff. If we need a new roof, then we need to get going on a new roof. Pushing off repairs to save money in the short term will only cost us more in repairs and replacements in the long run - as any home or car owner knows.

We also need to fix the athletic complex at the high school as soon as possible. Well-maintained and safe fields are important not just for our students but for students from other towns playing on our fields. Our students shouldn't have to travel long distances for practices and games that are supposed to occur at the school because the fields are in unplayable conditions. All students, staff and community members should have access to safe, quality fields at Bacon Academy.

Like many taxpayers, I don't want my taxes to go up unnecessarily. However, I feel these additions are very necessary to the community and worth the potential tax increases. Please be involved in the budget process this year and let the BOE, BOF and BOS know how you'd like your tax dollars spent.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Salemi - Colchester

### Colchester Budget Survey

To the Editor:  
Hello to all our fellow citizens of Colchester! It's that time of year again and your Board of Finance invites you to take a few minutes and fill in the annual budget survey. Your answers will help guide strategy and decision making during the budget season taking place now, during which we will establish the operational town and school budgets for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

The survey is available online, by typing the following link into a browser on your phone, computer, or tablet: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ColchesterCTBudget2024>.

Or if it's easier, you can also find the link to the survey on the town website and in the first selectman's newsletter this week!

All information submitted is anonymous, the entire survey can be completed in under ten minutes, and each person in a household can complete the survey once. Please note that the survey runs through the end of March, so be sure to complete and submit it before then.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach out to the Board of Finance.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Karen Belding, Member  
Colchester Board of Finance

### Get Engaged!

To the Editor:

Listening is a key component when we are trying to understand problems and concerns. Hearing first hand from residents has been incredibly enlightening and informative. Our residents showed compassion and pride for our community. But what I enjoyed most was the conversation with people after the sessions. We had open and honest conversation. Thank you!

Our next listening session is scheduled on Saturday, March 16, at the Air Line Trail/Cranberry Bog, from 9-11 a.m., weather-permitting. Come out and let us hear your voice! Don't sit on the sidelines, your voice matters!

And remember, If you cannot make a meeting in person please Zoom in, raise your hand and make your comment! Public comments are available at all town and Board of Education meetings.

It's up to you to engage East Hampton!

Respectfully,  
Deb Cunningham  
East Hampton Town Council

### Needs vs. Wants!

To The Editor:

Marlborough residents are in total agreement that we have an excellent school. We pay our teachers well, and they have small classes. This combination is expensive, but it's where we get our money's worth and is universally considered the bedrock of a good school. Of course more is needed, but some of our staffing seems to be more in the realm of "nice to have" rather than "truly needed".

Consider the following:

Paraprofessionals can provide the extra attention some special needs students require: next year there will be 17 paraprofessionals on staff. We typically have a few preschool children who are identified as in need of early intervention. Years ago it was decided that it would be nice to have some non-mandated students as role models in the preschool program. That program has

grown to more than 40 students and two full-time teachers.

When we had 673 K-6 students our support staff consisted of two psychologists, 3 reading specialists and a speech therapist. Currently we have 410 K-6 students and we have the same support staff. When our last superintendent left we had a principal and an assistant principal. Next year we will have two principals, a maintenance/technology supervisor, and a half-time director of special education.

Our school board seems to view everything as "truly needed"; therefore, cuts to the budget need not be considered. I am not trying to suggest where cuts could or should be made - that is the school board's job. I am definitely trying to make it clear that we provide far more programs and services to our children than most other school K-6 systems.

I bet all homeowners would agree on one thing that would be "nice to have" - lower taxes.

George O'Brien - Marlborough

### Incredible Outpouring!

To the Editor:

The retirement party for East Hampton Senior Center Coordinator Jo Ann Ewing held on March 9 at the East Hampton High School was a wonderfully successful community event. Many thanks to everyone who attended the event and to the generous individuals and local businesses who donated time, food, flowers, funds and gifts to make it such a success. The list is long and impressive and includes:

East Hampton Senior Center members and friends, the Ewing Family, the Town of East Hampton and the East Hampton High School maintenance and cafeteria staff, the East Hampton High School Interact Club, Loco Perro, Tavern on 66, Po's Rice and Spice, Tang Asian

Bistro, China Dragon, Lakeside Bar and Grill, The Town Tavern, Sweet Jean's Cafe, Pizzeria DaVinci Cobalt, D'Eliana Market, Deli and Catering, Two Brothers Cafe, Devine's Jewelry, It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe, Paul & Sandy's Too, Center Package Store, Stop & Shop, Big Y, senior center volunteers Cindy Craig, the Parker Family, Monica Dostaler and Laurie Wood and all the great testimonials and proclamations by our elected officials, commission members, town staff and friends. Publicity for the event was gratefully provided by the *Rivereast News Bulletin*. We could not have imagined a better day for our dear Jo Ann. Your outpouring of love and support was incredible.

With love and gratitude,  
East Hampton Senior Center staff --  
Kecia Hemphill, Ria Irons, Cindy Houle and  
Melissa Pionzio

### Ethics Concern

To the Editor:

In a recent letter to the editor, accusations were made that I somehow violated town ethics rules by advocating for the replacement of Fire Engine No. 3 while serving as a member of the Board of Selectmen and also being a member of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department. The accusation failed to explain, however, how I personally benefited from the town's purchase of this fire engine. As a first lieutenant in Company No. 3, public safety is my highest priority. The fact is that the previous engine No. 3 experienced a catastrophic tank failure, leaving inadequate protection for residents in the countryside. Not having suitable fire protection equipment in the community poses a significant public safety hazard, and I will consistently advocate to protect the public in such instances.

See Letters, page 6

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

The good news for this individual is that the Town of Portland has a non-partisan ethics commission established to examine these types of concerns. If this individual is genuinely concerned that I violated a rule, I encourage them to file a complaint, which can be found online at [www.portlandct.org/ethics](http://www.portlandct.org/ethics). Otherwise, these accusations appear to be an attempt to publicly slander someone for simply carrying out their responsibilities.

Sincerely,  
**Shaun Manning – Portland**

*Note: Manning is a member of the Portland Board of Selectmen but said he is speaking as an individual.*

### Land of the Confused

To the Editor:

California gets 10 feet of snow, Texas wildfires burn 1.5 million acres; another 52 inches of rain will put them out. Ships through the Panama Canal pay \$2 million, twice the norm. Why so much to float your boat? No water. This cost gets passed to the end user or loser, that's you and me. So piss and moan about what is the best economy in the world. Starving Palestinians get fed-led by the IDF, the massacre of innocents continues unabated. Putin wants Ukraine for the grain and massive mineral deposits. He will set the price of bread if he gives you any. Mi-grants overrun our border, the Dems give Republicans everything they want, the Lumbering

Orangutan says no, blame it on Biden. Republicans play hardball while the Dems wear skirts and lob softballs. Putin says he prefers Biden as president so dumbass voters go to the Orange Messiah. It's easier to cover yourself in sweet lies than to have the truth shoved down your throat. The Republicans do nothing so that's the only thing they can get blamed for. CPAC speaker Jack Posobiec declared "Welcome to the end of democracy!" To which Steve Bannon shouts "Amen!" Republicans say they've now got the Biden Crime Family dead to rights while their star witness goes to jail for being a Russian stooge.

God bless America! Land of the confused.

Regrets,  
**Tim Rinell – East Hampton**

### Large Ice Chest Needed

To the Editor:

The Hebron American Legion, Post 95, is seeking assistance from the Hebron community.

One of the post's large ice chests/coolers is "absent without leave" from its rightful place at post. Being that the post provides support for several venues throughout the community

by our fundraising efforts, the post needs the community's help. The post would like to receive a donation of a large cooler/ice chest. Initially it will be utilized during the Hebron Maple Fest, as the Hebron, American Legion will be serving our famous "Legion Burgers" and fries, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars will be serving chili and frankfurters (hot dogs), and a beverage will be available.

If interested, please contact Joe at 203-848-5913 or Ron at [roncpark65@gmail.com](mailto:roncpark65@gmail.com). Your assistance is/will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
**R.A. Mangillo**

**American Legion Post 95 Adjutant and VFW member**

### Fabulous Community

To the Editor:

Thank you Colchester! Our breakfast buffet was the most successful due to our fabulous community. A special thank you to our Premier Sponsors: our Platinum level, Dime Bank; Eagle Manufacturing and Earth Element; our Gold level, Overhead Doors of Norwich; The Inishmoor; Affordable CDL Training School and Carl Guild & Associates and Mitlitsky Farms; our Silver level, Skyview Realty; Alchemy Studio; Mark's United Auto; Broadway Wine & Spirits; Carl Lavalley Remodling; Oz 'n Bones BBQ; United Ag and Turf and "In Memory of Larry."

Thank you to all 36 businesses who gave us business card ads for our placemats and to the entire community of Colchester who came out strong and steady to support us. A job well done by all the Lions and non-Lions who worked the event as well.

**Colchester Lions Club**  
**Lion Julianne Shilosky, Lion Bill Grabek,**  
**Lion Ernie Boughton and**  
**Lion Frank Wornicki, co-chairman**

### Cultural Roots

To the Editor:

"They took all the trees, put 'em in a tree museum.

And they charged all the people a dollar just to see 'em

Don't it always seem to go

That you don't know what you've got 'till its gone.

They paved paradise and put up a parking lot." -Joni Mitchell

October 2022 brought great photo opportunities. The maple trees, throughout Hebron, were bursting with color. That month, William Warzecha met with several dozen of us here, in the Raymond Brook Preserve Park, to discuss our water rights as Connecticut homeowners. He remarked that, he'd just returned from leaf peeping in New Hampshire and Hebron, including Kinney Road, was more beautiful than anything he'd seen up north.

Sugar maples, Acer Saccharum, are famous for their brilliant golden leaf colors. They have shallow but far reaching root structures often spanning 25'. They prefer well drained soils with ph levels averaging between 5.5-7.5. Unfortunately, for our sugar maples, humans have become dependent on NaCl. Sodium chloride dissolves into our soils, often raising ph levels enough to make the soil toxic for plants. Some plants do adapt, while others perish. "Excess salts in the root zone hinder plant roots from

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

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withdrawing water from surrounding soil. This lowers the amount of water available to the plant regardless of the amount of water actually in the root zone." -- waterquality.montana.edu. Basically, we are dehydrating our plants by feeding them salt.

Hebron's watersheds are ideal for growing trees. However, due to increased salt use, and over development, humans are in a cycle which is destroying vital ecosystems.-(bowdoin.edu salt pollution) Salting, obviously wet watersheds, due to any type of development, will, in all likelihood, kill, otherwise, healthy trees, including Hebron's handsome sugar maples themselves. Humans need better deicing solutions. #save17

Jean Tulimieri - Amston

**A Voice for All**

To the Editor:

Over a year ago, my son approached me with concerns that the rights of his closest friends may not always be protected. That conversation led to deeper conversations with him about what we could do to protect and stand up for those we love. As I thought about these conversations with him, I realized there were many people being overlooked or marginalized in our community and state. Whether it be the LGBTQ+ community fighting against bigotry, single mothers and families struggling to afford basic necessities like food and electricity, senior citizens trying to decide where to spend their limited budgets, or those trying to find affordable housing in the communities they work, every one of them matters. Everyone deserves a voice; someone to stand up and fight for and with them.

Many people say that one person can't fix the world. I think they're wrong. One person is simply how it begins. I believe one person can stand up and fight to make a difference for a friend, neighbor, or any person in need. But we need to work together. It is only after we find a way to work across parties and ideologies and focus on what connects us rather than what divides us, then we can indeed make a difference. Together, we can fix the world.

I am proud to announce my run for state representative of the 55th District. I am hoping you will join our team to make an impact, to represent and fight for those who have been marginalized, who deserve not only protection, but equality and the ability to thrive. It would be my

honor to be a voice for you and for us all! Want to get involved and be a part? Reach out to our team at info@amandavforthe55th.com

Amanda Veneziano - Hebron

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

**Fix It Now**

To the Editor:

In Colchester, we have a lot to be proud of at Bacon Academy. The girls' soccer team brought home the Class M state trophy this year. We have an award-winning jazz band and robotics team. Our students' post-pandemic test scores are improving at a greater rate than many of our peer districts.

And yet, we have buckets in the halls when it rains due to the leaky roof. We have had days of school canceled this year in excessive heat because the HVAC system doesn't work on all levels of the school. Weeds are growing up through the crumbling tennis courts. In a school where 500 out of the 600 students participate in athlet-

ics, teams are often unable to practice or play home games due to unusable, unsafe fields. The state champion girls soccer team had to celebrate senior night on an opponents' field because ours was unusable.

Bacon Academy was brand new in 1993 and today many of its critical resources are 30 years old and long past time for replacement. On the list of 30-year-old assets that are due for replacement are the roof, the athletic fields and tennis courts, lighting and sound systems in the auditorium, the parking lot, HVAC system, two boilers, and carpets. Yes, thirty year old carpet.

The Board of Education is currently presenting a district capital plan to begin addressing the needs of our school buildings to bring us into the future. If you have kids at Bacon, you know these updates are past due. If you're a parent of younger students, know that if we don't fix these issues now, they will only be worse when your kids get to Bacon. And if you no longer have kids in the schools, or never did, please be aware that if we don't fix the school building and grounds now, we will end up having to

build new, which will be much more expensive.

It's time to take care of our school so it doesn't cost us more in the long run.

Susie Milner - Colchester

**Historic Maple Fest**

To the Editor:

Many thanks to The Town Center Project for bringing the Maple Fest home. This will be a historic moment for Hebron and the celebration of Hebron's rich history. I am excited to participate in the Maple Fest and present our storied past. The dynamic tale of Hebron Center begins millions of years ago and spans numerous unique cultures.

Did you know Hebron Center sits on distinctive bedrock called Hebron Gneiss? This was formed when 600 to 400 million-year-old sediment at the bottom of the Iapetus Ocean was compressed during the formation of the super-continent Pangea between 230 and 160 million years ago.

Did you know the Ice Ages began 2.4 million

See Letters, page 13

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**Sunday, March 17th**  
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### Call for Artists and Artisans

The Marlborough Arts Center will hold its annual Members Art Show Sunday, May 5, from 2-4 p.m.

All media will be accepted, including paintings, photography, digital art, sculpture, pottery, woodwork, and jewelry. Artist members are invited to bring up to three pieces of artwork to the Arts Center, 231 North Main St., on Sunday, April 16, between 1 and 4 p.m., or on Monday, April 17, between 4 and 6 p.m. The entry fee is \$20 for two pieces, and an additional \$5 for a third. Membership dues must

be up to date.

Judging the show for awards will be Rebecca Moran, a practicing fine artist, professional graphic designer and university professor.

The Members' Art Show will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m., from May 10 to June 1, including Memorial Day weekend.

More information, including a prospectus and entry forms for the artists, will soon be available at [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org).

### Presidential Preference Primary Coming

The presidential preference primary (PPP) is April 2. As of press time, there will be Democratic and Republican primaries.

Also, for the first time, Connecticut has early in-person voting which will be available March 26, 27, 28, and 30, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Town Hall 26 North Main St.

Important voter registration deadlines: March 15 is the last day to register by mail or use online registration; and March 25, by noon, is the last date for only unaffiliated voters to appear in person at the registrars' office to enroll in the Democratic or Republican par-

ties. (The deadline for registered Democrats and Republicans to switch parties has passed.)

New Marlborough voters wishing to participate in early voting must register and enroll in the Democratic or Republican parties by noon at the registrars' office the day prior to the day they want to vote early.

Absentee ballots become available Tuesday, March 12, in the town clerk's office. You must complete an application and be a registered voter in order to obtain an absentee ballot.

Call 860-295-6206 for more information.

### Arts Center Exhibit at Town Hall

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

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

themes.

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

### 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 tasters, wine for \$10, pre-made cocktails for \$8, or soda for \$2. 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.marlborough.lions](http://www.facebook.com/connecticut.marlborough.lions) or reach out to Lions Club member Jennifer Greloch at [jenbruhns@gmail.com](mailto:jenbruhns@gmail.com).

### Rotary Club Scholarship

East Hampton Rotary Club Scholarship applications are available to high school seniors who reside in either East Hampton or Marlborough.

All students must be graduating/have graduated from a secondary school accredited by the State of Connecticut and use the scholarship for expenses at an accredited school. The school may be a 4- or 5-year college or university, a

community college, a trade school or a commercial school. There are multiple single- and multi-year scholarships available.

Applications are due by April 8, and are available online at [tinyurl.com/EHRotaryScholarship2024](http://tinyurl.com/EHRotaryScholarship2024), or through the guidance department of the East Hampton, RHAM, Mercy, Xavier and Vinal high schools.

### Parks and Rec Upcoming Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit [marlboroughct.recdesks.com](http://marlboroughct.recdesks.com) and click on "programs," stop by the office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., or call 860-295-6203.

**Trips: Boston Saint Patrick's Day Parade:** Sunday, March 17. Trip fee is \$85. Bus leaves from Putnam park and ride in Glastonbury at 7:30 a.m.

**Boston Celtics vs. Washington Wizards:** Sunday, April 14, 1 p.m., at TD Garden. Trip fee is \$190. Bus leaves from Putnam park and ride at 7 a.m.

**Boston Red Sox vs. Cleveland Guardians Patriot's Day Game:** Monday, April 15, 11 a.m., at Fenway Park. Trip fee: \$175. Bus leaves Putnam park and ride at 7 a.m.

March Youth Programs: Dance Classes: All held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. The schedule is: Dazzling Cheer: Thursdays, March 21-May 23 (no class 4/11), 4:15-4:45 p.m., for ages 3-7. Fee: \$130. Tiny Twirlers Thursdays: Thursdays, 5:15-5:45 p.m., March 21-May 23 (no class 4/11), for ages 2-3 with caregiver. Fee: \$130. Sparkling Spinners: Thursdays, March 21-May 23 (no class 4/11), 4:45-5:15 p.m., for ages 3-4. Fee: \$130. Tiny Twirlers Saturdays: Saturdays, 9-9:30 a.m., March 23-June 8 (no class 3/30, 4/13 or 5/25), for ages 2-3 with caregiver. Fee: \$117. Funky Tumblers: Ages 4-7, Saturdays, March 23-June 8, 10:45-11:30 a.m. (no class 3/30, 4/13 or 5/25), for ages 4-7. Fee: \$162. Little Limericks: Fridays, March 22-June 7 (no class 3/29, 4/12 and 5/24). Ages 3-4 meet 5:15-5:45 p.m., and ages 5-7 meet 5:45-6:15 p.m. Fee: \$117.

After School Co-Ed Dodgeball League: Mondays, March 18-April 29 (no dodgeball April 8), 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES, for grades 5 and 6. Fee: \$30/resident.

After School Co-Ed Handball League: Wednesdays, March 20-May 1 (no handball April 10), 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES, for grades 5 and 6. Fee: \$30/resident.

Parents Night Out: Fridays, March 22 and April 26, 6-9 p.m., at MSC. Drop off your kids in grades K-6. Fee: \$20 per child/resident, \$25 per child/non-resident.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 30, at

Blish Park. Ages 2 and under are at 11 a.m., ages 3-5 are at 11:30 a.m., ages 6-8 are at 11:15 a.m., and ages 7-10 are at 11:45 a.m.

**Horseback Riding Lessons:** For ages 5 and up. Lessons are private, run for an hour, and days and times are flexible. Fee for four lessons is \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

**Adult Programs: Beginner & Intermediate Tai Chi:** Thursdays, 1-2 p.m., at MSC. Fee: \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

**Adult Intermediate Tap:** Tuesdays, 8-8:45 p.m., March 19-May 28 (no class April 9), at Dance Dynamics. Fee: \$180.

**Adult Ballet or Adult Beginner Tap:** Wednesdays, 7-7:45 p.m., March 20-May 22 (no class April 10), at Dance Dynamics. Fee: \$162.

**Dog Obedience - Polite Dog Manners:** Saturdays, April 9-May 14, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at MSC. Fee: \$120/resident, \$125/non-resident.

**Adult Quilting 101 - Microwave Bowl Cozy:** Wednesday, April 3, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for ages 16 and up. Students will learn the basics of quilting while creating this useful kitchen tool. Fee: \$45/residents, \$50/non-residents.

**Zumba:** Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$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., through March 31, at MES. Fee is \$5 per week. Session runs until April.

**April Youth Programs:** ART-ventures- Just For Fun Adventures: Tuesdays, April 23-May 28, 3:15-4:15 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria. Fee: \$128/resident, \$133/non-resident.

**Marvelous Engineering Using Legos:** Mondays, April 15-May 20, 3:15-4:45 p.m., for grades K-4. Fee: \$114/resident, \$119/non-resident.

**Soccer Shots:** Saturdays, April 13-June 8 (no session May 25), at West Road Memorial upper field. Mini, for age 2, meets 3-3:35 p.m. and fee is \$102/resident, \$107/non-resident. Classic, for ages 3-5, meets 3:45-4:30 p.m., and fee is \$108/resident, \$113/non-resident.

**Spring Into Yoga:** Wednesdays, April 17-May 8, 5:15-6 p.m., at MSC, for ages 4-10. Parent/guardian required to attend. Fee: \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident. There is also a drop-in option for \$17 per week.

**Skyhawks:** Thursdays, April 18-May 23, at MES. Mini-Hawk, for ages 5-7, meets 4-5 p.m., and Multi-Sport, for ages 5:15-6:15 p.m., meets 5:15-6:15 p.m. Fee: \$89/residents, \$94/non-residents.

**Kids/Family Sewing - Pajamas:** Wednesday, April 24, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at MSC, for ages 8 and up. Fee: \$45/resident, \$50/non-resident.

**Mad Science - Energy, Forces, Flight:** Thursdays, April 25-May 30, 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES, for grades K-6. Fee: \$128/resident, \$133/non-resident.

**Kids Fishing Derby:** Sunday, May 5, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park, for ages 4-15. Fee: \$10. Prizes will be awarded.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Marlborough Parks and Recreation will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Blish Park on Sunday, March 30.

Ages 2 and under are at 11 a.m.; ages 3-5 are at 11:30 a.m.; ages 6-8 are at 11:15 a.m.; and ages 9-10 are at 11:45 a.m.

No registration is necessary. Call 860-295-6203 for more information.

### Setback Tournament

American Legion Post 197 will hold a setback round robin tournament Friday, March 15, at the Legion Hall, 128 East Hampton Rd. (Route 66), Marlborough. Registration is at 5:30 p.m. and games start promptly at 6 p.m.

Entry fee is \$10 per person. There will be prizes, raffles and chili. Contact Tracy (860-878-9672) or Sharon (860-805-6917) with any questions.

### Dean's List

Ally Bernier of Marlborough made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Assumption University in Worcester, Mass.



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### 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.

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.

### Spring Watercolor Classes at Arts Center

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

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

Thursday's lessons are designed for students with some fundamental experience in watercolor. This class assumes knowledge of the ba-

sics – laying a wash, controlling values, brush-handling, mixing colors. We will concentrate on composition, color theory, working from photos and still life setups. Dates for this class are March 21-April 25.

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

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

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

### St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

**Lenten Reconciliation:** Mondays during Lent, from 5-6 p.m.

**Lenten Stations of the Cross:** Fridays beginning at 7 p.m. Most Fridays also include a simple soup supper prior to Stations, at 6 p.m.

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

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

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

**Family Faith Formation:** Led by Cindy Bryan, this is an active family faith formation program for the church's kindergarten through el-

ementary 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 5:30-7:30 p.m. All are welcome to join. More information is on the church website.

**Community Outreach and Service:** Food drives are held weekly 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, book club, OCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit [www.stjfcchurch.org](http://www.stjfcchurch.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

### 4th Friday @ the Arts Café

The Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., will present the jazz saxophonist Daniel Bennett and his Daniel Bennett Group at the 4th Friday @ the Arts Café on Friday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m.

The group is based in New York and is a part of the Greenwich Village jazz scene. The quartet features saxophone, clarinet, flute and oboe. Bennett is on the faculty at the Bloomingdale

School of Music and the New York Jazz Academy. He is also active on social media and even broadcasts his classes on Spotify. The group's album We Are the Orchestra is also on social media.

Admission is \$10. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show beginning at 7:30. You are welcome to BYOW. The center is handicapped-accessible and there is on-site parking.

### 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 Willhenger 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, March 18:** Free bread and bakery goods from Stop & Shop; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: chicken stir-fry, vegetable fried rice, Asian vegetable blend, dinner roll/fresh fruit; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; Setback, 3-4 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 19:** Free bread and bakery goods donation from Big Y; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Tai Chi, 1-2 p.m.; Board of Selectmen Meeting, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 20:** Not Just Quilting, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. -- All Sew Day; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: honey-baked ham/mustard, mashed potatoes, broccoli florets, 100% whole wheat bread/fresh fruit; Setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.

**Thursday, March 21:** Cemetery Meeting, 9 a.m. pool room; AARP Tax Prep, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Not Just Quilting, 9 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Tai Chi, 1-2 p.m.; Parkinson's Disease Exercise w/ Anne, 3-4 p.m.; Commission on Aging, 4-5 p.m., pool room.

**Friday, March 22:** Not Just Quilting, 9 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: tuna noodle casserole with peas, wheat bread, yogurt cup; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

### Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is streamed live every Sunday at [mcc.marlbroughchurch.org](http://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](mailto:office@marlbroughchurch.org) for more information.

**Sunday, March 17** is a Bluegrass Sunday, with Joyful Blue leading familiar upbeat hymns with handclapping and singing along by the congregation. Pastor the Rev. Val Seaver will be downstairs with the Sunday School children and the service will be led by Ben Moreland. His sermon title is "The Journey." After worship all are invited to Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge for light refreshments.

**Outreach:** The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough

Food Bank, with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations. The Drive-Thru Café for Marlborough Food Bank patrons with vouchers is usually held on the last Sunday of each month. Second-quarter mission giving will go the AHM Mental Health Fund

**AA:** The church sponsors three weekly meetings: Wednesdays and Thursdays at noon in the Youth Room, and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Fellowship Hall.

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

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop,** located on the lower level, is open for spring shopping and donating on Fridays from noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The shop sells year-round through eBay at [bit.ly/MCCebay](http://bit.ly/MCCebay).

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

### Arts Center to Host Annual Student Show

The Marlborough Arts Center is again hosting the annual Student Art Show for students from Marlborough, Hebron, Gilead and Andover.

The show runs weekends through March 17; hours are every Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free.

Marlborough Arts Center is located at 231 North Main St. There is free on-site parking and the building is handicapped-accessible.

For more information, visit [www.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org).

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# Portland High School Presents *Matilda the Musical*

By London Brazal

With crazy set pieces and dynamic musical numbers, audiences of all ages can enjoy Portland High School's annual spring musical with performances next weekend.

The Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical* is a "captivating masterpiece" from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life, according to Music Theatre International (MIT).

Matilda is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but manages to impress her schoolteacher Miss Honey. The two forge a bond as Miss Honey begins to recognize and appreciate Matilda's extraordinary personality. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing as the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and loves to punish those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda could be the school pupils' saving grace.

Sam Tucker, the director, is a music teacher at PHS and has been involved with the musical since his first year in 2013. When choosing the show, he explained that they are limited in cast size and try to accommodate that. Tucker said *Matilda* was great with more female leads since there are not many actors within their ensemble. "We've done some old classics, but this is newer with high energy and great music," said Tucker.

Including the cast, crew and tech, there are about 55 students involved in the show and 10 adults, mostly teachers, who dedicate their time to help behind the scenes. One exciting but challenging aspect of the musical is that there is

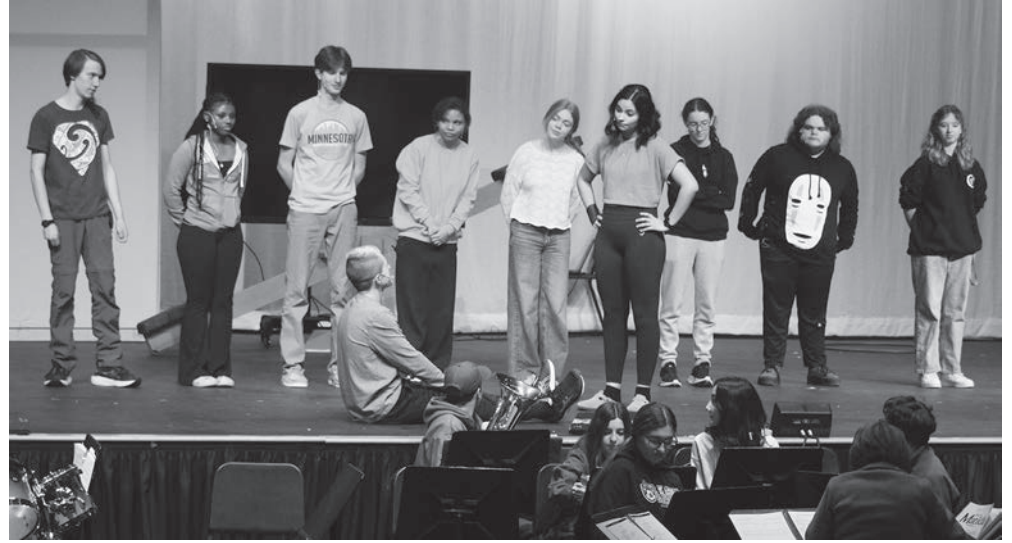
a student pit directed by Kristin Novak, another music teacher at the school. In *Matilda*, there are a lot of musical cues and the students play music underneath almost all of the dialogue. "Timing is a large challenge, but they're doing phenomenal," Tucker stated.

Senior Abby Keaveny, playing the title character of Matilda Wormwood, is excited to have the opportunity to push herself since it is one of her first large roles. She loves the fun story, and though it can be sad at times, Keaveny said the ending is uplifting and audiences will appreciate the bond between Matilda and Miss Honey. Her favorite scenes are in the Wormwood family home. "It's hard to choose a favorite but I love the Wormwood scenes because the dynamic is so funny," noted Keaveny.

Miss Honey, performed by senior Dorothy Riley, is a kindhearted teacher who is tired of living in fear of headmistress Miss Trunchbull. Riley loves her character, especially since Miss Honey's motto is to spread kindness. One challenge Riley faces is smiling all the time, "I'm still working on it," she noted. Coming from a theater family, Riley has been involved with shows since she was young. "I love the environment. So many people encourage you and it has boosted my confidence for sure."

Junior Maryn Yost is the tyrannical headmistress who despises children, Miss Agatha Trunchbull. In a mean and demanding role, Yost explained the challenge of getting into character but fortunately, she is comfortable as she has been doing plays for a long time. She described the show as "funny" and "colorful" with a lot of textures the cast members bring out. "I'm excited to see how it comes together and when the whole show flows," said Yost.

Stage manager, senior Genna Picard, ex-



With only 55 students from cast to crew, Portland High School's Drama Club, a small yet powerful ensemble, will be performing Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical* next weekend. Cast members are excited to see the play come together and welcome audience members of all ages.

plained the intricate set designs and props. With working see-saws and giant letter blocks that spell out words, Picard said there are a lot of moving parts that she juggles while managing the crew. "The curtains barely close so it's go-go-go," Picard described. "It's exciting to see it come together, there are a lot of bright personalities and colors in the set."

Echoing that point, assistant tech director Paige Fitzgibbons, a junior, said the best part of rehearsing is the process, seeing it start messy but then come together. "The show is amazing,"

she noted. Working on the soundboard, she explained the challenging aspect of making sure to turn on the correct mics, especially when random people pop in with lines.

The performances will take place on Friday, March 22, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 23, at 1 and 7 p.m., at the Donald W. Gates Auditorium, 95 High St. Tickets are available online at [gofan.co/app/school/CT17458\\_1](http://gofan.co/app/school/CT17458_1) or the door via check or cash. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors, and \$10 for children 10 and under.

## Spring Rec Soccer Registration

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) has opened registration for the Spring 2024 Recreational Soccer Season. Deadline is Sunday, April 7. To register, visit [clubs.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub](http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub).

Player fees are \$75 for all Rec divisions. Late registrations are not guaranteed and will be charged a late fee of \$30 if accepted. Refunds will be given for anyone not placed on a team. Uniforms/jerseys are provided to all divisions, and a ball will also be provided to pre-k players. The spring season will run eight weeks, beginning in late April and ending early June. All Rec activities take place at the Portland Recreational Complex.

Practice/game session start/end times are TBD, with all Saturday activities ending by 12:30 p.m. or earlier. PSC said it expects to operate Six Rec Divisions for the season as follows:

(1) Pre-K - U4 (born 2020); (2) Dribbler - U5 (born 2019) and U6 (born 2018); and (3) Kicker Divisions - U7 (born 2017), U8 (born 2016), and U9 (born 2015). Pre-K and Dribblers will be Saturday-only. Kickers will hold one-hour practice sessions on Wednesdays and have game sessions on Saturdays.

PSC is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization. Volunteer coaches are a must, and prior coaching experience is not a requirement; PSC said it will help all coaches who volunteer.

If you have any questions about coaching, contact any of the following club officials: Chad Wilson, President, [nosliw.dahc@gmail.com](mailto:nosliw.dahc@gmail.com) or 205-999-8842; Chris Donahue, Vice President and Recreational Director, [donahuecj@sbc-global.net](mailto:donahuecj@sbc-global.net) or 860-638-7400; Anne Whalen, Registrar, [awhalen34@yahoo.com](mailto:awhalen34@yahoo.com) or 860-690-3414.

## Lions Club Scholarship Applications

The Portland Lions Club is now accepting scholarship applications for Portland resident students enrolling in post high school certificate or degree program that serves the public in some manner.

Applications will be accepted from students of all academic levels as well as learning challenges. Portland students can obtain an application form from the Portland High

School guidance office or by emailing [PortlandLionsScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandLionsScholarship@gmail.com).

All applications must be received by April 15 for consideration.

The Portland Lions Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. This month's meeting will be March 13. Visitors are welcome.

## Absentee Ballots, Early Voting for Presidential Primary

Absentee ballots are now available for the April 2 presidential preference primary. Registered members of the Democratic Party and Republican Party can obtain an application in person at the town clerk's office, by calling 860-342-6743, or visiting the town clerk page of the town's website, [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org), for additional options.

Any applications or completed absentee ballots should be returned to the town clerk's office at Town Hall, mailed to the town clerk's office at P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480 or left in the election drop box, located by the rear entrance

of the Town Hall.

Also, early voting will be available for this primary. Early voting will be held on the following days from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.: Tuesday, March 26; Wednesday, March 27; Thursday, March 28; and Saturday, March 30. Early voting will occur at Portland Town Hall, 33 East Main St., on the ground floor. Electors participating in early voting will complete their ballot and deposit it into an early voting envelope, similar to the absentee ballot process. The sealed envelope will then be securely stored and counted at the polls on April 2.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

**Next Week's Programs:** Monday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Synthesize II Dance and Fitness, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients - donations are

sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); Watercolor Class, 9:30 a.m.-noon; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; AARP Tax Service: Every Wednesday until April 10, from 9 a.m.-noon - appointments necessary by calling Judy or Holly at 860-342-6761; **Thursday:** Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

**Foot Care:** The center is taking appointments for the Foot Clinic, held the second Wednesday of the month with Stacey Cormier RN. She will offer many services for \$35. Call to register.

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

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

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# Proposed Changes Made to Brainerd Place

By London Brazal

Construction continues at Brainerd Place as some of the mixed residential and commercial lots appear to look more like their intended uses such as the apartments and Starbucks building.

Developer Dan Bertram came to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting last Wednesday to present some updates and clarifications regarding the proposed developments. The theme of the discussion was maintaining the project's momentum to ensure its completion.

On the latest approved proposal, Building B was supposed to be a pharmacy at the corner of Main Street and Marlborough Street. Building A, towards the south end of the lot, was slated to have 11 residential units and the rest as commercial. "We have found that [Building A] to be very difficult to lease and certainly pre-lease to finance," explained Bertram. "We have effectively come back to say that, to maintain the momentum that we have currently on the project, we have a proposal to optimize all the input we've gotten from various commercial leasing interactions.

The new proposal for Building A would have a similar look to Building F – the second apartment building that has the foundation in place. About 9,000 sq. ft. of commercial would be built into Building A and optimized for a rooftop amenity at the southwest portion. The idea

is to have a rooftop restaurant looking towards the Arrigoni Bridge with indoor dining to be available year-round. However, instead of 11 residential units, there are now 119 proposed. In the center of the building, there would be an outdoor patio to also provide a view of the river.

"We think the views from this location are phenomenal. This is an expensive amenity but something that, we think, would be very special and noteworthy about the project," Bertram acknowledged.

Building B's new proposal would increase the size from about 13,000 sq. ft. to 16,000 sq. ft. – the top level as office space and the ground level as retail. Instead of one building, there would be two connected with a bridge to access the upper-level offices. "The intention here is to basically create more premium space for the town. That is something we feel that is a step up from a CVS, especially with the Wallgreens on the other corner," stated Bertram. Back in 2015, CVS was supposedly ready to be a part of the project, however, it never progressed into anything and they backed out. "I think this is a very nice alternative and the right sizing."

With more apartments in the new proposal, First Selectman Ryan Curley told the Rivereast that for the revised tax agreement, there would be no abatement for any of those additional

apartments. The BOS only has the opportunity to work on the fixed tax agreement. According to town planner, Dan Bourret, the application is being re-noticed with a virtual option for a public hearing on April 4. The Planning and Zoning Commission will hear the zoning text amendment first and will only open the modification if the zoning text amendment is approved.

One concern about the Brainerd Place apartments was the potential increase of students in the Portland Public Schools. In comparison to a similar project with the same unit mix in Brookfield, only 10 school-aged children attended the schools out of 149 apartments which was about 6% of the units. By applying that metric to 348 units, the estimate is 24 kids. "There are no playgrounds, it's not designed for children. We would have more large units if it was more of a family offering," explained Bertram. "It's more for the recent college grad and the senior crowd."

For the amenities that will be offered, the plan has a pool between Building E and the Brainerd

House. Inside the Brainerd House, there will be additions like a pool table and shuffleboard. "But you know not [a] daycare, that's not the intended demographic," stated Bertram.

### Project's Timeline

According to Bertram, certain buildings will be completed each year. The completion date for the Starbucks, Brainerd House and the first apartment building that is currently under construction is expected to be March 14, 2026. However, he expects that the apartment complex will be able to open floor by floor, starting at the top and working down, starting midsummer this year. On March 14, 2027, the Hart-Jarvis House, Sage House and second apartment complex in the southeast corner are expected to be done. On the same date in 2028, both portions of Building B, the commercial and office space on the corner plan to be done. Then, in early 2029, the whole project should be done after the completion of Building A, the rooftop restaurant, and additional residential units.

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**Paint Night: Kusama Yayoi Still Life:** Wednesday, March 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Buck-Foreman Community Center. Class fee is \$25, which includes all supplies.

**Slamma-Jamma Basketball Camp (Spring Break & Summer Sessions 1-3):** Taught by Portland High School boys basketball coach David Bradbury, campers will learn the fundamentals of basketball. Camp is held Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the PHS gym. The Spring Break session is April 8-12. The first summer session is June 24-June 28; the second summer session is July 15-29; the third summer session is Aug. 5-9.

**Kids' Blast: Morning (7-8:15 a.m.) and af-**

**ternoon (3-6 p.m.)** child care is available, for students enrolled in grades K-6 in the Portland Public School system. Call Parks and Rec. for prices and more information.

**Self-Defense for Women:** Sunday, March 31, 6-8 p.m., at The Inner Circle.

**Skyhawks – Multi-Sport (Age 2-5):** Saturday mornings, April 13-May 11, at Riverfront Park. This soccer, baseball and basketball class uses age-appropriate games and activities. Parent participation required for ages 2-3.5 years.

**Connecticut Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation (CPWO):** Monday, April 1, and Wednesday, April 3, from 5-9 p.m., at Portland Library. The successful completion of this eight-hour beginner boating class will give you the knowledge and a Completion Certificate needed to obtain a boater's license/certification in Connecticut. There will also be a session Tuesday, May 21, and Wednesday, May 22, at the same times.

## Scholarship Offered by Portland Garden Clubs

Applications are now available for a \$500 scholarship offered by the Portland garden clubs.

The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of Portland and has been accepted at an accredited college or post-secondary school, and plans to pursue a major in one of the following fields: agronomy, botany, city planning, conservation, environmental studies, floriculture, forestry, horticulture, land management, landscape design, plant pathology or allied subject. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

The scholarship is funded from the proceeds

of community activities of The Portland Garden Club and The Portland River Valley Garden Club. The review committee will consider the applicant's academic record, ability to articulate career goals, and their recommendations. Financial need could be part of the decision.

Applications and letters of recommendation must be received by The Garden Clubs of Portland, Connecticut in care of the applicant's guidance or counseling department or emailed to [sueanderson06480@aol.com](mailto:sueanderson06480@aol.com) or [portlandrivervalleygc@gmail.com](mailto:portlandrivervalleygc@gmail.com) before April 20.

## Volunteers Needed for Tag Sale

Much help is needed in preparation for the Portland Historical Society's May 11 town-wide tag sale.

Donations will be collected at the Callender House on Saturdays, April 13 and 20, from 9 a.m.-noon. People are needed to help carry donations from vehicles to the tents for storage. Help will be needed to sort and price donations on those days and additional days the week before May 11.

Volunteers are also needed to contact Tag Sale Map sponsors throughout town, from March 20 to April 15. Help will be needed after 4 p.m. Thursday, May 9, to deliver the tag sale poles to locations having sales. Volunteers will be needed to help pick up these same signs after 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 11.

Volunteers for the actual tag sale day are still needed and anyone interested in baking, working at the society's bake sale or at the museum's

tag sale at 492 Main St. can contact Susan at 860-982-1486.

Also, if you're a shopper and like to take photos, let the society know if you're interested in taking photos of people shopping around town for the newsletter and future publicity.

There will be a meeting for Town-Wide Tag Sale volunteers at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, at the Ruth Callender House Museum of Portland History, 492 Main St. If you would like to volunteer but can't make the meeting, email to [portlandcthistory@gmail.com](mailto:portlandcthistory@gmail.com) to indicate how you can help.

## Enrolled at Eastern

Jodie Pickel of Portland is among the students newly enrolled at Eastern Connecticut State University this spring 2024 semester.

Pickel is a sophomore majoring in art and pre-elementary education.

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Trinity Church will host an Easter Family Fair on Saturday, featuring a variety of Easter- and spring-related items such as the ones seen here.

### Easter Family Fair Saturday

Trinity Church, located at 345 Main St., will host an Easter Family Fair Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Admission is free. All are invited to take a picture with the Easter Bunny (free will donations accepted). There will also be kids' crafts and games, and a dance party with "Miss

Alicia" at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. There is a \$5 fee for the kids' craft tables. A variety of Easter sweets and goodies will be available for purchase. Easter wreaths and spring decorations will also be for sale.

For details, search for "Trinity Church Portland \* CT" and click on Events.

### 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 [zionlutheran-portland.org](http://zionlutheran-portland.org).

Sunday School for children ages 3 to 16 meets the first and third Sunday of each month at 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study is continuing its discussion of The Chosen video series and meets the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 10:15 a.m.

On Wednesday, March 20, Zion will participate in a Soup and Substance program at

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton. Participants will meet together at 6 p.m. for a simple meal and discussion.

Also throughout Lent, Zion will collect items on Sundays for Portland Food Bank. Items to be collected include: 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](mailto:zion.lutheran@snet.net), or visit [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org). Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

### Second-Hand Prose, Read & Recycle

The Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., is open during normal library hours.

There are fiction, romance, teen, and children's used books as well as DVDs available during regular library hours. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc unless marked otherwise.

Also, the Friends of the Portland Library's

Read & Recycle program will accept donations on Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m.-noon, in the Mary Flood Room of the library. The Friends welcome donations of gently used books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games. No textbooks, business books, computer books, self-help books, VHS videos or magazines, please. All donated items must be in "sellable" condition; the library will not accept items that are dirty, moldy or in poor condition.

Donations must be dropped off at the library's side door, and volunteers will be available to receive the donations. Donations are tax-deductible and acknowledgment forms will be available. Donated items are sold at various Friends' book sales held throughout the year, and all proceeds are used to support programs of the Portland Library.

Visit [www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org](http://www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org) for more information or email questions to [friendsofportlandlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofportlandlibrary@gmail.com).

### Dean's List

Mya Mogulnicki of Portland made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Suffolk University in Boston.

### Creative Floral Arrangements Presentation

The garden clubs of Portland will present the program "Creative Floral Arrangements" by Leah O'Hearn, co-owner and floral designer of It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe of Marlborough, on Wednesday, March 27, at 7 p.m., at the Waverly Center, located on 7 Waverly Ave.

O'Hearn will demonstrate her creativity and style while arranging several floral designs, which will be raffled off to several lucky attendees.

The Portland Garden Club and the Portland River Valley Garden Club are members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs.

The program is open to the public and admission is free. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call Sue at 959-231-9630.

### Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

On Fridays, the church is open for prayer and meditation, and for Anglican Prayer beading, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. All are welcome; no prior beading experience is required.

All are invited to the church's Holy Week and Easter services. The church will worship jointly with Holy Trinity in Middletown on Palm Sunday, March 24, at 9:30 a.m., and on Good Friday,

March 29, at 7 p.m. On March 28 at 6 p.m., there will be a Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner and stripping of the altar. The church's Easter Service will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. on March 31.

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

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

### Town-Wide Tag Sale Plans Begin

The Portland Historical Society's 28th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale will take place Saturday, May 11 - online registration and payment for tag sales is now open.

Visit [www.portlandhistsoc.org](http://www.portlandhistsoc.org) and click on the link (the big yellow banner) to register; use the instructions online. To complete a paper registration form that can be mailed, visit the website, download and complete the form, and mail it to P.O. Box 98 with payment. Watch *Rivereast* for the opening date for availability of paper registrations at 492 Main St. in late March. The donation to the society for a spot on the Tag Sale Map is \$20 until March 31. The registration fee during the month of April will

be \$25. Registration for sales will close April 28. Portland residents who sign up will be assigned a spot on the Society's official Tag Sale Map issued for that day listing the sale locations and types of items featured at each one.

Local businesses and organizations can support the society by purchasing an advertising spot on the tag sale map. Past advertisers will receive an email with information about this year's map in the next two weeks. New businesses can email the Society for information at [portlandcthistory@gmail.com](mailto:portlandcthistory@gmail.com). Tag Sale ad spots are approximately the size of a business card and cost \$25. Map sponsorships can also be purchased on the website.

### 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 the calendar of events at [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org), or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional. **Holiday Closing:** Friday, March 29, for Good Friday.

**Read & Recycle:** Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m.-noon. The Friends of Portland Library group is collecting gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles for its ongoing sale.

**Spring Storytimes:** Registration is underway and, due to overwhelming demand, the library has opened a second preschool storytime session at 11:30 a.m. All other storytime sessions are waitlist only.

**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.

**Chess with Michael Pelton:** Mondays at 3 p.m. through 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.

**Solar System Expedition:** Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., March 21. Kids in grades 3-5 are invited to learn about the sun, moon and other planets

### Palm Cross Sale

St. Mary Ladies Guild is conducting a Palm Cross sale. These crosses are used to adorn the gravesite of a loved one for Easter. Cost is \$13 each. Call/text Guild President Jane Klemba at 860-301-3731 to place an order. Deadline is March 17.

in the Milky Way galaxy, through games, experiments and more. Attendees will also learn more about the solar eclipse that will take place on April 8. Space is limited.

**Teen Program: Nintendo Switch Hangout:** Tuesday, March 19, 3:30-5 p.m. Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to play Nintendo Switch games. No registration required.

**Adult Programs: Seeds Wanted:** Portland Library's Seed Library is seeking seed donations for the spring and summer gardening seasons and is also looking for help to sort and repack donations for distribution. More volunteer work sessions are coming soon.

**March Art Exhibit - Youth Art Month:** The visual arts instructors for Portland Public Schools present an exhibit of student drawings, paintings, prints and ceramics created by students from grade 7-12 in celebration of Youth Art Month. The exhibit runs through April 3.

**Monthly Writers' Cafe:** Saturday, March 16, 12:30-2 p.m., in the Van Beynum Room. The first hour will be quiet, communal, writing time, with the final 30 minutes set aside to chat about your project with fellow writers.

**Composting:** Monday March 18, 6 p.m., via Zoom. A panel of experts will discuss different composting methods to enrich your spring and summer garden.

**Book Clubs: Mystery Lovers' Book Club:** Tuesday, March 19, 1 p.m. *City Under One Roof* by Iris Yamashita will be discussed. Talk About Books: Tuesday, April 2, 1 p.m. *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus will be discussed. 1st Thursday Night Book Club: Thursday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid.

**Medicare Basics:** Tuesday, March 26, 6 p.m. Learn all about this necessary benefit and which program is right for you. Registration requested.

**Movie:** Wednesday, April 10. *Wonka* (rated PG) will be shown.

### Portland Exchange Offering Scholarship

Again this year, the Portland Exchange Club will offer the \$1,000 John W. Goodrich Scholarship to any Portland resident senior going on to a higher education institution after graduation.

For the scholarship, the club is looking for the student to provide the committee with a short essay describing their community service and its impact on how the community benefited. Other secondary factors considered are good academic achievement and participation in extracurricular activities.

The application for the scholarship is available at the Portland High School Counseling Center and online at [www.portlandexchange.org/john-w-goodrich-scholarship](http://www.portlandexchange.org/john-w-goodrich-scholarship). Deadline for applications is April 15.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

years ago and the Last Glaciation Period lasted from 100,000 until 25,000 years ago? The retreat of the Laurentide Ice Sheet left the landscape we see today and a significant deposit of Glacial Lodgement Till Soil in Hebron Center.

Did you know Hebron's first inhabitants were Paleoindians who arrived between 12,500 and 10,000 years ago? The Paleoindians found a vibrant tundra that included herds of game such as caribou. These Indigenous hunter-gatherers thrived along the natural waterways and enjoyed a diet rich in wetland tubers.

Elements of this distant past are still apparent in Hebron Center and led directly to the first Colonial settlement in 1702. Not surprisingly this settlement was focused on Hebron Center and the Glacial Lodgement Till Soil found there. This in turn led to the construction of unique stone wall laneways, created between 1780 and 1830 to protect the valuable glacial soil from grazing cattle.

Did you know you can still walk these historic stone wall laneways? Please visit the Hebron Center History booth in the Douglas Library Parking Lot at the Maple Fest and learn more. Additional details at Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

## My Concerns

To the Editor:

Regarding the issues facing Marlborough this budget season, I have this concern.

We have potholes; we need more sidewalks; taxes rise but services don't. My kids went to school here – we all love our school. We had hundreds more students and many fewer staff, but all received a fine education. Marlborough has changed dramatically since then. Our population is overwhelmingly made up of households with no children – and no wonder! We do not have housing young families can afford for starter homes; we do not have housing older people can “downsize” to. We need a town budget we can all support, that addresses the needs of all our citizens. We all need to be realistic, including but not limited to the Board of Ed. There is no excuse to pit one board against another, or to suggest that individuals who question budgets have bad intentions.

Fran Terase – Marlborough

## Nice Guy, Joe Biden

To the Editor:

I hear that Hunter's laptop is real; so is Ashley Biden's diary. In it she allegedly talks about taking showers with her father probably wasn't appropriate. Nice guy, Joe Biden, right? Hunter's laptop reveals the deals with foreign adversaries laundering money through about 20 'shell companies' Biden family members including young grandchildren receiving money from foreign countries, causing treasury to flag Biden family banking over 150 times. Biden paid \$2.75 million cash for the 'beach house' within weeks of Hunter texting his Chinese pal urging the \$10 million deal. Biden is flying illegals across the country to change the 'representation' by population. Democrats just opposed a bill that would only count citizens for representation. Open borders, crashed economy... he now wants to fund \$280 billion for housing for illegals. Will he get 10% for “the big guy”?

C. Anne Johnson – Marlborough

## Expectations Are Low

To the Editor:

Well, it didn't take long. Scott Sauyet is hopping around Andover because his other foot is in his mouth...again. Congratulations to the Andover Democratic Town Committee and RHAM BOE for appointing a petulant child as a contributing decision-maker. I swear the members of the Toilet Paper Mafia meet weekly to decide which one of them will contribute the dumbest, convoluted, indecipherable, incendiary, vindictive, and jaw-dropping letter for the next *Bulletin* edition. It's a tough call, for sure. But when there's a need for pomposity, arrogance, and delusion, Scott gets the call and learns that the situation requires a special dose of inanity that only he can provide! It must be tough being a liberal and being called out as a phony for constantly obfuscating and twisting facts. It's difficult communicating with someone whose modus operandi is the “I know you are but what am I” mentality from middle school. But, my expectations of the Toilet Paper Mafia are low. I do this for fun.

So, the FBI and the DOJ sat on Hunter Biden's laptop and denied it's validity for a year before the 2020 election. Then, the FBI busts in on James O'Keefe to get Ashley Biden's diary (allegedly Joe isn't just a hair-sniffer). Then, Catherine

Herridge (a well-respected journalist) is fired by CBS, her laptop and notes on Hunter Biden confiscated, and she is held in contempt of court for protecting her sources. Then, Alexander Smirnov, a valued informant on the FBI payroll for 13 years, is suddenly arrested and charged for lying about the Bidens based on information he gave the FBI 4 years ago (I wonder what took so long?). Did I get all that right? Maybe someone with a math degree or two could chime in with a special brand of rationalization.

Cheers,

Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

## Different Ways to Win an Election

To the Editor:

Some politicians will go to extreme measures in order to win an election. Some opponents have even died in prison. A recent example was a death by poison. He may have ingested it just prior to being imprisoned or ingested it while in prison. Others bring many accusations and investigations into play. Accuse an opponent by having women bring rape charges against him and send your opponent to court. The accuser does not have to have any evidence to back up an accusation that happen 25 to 30 years ago. Not even a date, let alone the year that it supposedly happened. How can anyone defend himself as to his whereabouts when there is no date given?

Another gimmick is to require way out of proportion expenses such as bail or fines. These money and time constraints could keep an opponent from campaigning.

Another is to rig an election. Mail-in ballots are believed to have been subject to error. I recall an incident where an election was questioned and the votes recounted. One person had 60% of the cast ballots and his opponent had 60% of the write-in, early voting. I find this odd. I have even heard of “volunteers” helping out those who are unable to vote in person due to health issues. They ask the impaired person who they want to vote for. They even fill out their ballot for them and deliver it. I have also heard of a bus dropping off voters at a voting location and then transporting them to another voting location and dropping them off. This supposedly happened in a city where no photo identification was required.

Frank Blume – Colchester

## Words Matter

To the Editor:

I share the passionate concern the author of last week's Israel letter feels about the suffering of the Palestinians, but I'm afraid I have found plenty of evidence of the anti-Semitism he claimed to avoid. Opening with “Israel is going full ‘Old Testament.’ Moses, the first genocidist, whom the Jews call ‘lawgiver of Israel,’” one is invited to connect Israeli policy, Jews, and a Bible story without context to conclude that Israel and Jews everywhere are genocidal at their core and always have been.

Equally problematic: “Jews insist this was started when Hamas slaughtered 1,140 Israelis...” All Jews? Everywhere? If “this” is the current round horrific violence, I agree many Jewish people I know would say Oct. 7 was the beginning, and so would millions of non-Jews. Omitting that gives the impression that only Jews feel this way. If “this” is the cycle of violence that has plagued this region for millennia, we must be wary; resolution of this mess will be impossible if one only credits those incidents that leave their side the victim. The author mentions the Nakba in 1948 as the start. Someone else could choose the massacre of Jews in the Palestine Riots of 1929 as the start to justify the Nakba. This game has no end and no winner.

Finally, “Israeli policy, Orthodox Jewry, and Netanyahu created Hamas.” Orthodox Jewry is a loose association of Jewish communities around the world, not some monolithic political group. Implying such, it suggests the reader blame the behavior of Hamas on Jews around the world. So, if a terrorist act befalls a Jew in Jerusalem, Paris, or Middletown, they had it coming?

While working for a lasting and just solution, let's be careful with our words. Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia have real consequences.

Joanna Schnurman – Portland

## Climate Change Displays

To the Editor:

I feel anger building in Sam Prentice. The Yale Peabody Museum is reopening with some new displays focused on climate change. Who do these elitist scientists, Yale professors and paleontologists think they are? Why did they not seek Sam's advice on what should go into these displays? From the confines of his home, using just his internet connection, Sam has learned

more about Antarctica and Montana glaciers than all the glaciologists that have spent years there studying them. He knows more about the Great Barrier Reef than the marine biologists spending lifetimes diving and collecting data there. He doesn't need decades at Hawaii's Mauna Loa Observatory collecting CO2 data to know that he alone understands the relationship between that gas and the climate. “The atmosphere is starved of CO2 and we need more of it, not less” says Sam. He rebukes those chemists who got the A's in their science classes and earned PhDs – calling them “cultists.”

And not only that. The March 26 opening of the now-free Yale Peabody Museum will have updated and improved displays on the evolution of life. Sam knows more about this subject than all the “Marxist” “collectivist” “pseudoscientists” that Yale could muster – because Sam alone understands the true connection between the evolution of primates and CO2. Sam knows all these things, sitting in front of his computer, in the cozy confines of his home in Andover – than all the scientists working at NASA, NOAA, the U.S. Department of Energy and anywhere else these “progressive climate liars” hang their PhD degree plaques on a wall. Sam probably shuns doctors with PhD plaques on their walls. Seeing one, he must skedaddle on home – trusting future medical care to bleach, ivermectin and other MAGA remedies. I encourage Sam to follow these convictions to the very end.

Edmund Smith – Andover

## ECS Funding

To the Editor:

Public education is a partnership between the State of Connecticut and each of our towns.

Both partners have the responsibility to determine what our youth need to learn, and to fund that effort properly.

However, it has been quite a wake-up call to see how the state has turned its back on East Hampton and surrounding towns since 2016 with constant decreases in educational funding known as Educational Cost Share.

In this year's budget deliberations, we reviewed how this funding was \$7,538,993 in 2016-2017.

As inflation has ramped up over 28 percent from 2016 to 2024, even just level funding would amount to over \$9,600,000 for East Hampton this new year.

Sadly, at this writing, the state is willing to send \$7,092,415. That number is approximately \$2,500,000 short of the state's efforts eight years ago.

What compounds the problem is the state's continued appetite to demand new and expensive programs, the cost of which falls mostly on our property taxes. While these programs are well meant, their costs smother our ability to provide a solid educational program within a comfortable means.

Our governor and legislators have watched silently as this trend has continued. They forget that solid public education is not only the foundation, but the hallmark, of our state. At the time of the Revolutionary War, the most literate place in the world was the 13 colonies; in particular, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Dare

### Editor's Desk continued from page 4

sports championships, there were rounds of elimination and opportunities to move ahead. The Post Offices who received the highest number of Point-of-Sale (POS) surveys from its customers progressed in the challenge.

The Moodus branch was the only Post Office in Connecticut that made the “final four.” Indeed, it was only Post Office east of the Mississippi in that list. The other three were Post Offices in Midlothian, Texas; Lawndale, Calif.; and Lakeside, Calif.

“The last round was between Moodus and Lawndale, with Moodus prevailing as national champion. At a March 6 award ceremony, Moodus was presented with a traveling trophy.

The lead sales and service associate at the Moodus Post Office, Sunish Thomas, knows all his customers by name, according to a USPS press release. He said, “I really enjoy when the customer is happy – when they leave with a smile on their face, that gives me job satisfaction.”

Also in attendance at the award presentation was Elvin Mercado, the USPS vice president of retail and Post Office operations.

“I was thrilled to attend this event to honor the remarkable achievements of our team at the Moodus Post Office,” Mercado said. “Recognizing their hard work and commitment not only reflects my appreciation but also inspires continued excellence and fosters a culture of acknowledgement and motivation across our organization. I extend my gratitude

we look at that standing in 2024?”

This budget season, let's not battle with each other as we have usually done. Let's bring the fight to our state politicians to do the right thing.

Rich Knotek

East Hampton Town Council

## On Trolls

To the Editor:

It is budget season, and Marlborough, like most towns, has to struggle with developing a budget that meets the needs of as many of its citizens as possible, without breaking the bank on taxes. We all have our preferences for where the limited money should go. We have boards responsible to develop budgets and boards responsible to challenge budgets, and citizens who pay attention.

Like it or not, the duty of certain boards and citizens is to scrutinize what budgets are presented to them. The purpose is to question and learn, not to attack or dismiss, with the goal of serving the whole community in the most balanced and honest way possible. The purpose is not to simply accept, nor to simply reject, any aspect of proposed funding. Of course it will be controversial- it is set up as forced competition for limited dollars. Feelings run high.

However, sadly, we have seen trolls come out from under the rocks and begin the accusations and name calling that once characterized the governing process in town – unfairly I will add. They don't have positive, helpful solutions – that's not what trolls do.

There are still those who would enjoy divisiveness between boards and among board members. Noting challenges to the Board of Ed budget, they try to characterize it as an attack from one board to another. There is no attack now or before, when honest challenges and questions are posed by people who ought to be posing them-it's their job. Naming people for personal attack is disgusting. Assuming ill intent is an outrage against people of integrity, working hard, of any party. Board members like all private citizens, have the right to comment for themselves.

Please don't let the trolls and haters form your opinions.

Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

## Better Together for Children

To the Editor:

The Board of Education's budget was Marlborough's lowest in the last four years, below the rate of inflation, one of the lowest in the state, while continuing to set the school district on a positive trajectory for its students.

As has increasingly come to light as the town revealed its budget, the town faces challenges in its infrastructure in terms of several culverts needing to be replaced, less revenue than they used to project, and still after more than three years, no permanent finance director and two years of delayed audits. This has put the Board of Finance in a challenging situation in its deliberations. It seems rather ironic that years of inadequate action on the town side resulting in what could literally lead to failing roadways somehow sets the Board of Education's budget

See Letters, page 32

towards each and every one of the team members at Moodus for their outstanding contributions and dedication. ... We are truly fortunate to have such an incredible team.”

The traveling trophy will stay at Moodus Post Office until next year's national champion is crowned.

\*\*\*

Looking for a job? The Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce may be able to help.

The chamber will host the Middlesex County Job Fair on Thursday, April 4, from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Courtyard by Marriott Hartford Cromwell, located at 4 Sebeth Drive. There is no cost for job seekers to attend this event. Career development specialists will be available for resume critiquing during the fair.

The event is sponsored by the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, the Connecticut Department of Labor, and Workforce Alliance.

Middlesex Chamber President Johanna Bond said, “I would like to encourage everyone in Middlesex County to join us for our results-oriented Job Fair, which will feature over 45 companies. Now more than ever, employers need workers and workers need employment.”

For an updated listing of attending companies, visit [www.middlesexchamber.com/careerfair](http://www.middlesexchamber.com/careerfair).

\*\*\*

See you next week.





**Viva Las Vegas...** Dineen Rivera of Portland and Joan Ferwerda of Cobalt are enjoying visiting with family and friends in Las Vegas. They played casino slots at Red Rock Casino and had a wonderful lunch.

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

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



**Fun in Florida...** John and Alice Rowley of Marlborough recently spent a few days at Walt Disney World's Grand Floridian Resort in Florida, along with a day trip to Cocoa Beach and a visit to their family.



**A Colombian Vacation...** East Hampton resident Cristina Hahn recently vacationed in Medellin, Colombia – and took along the *Rivereast*!



**Due South...** Francie and Butch Goodwin of East Hampton brought the *Rivereast* to Key West, Fla., at the southernmost point in the U.S.A. It was stop number three in their four-city tour of Florida.

# Where in the World?

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

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

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# Warm Up March with the Winter Farmers Market

By London Brazal

As warmer weather is around the corner, the winter farmers market at Rule of 3 Brewery, presented by Community Pollinator, draws to a close with only two weeks left.

The goal of the market is to remind people that Connecticut farmers still grow food in the winter and there are still opportunities to eat fresh and local. The weekly events have helped local farmers and other diverse vendors sell in the months when sales tend to dip. With that, the farmers' market helps build a local economy in which these small businesses are supported by people who live in their communities.

Victoria Fielding, an office manager for Cold Spring Farm in Colchester, spoke about the myth that no one's growing food in Connecticut during the winter. "That is just not true," said Fielding. "Local farmers and food producers work year-round. We struggle to compete with big box stores in the best of times, and in the winter that just gets exacerbated."

When describing the market, Fielding added

that each week has been great, and not only brought a lot of income but also provided a sense of positivity to those involved. As the market started in early January, many customers came back to support various farmers, vendors and artisans.

Ark Distillery is a new, small women-owned business founded by Susan Caron and Alane Wilansky in Colchester. The distillery will be starting construction very soon and will be housed within the restored Westchester Woods historic building. Caron and Wilansky came together in November 2021 to create their business and the process of building and opening a distillery has been taking a long time.

More recently, they started creating infusion jars with suggested recipes including non-alcoholic options. Flavors range from vanilla coffee to jolly ranchers. As participants at the market, their favorite part is the people and how unique the gathering space is. "I love the people and how interested they are in trying new things,"

said Caron. "The beer, cheese and bread are amazing, so that's a bonus," added Wilansky while talking about the other vendors at the market.

Cato Corner Farm creates farmstead cheese, hand-crafted in small batches and aged in a cave at their location in Colchester. The cheeses are made with raw milk from 50 Jersey cows year-round. The cows graze freely from May to November on the pasture's grass and eat primarily local hay the rest of the year. Beth Squires, a representative of the farm, comes to farmers' markets in Stonington every week year-round and Colchester in the warmer months. "It's fun but it's hard," explained Squires. "We're just as busy in the winter, we don't stop."

Squires loves coming to the markets to see excited customers and enjoys talking with them while teaching about the farm's cheese-making process. "I want people to come all year round. If we have the opportunity, we take it."

Jeff Taylor, an East Hampton resident, is new to the winter farmers markets with his small business, Jim E Jive Hot Sauce. As a kid, he knew he wanted to start his own business and was always into spice foods. During the pandemic, he had habaneros in his fridge and got to work. In two years, he created three different hot sauces, ranging from a sweeter ginger-based hot sauce to a spicier cherry bomb; a fourth sauce

is scheduled to drop in August. Taylor has won awards at the Haddam Neck Fair and multiple chili contests.

Taylor reflected on how it is more challenging in the winter when it comes to market events. "Coming to this market has been amazing and I love what Jess Stone [the market's organizer] is doing," explained Taylor. He added that the support in East Hampton is incredible to small and local businesses. "They always welcome us with open arms."

Also new to the markets was Jasmine Carnell with her company, The Moody Homesteader. Carnell mentioned how she was laid off in February and it gave her time to focus attention on something she is passionate about. Carnell created a full guide to healthier cleaning alternatives and her goal is to help encourage people to eliminate waste. She takes older jars, including finished candles, cleans them out, and replaces the contents with a cleaning mix from laundry detergents to toilet fizzes. She loves how supportive customers have been to her and is excited to see what comes next.

The winter farmers market runs on Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. at Rule of 3 Brewery, located at 201 W High St. The last market will be March 27. Visit [communitypollinator.com](http://communitypollinator.com) for more information about upcoming events.

## Bar Association to Award Scholarships

Attorney Richard F. Paladino, Chair of the Middlesex County Bar Association Scholarship Committee, has announced that the Middlesex County Bar Association will, once again, award a total of \$3,000 in funding for two scholarships of \$1,500 each.

The association's president, attorney AnnMarie Rocco, has continued this scholarship program and the expansion of eligibility this year to include both seniors attending Middlesex County high schools and all high school seniors

residing within Middlesex County but attending schools elsewhere.

Middlesex County includes the *Riverest towns of Portland and East Hampton*.

The award recipients will be honored at the association's Law Day luncheon on May 3.

Applications can be obtained from Paladino and any questions can be answered by contacting him at [rfgwps@aol.com](mailto:rfgwps@aol.com). The deadline to receive applications is April 5.

## Retired State Historian to Discuss Book

On Saturday, March 16, author Walter W. Woodward will give a talk on his recent book, *Creating Connecticut: Critical Moments that Shaped a Great State*, at 11 a.m. at the East Hampton Library Community Room, located at 105 Main St.

Woodward, who served as Connecticut State Historian from 2004 until his retirement in 2022, is a scholar of early American and Atlantic world history, with an emphasis on Connecticut

and New England. His research interests cover a variety of subjects, including witchcraft, alchemy and the history of science, the use of music in early America, and environmental history.

You can register in person at East Hampton Public Library, by phone at 860-267-6621, or online at [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org). For more information, contact Chatham Historical Society member Marty Podskoch at 860-267-2442 or [podskoch@comcast.net](mailto:podskoch@comcast.net).

## EHACC Taking Grant Applications

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

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

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

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

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

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

## EHHS Music Cabaret

The East Hampton High School Music Cabaret will take place Wednesday, March 27, in the EHHS cafeteria, 15 N. Maple St. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the performance begins at 6:30 p.m.

The night will include a pasta dinner, student musical performances and raffle prizes.

Tickets are \$10 for students and senior citizens and \$16 for adults. To purchase, go to [www.easthamptonps.org](http://www.easthamptonps.org), click on "Optional Online Payments," then click on "Pay for HS-

Music-Cabaret." You can check out as a guest, login to your account, or create an account. Be sure to clearly specify your name and number of tickets to ensure a smooth check-in at the event. You will receive an email confirmation of your purchase to present at the door. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door.

All proceeds benefit the EHHS Music Department.

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— Delia Ephron  
(February 2014)

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# Bellringers' Win Streak Snapped in Semis

By Josh Howard

After 46 consecutive victories, the girls basketball team at East Hampton High School had their remarkable run come to an end with a 44-42 loss to Windham in the Class M state semifinals on March 1.

The loss not only snapped the team's win streak, but it also halted the team's bid for a second straight state championship.

Playing on a neutral site at RHAM High School, the No. 5-seeded Whippets of Windham overcame a two-point halftime deficit to dethrone the top-seeded Bellringers.

In a game that featured a dozen lead changes, East Hampton's Liana Salamone led all scorers with 18 points, but it wasn't enough to overcome Windham's clutch shooting and timely defense down the stretch.

It marked the final game for East Hampton's Amber Murphy, Jackie Russell, Delaney Russell,

Katherine Searles, and Leah Kohler – the team's five departing seniors.

The handful of players have been part of an incredible four-year window of winning that includes four straight Shoreline Conference (SLC) Championships and an overall record of 89-5.

Along with winning nearly 95% of their games, the Class of 2024 bookended their time on the courts at EHHS with undefeated regular seasons, finishing perfect during the pandemic-shortened season in 2020-2021 and winning all 20 regular season games as seniors.

A year ago, the Bellringers won a state title for the first time since 1980, defeating Valley Regional in the Class M title tilt.

The state championship was part of the team's incredible 46-game winning streak that spanned from Jan. 3, 2023 until last Friday – a total of 423 days.

It was also a record-setting season for the Bellringers, who celebrated a pair of individual milestones this season.

Salamone became the program's all-time leading scorer on Feb. 17, eclipsing Gyanna Russell's previous mark of 1,478. Two weeks earlier, Jackie Russell surpassed the 1,000-point mark in a home win over Coginchaug on Feb. 1.

In addition to becoming the program's new scoring leader, Salamone was named the SLC Conference Player of the Year for the second year in a row and made the All-SLC first team for a third straight season.

Russell, who has committed to play basketball at Post University, was also selected to the All-SLC first team for the third time.

Next winter, the Bellringers will be seeking a sixth straight SLC title with Salamone and Olivia DeMartino returning as starters and key reserve Katie Ireland highlighting a bench that will assume bigger roles.

This weekend, Windham will face St. Paul Catholic for the Class M state championship at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The Whippets are aiming for their first state title since 2011.

## Joint Services at Church

Joint Sunday services in March for Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam and Haddam Neck Congregational will be held in Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

The service March 17 will feature guest preacher, seminarian Christine Sima of Guilford. Her sermon is titled "Do You Seed What I Seed?" based on John 12: 20-33 – seeing Jesus and where to look for him.

Sima grew up in Connecticut in the Congregational Church, receiving her first Bible at age 8 (which she still has, by the way). In 2018, she entered the seminary. She is a 2023 graduate of Hartford International University for Religion

and Peace (formerly Hartford Seminary), earning a master's in chaplaincy. A member in discernment, Sima is currently on the ordination track.

Sima lives in Guilford where in her spare time she likes to take long walks on the beach with her life partner Jeremy and their dog Ming.

Sima will also lead worship Easter Sunday, March 31.

On March 24, guest preacher seminarian Linda Choser will lead Palm Sunday services.

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

## Dinner and a Show

Epoch Arts will hold its annual Dinner-show Saturday March 16, at 6 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

This is a fundraiser for the Mainstage Theater Production that's coming in May. At Dinner-show, the cast of the production will serve a full-course pasta dinner, and then perform in a variety of skits, musical numbers and the

famous Wackadoodles. Skits will randomly be called out and the cast will scramble to put their costumes on and perform on the spot.

Cost is \$12. To reserve seats, or if you would like to sponsor a skit for \$25 or a wackadoodle for \$10, email [elizabeth@epocharts.org](mailto:elizabeth@epocharts.org). For more information, visit [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org).

## Recap of Ambulance Calls

The East Hampton Ambulance Association has released information about its calls for the first two months of 2024.

In January, East Hampton Ambulance responded to 94 incidents; six incidents went to mutual aid requesting another town's ambulance (in three of those incidents, the East Hampton ambulance was already on a call).

January response times (from time of dispatch to time the ambulance is on-scene) were an average of 9 minutes and 37 seconds for East Hampton, and an average of 9 minutes and 40 seconds for all incidents, including other towns.

Response times in January 2022 averaged 16 minutes and 52 seconds, and in January 2023 they averaged 10 minutes and 44 seconds for all

incidents.

In February, East Hampton Ambulance responded to 80 incidents. 3Threeincidents went to mutual aid (in one incident, the East Hampton ambulance was already on a call).

February response times averaged 9 minutes and 27 seconds for East Hampton, and 9 minutes and 27 seconds for all incidents, including other towns.

Response times in February 2022 averaged 15 minutes and 55 seconds, and in February 2023 averaged 11 minutes and 34 seconds for all incidents.

End-of-year incident numbers: 2023: 1,184 incidents; 2022: 1,037 incidents; 2021: 1,144 incidents; 2020: 1,000 incidents; 2019: 1,033 incidents.

## Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

**Sunday School:** Sunday School classes are in session.

**Lenten Fundraising Drive:** All parishioners are asked to donate to the Mission Team's annual Lenten fundraising effort for St. Vincent's School for Handicapped Children in Haiti. Conditions for all are very difficult there, and the children of the school are particularly in need of all kinds of medical supplies. Save your

change during Lent, or write a check with Missions in the memo line.

**Easter Bake Sale:** All are asked to participate by donating baked good, jams, and jellies for the March 30 Bake Sale in the Parish Hall. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Reconciliation of a Penitent:** Individual appointments for Confession are available on Wednesday, March 27, from 5-7 p.m. Contact Rogers at [revdianamrogers@gmail.com](mailto:revdianamrogers@gmail.com) to schedule.

**Holy Week Schedule:** March 28, Maundy Thursday service, 6 p.m.; March 29, Good Friday: Stations of the Cross from 5-5:30 p.m., and Good Friday service at 6 p.m.; March 31, Easter Sunday service, 10 a.m.

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

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

**Community Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, March 23, promptly at 1 p.m. Hundreds of candy-filled eggs will be hidden outside the church. All are also invited to take some photos with the Easter Bunny.

**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" and is taught through Bible stories where the characters are friends with God. A toddler nursery is also available. All are welcome.

**Vocal Choir:** Choir rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome.

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

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

## Ham Shoots

The Belltown Sportsman's Club will have ham shoots Sundays, March 17 and 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the club grounds, located off Tartia Road.

Bring your own shotgun or one will be provided. Shells supplied; 20 and 12 gauge. Cost is \$4 per shot. Refreshments available.

For more information, call Curly at 860-638-7221.

## Spring Classes at Epoch

Epoch Arts is offering a variety of classes this spring. Students in pre-K through 12th grade can register online to take classes like art, photography, ceramics, theater, improv and more.

Classes run for eight weeks and begin March 25, and are all held at 27 Skinner St. Full class descriptions and registration are at [www.epocharts.org/classes-registration](http://www.epocharts.org/classes-registration).

## Scarves of Hope

A local mom recently donated hundreds of scarves to the community. Crocheting them relieved some of the stress and anxiety while her son battled his addiction for over 10 years. Her son eventually lost his battle with addiction five years ago. These scarves represent hope – whether you love an addict or you are suffering from the hold of addiction.

On Saturday, March 30, from noon-4 p.m., all are invited to stop in and pick up one for free at the VFW Post 5095, 20 N. Maple St.

## 'Drive and Drop' Fundraiser

The East Hampton High School Student Council will hold its second annual "Drive and Drop Donation Fundraiser" Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the high school, 15 N. Maple St.

Simply load your vehicle with any of the following items: dog, cat & kitten food, treats, towels, blankets, garbage bags, and kitty litter. Then, pull up in front of the high school and Student Council students will unload the donated items without you even having to get out.

This year's fundraiser will be supporting the Protectors of Animals (POA) out of East Hartford.



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# Wizard of Oz Coming to EHHS

By London Brazal

For the first time in decades, the East Hampton High School drama club is performing a huge production with large sets, multiple costume changes and endearing props.

Director Rachel Mansfield said that their production last year, *The Addams Family*, proved to her that the students were ready to take on such a large production. "We have such a talented crew that I felt like this was the year," said Mansfield.

Interestingly, Mansfield explained that the original 1942 stage production had different characters and strayed away from the original storyline. The Royal Shakespeare Company re-wrote the musical in the 1980s to mirror both the 1939 film adaptation and the original children's book by L. Frank Baum.

The high school took a traditional approach to the iconic show and has been working hard to put all of the pieces together. "It's so iconic, you can't mess with the tradition itself and we're trying to be as true to the cinematic experience," said Mansfield. One addition, she decided on

was elementary school students coming to play munchkins. "Our choreographer Kendra Dickinson said 'I can do this,' and I couldn't say no. They have been adorable and they're such a great addition to the show."

After a cyclone strikes her Aunt and Uncle's house in Kansas, Dorothy and her dog Toto are whisked away to the mysterious land of Oz. In order to return home, Dorothy embarks on a journey along the yellow brick road to seek out the renowned Wizard of Oz, residing in the magnificent Emerald City.

Junior Sean Jones, playing the Wizard, likes being able to be behind the curtain as he yells at fellow characters. "I've never played a mean character so it's fun to try something different and I love the first scene I'm in," said Jones.

Along the way, she teams up with the Scarecrow yearning for intelligence; the Tin Woodsman, longing for a heart; and the Cowardly Lion, searching for bravery. Senior Enja Barry has the role of Scarecrow and loves the clumsiness of their role. Barry invites all community

members to come to the show, "We have great talent among the principles and ensemble and it's going to engage all audiences."

On their journey, they must avoid the Wicked Witch of the West, who is trying to steal the mysterious magic slippers that once belonged to her evil sister but are now on Dorothy's feet. Their quest leads them to face various trials and encounters with the powerful Oz, who challenges them with a daunting task before granting their desires. Dorothy eventually learns just how magical friendship can be and how wonderful it can feel to go home again.

Juniors Addison Partridge and Macie Brazal are sharing the role of the Wicked Witch of the West. As an evil character, Partridge said the voice is difficult and it's challenging to act like she hates some of her best friends. Brazal noted how it can be difficult to be scary even though it is a comedic part. Charlotte Minnick, a senior, and Marley Paris, a junior, are double-cast as Glinda. For Paris, she noted how it is a full circle moment since she played a munchkin in a previous production of the show.

In the production, there are a total of 130 costumes with a cast size of over 50 students. Senior McKenzie Magge is part of the crew and works

sound but for her capstone project, she has been learning to sew. With only two main costumers, Magge has helped with taking measurements, bringing in materials and creating numerous accessories. Comparable to the 1939 film, the show starts in sepia tones, then when in Oz, the costumes turn into vibrant and detailed colors. Some costumes are whimsical while others border on creepy.

Jeremy Bissell, a senior, plays Uncle Henry and is perfecting his Kansas accent. He noted that audiences will enjoy seeing a real dog play Toto even though it can be challenging. Freshman Quinn Werme has multiple roles including a jitterbug, munchkin and Ozian. They noted that the dance numbers are hard and tiring but also energetic. Werme loves the repetition in rehearsals so the ensemble knows the piece.

The performances will take place Friday, March 22, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 23, at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 24, at 2 p.m. All shows will be at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St. Tickets are available online at [belltowndrama.ludus.com](http://belltowndrama.ludus.com) or at the door via check or cash. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students.

## Kindergarten Registration

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

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 are available in the Memorial School lobby, at East Hampton Public Library, and at [www.easthamptonps.org](http://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.

## 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 Hampton 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.

## Troop 57 Bottle Drive

Boy Scout Troop 57 will hold a bottle drive Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the American Distilling parking lot (31 East High St., Route 66).

All redeemable bottles are accepted. This now includes the larger juice bottles.

For more information, call Annette Kowalczyk at 860-267-2962. The next bottle drive is May 18. Future bottle drives and updates due to inclement weather are also listed online; go to [tmweb.troopmaster.com/Login/PickSite](http://tmweb.troopmaster.com/Login/PickSite), then choose CT and unit 57.

## Helping Hands Open Twice Monthly

Helping Hands is open the first and third Saturdays of each month, from 9-11 a.m. Helping Hands is a ministry of Cornerstone Bible Church and offers free clothing, household items, toys, books, etc., to anyone in need.

Donations to this ministry are accepted the Saturday Helping Hands is open, as well as the Thursday before Helping Hands is open, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Helping Hands is located at 27 Skinner St.

For more information, contact Judy Holmquist at 860-918-0784 or [judyhlm49@yahoo.com](mailto:judyhlm49@yahoo.com).

## KoC Scholarship and Grant

The Knights of Columbus Council 6190 has three \$1,000 scholarships available to students continuing their education at an accredited college/university.

Applicants must be members of St. John Paul II Parish, East Hampton and Moodus.

The council will also award two \$500 Helping Hands grants to members of St. John Paul II Parish attending Mercy or Xavier high schools.

Applications are available at guidance offices and the parish center office, or by emailing [stpatrick47@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpatrick47@sbcglobal.net). Applications are due April 29.

## Fabric, Yarn Donations Sought

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

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

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

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

## Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

**Art Exhibit:** March features the exhibit "Lifting Spirits by Making Art Together: A Young Adult Collaborative Art Installation," created by East Hampton Middle School students during the COVID-19 pandemic in the academic year 2021-22. The result is a collection of four vibrant murals that stand as a testament to the power of artistic expression in overcoming adversity. Students who participated in creating these paintings are invited to come in during library hours and sign their work.

**Coffee Time at the Library:** Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., starting March 18. Stop by and have a fresh cup.

**Fiber Arts:** Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring

your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery, etc. All are welcome.

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

**Yoga for Kids:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m. For children who are crawling, up to age 5. Cost is \$12 for each child/parent/caregiver pair. To register call or text the instructor Kathleen at 860-638-9097 or email [kmarshall0227@yahoo.com](mailto:kmarshall0227@yahoo.com)

**Thursday Night Pilates:** Thursdays at 6 p.m. Drop-in fee is \$12. To register, call 203-592-4448 or email [abstite@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abstite@sbcglobal.net).

**Shipbuilding on the Connecticut River:** An illustrated talk on "Ships for the Trade & the Rise of the Customs Port" will be held Saturday, March 23, at 2 p.m. Presented by Brenda Milkofsky, retired executive director of the Connecticut River Museum, this free program features a discussion on shipbuilding and trade on the Connecticut River, including Middle Haddam.



## Dick's Barber Shop

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

REG-9-23



## Police Recap

From March 4-10, officers responded to 11 medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes and seven alarms, and made 19 traffic stops, East Hampton Police said.

You need to be a bit more than just **LUCK-KEY** in today's real estate market... call me, I can help!



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2790 Main Street  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

**the Sugar Shack**

Maple Sugaring Open House

March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>  
10:00AM-3:00PM

Tours to see the **Maple Sugaring Process**

Visit our Maple Sweets Shop for Maple Syrup, Maple Baked Goods, Maple Mustard, Maple Nuts, Candies, Vinegar and more



Outdoor attire & boots suggested • Cash, Check or Venmo accepted

**Rick's Sugar Shack**  
69 Collie Brook Road, East Hampton, CT  
(860) 267-7117 OR (860) 267-7180

REG-15-24



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Lions Clubs International Foundation recently awarded Eastern Connecticut Lions District 23C a grant to help fund a St. Vincent de Paul replacement van. Lions from East Hampton and Portland helped with the project.

## Lions Grant Helps Fund Van

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has awarded Eastern Connecticut Lions District 23C a grant to help fund a St. Vincent de Paul replacement van. Matching funds from the Middlesex County Lions and the St. Vincent de Paul Center brought the total investment for the project to \$65,235.

The Lions involved in the project included those in Portland and East Hampton, as well as Cromwell, Durham, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Middlefield, Middletown and Old Saybrook.

The van's primary use is for transporting and delivering food and household items to needy individuals throughout Middlesex County. The new van will, on a monthly basis, impact the lives of 3,000 people per month.

The engine recently died on the center's 20 year-old van, which was deemed unworthy to replace. The center had no choice but to resort to using personal volunteers' vehicles with trailers to obtain the needed food. According to the hunger relief organization Feeding America, 15,900 residents of Middlesex County are food insecure, including 2,880 children.

"We know that where there is a need, there is

a Lion, and the foundation is committed to empowering Lions to meet the needs in their local communities," says Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, international chairperson for LCIF's US\$300 million capital campaign, Campaign 100.

"Through LCIF and the support from Lions clubs in Middlesex County, St. Vincent de Paul of Middletown will be able to pick up and deliver groceries to shut-ins, to the Amazing Grace Food pantry, and to provide for the weekend school backpack program in nine elementary schools," said grant administrator, Past District Governor Mary Krogh of the East Hampton Lions Club.

"The first run of the van was to pick up donated furniture for a family in the housing transition program."

One of the eight major Lions International initiatives is Hunger. Once the Middlesex County Lions heard of the need, they were committed to financially support the van project, a necessary component in the matching grant criteria.

For more information or to get involved in the Eastern Connecticut Lions Clubs in your area, contact District Governor Teri Schlosser at 860-267-6150 or email wreserve@ectlions.org.

## Fish Frydays Held Weekly

The Knights of Columbus, St John Paul II Council 6190 is offering a variety of fish dinners on Fridays during Lent. The next dinner will be tonight, March 15.

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

Entertainment on March 15 will be John Moore.

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



John Moore

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

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

**DIY Days: Floam:** Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., for grades K-8. Activities are available while supplies last. No registration required.

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

**Teen Programs: Nintendo Switch Game Play:** Saturday, March 16, 2-3:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Pull up a beanless bag chair in the library community room for a big-screen Nin-

tendo Switch hang-out. All skill levels welcome.

**Teen Advisory Board:** Tuesday, March 19, 5:30 p.m. Grades 6-12 are invited to come have a say in programming, collection development, and more. The TAB group meets monthly and always welcomes new members.

**Bored? Games!:** Wednesday, March 20, 1-3 p.m. Drop in to the Library Community Room to enjoy a variety of board games. There will be snacks and prizes

**Adult Programs: Book Club:** Tuesday, Mar. 19, 6:30 p.m. Come together to read and discuss this month's selection, *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the circulation desk.

**LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham:** Saturday, March 23, 10:15 a.m. Meacham will lead an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the Community Room. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

**Seed Start and Swap:** Saturday, March 23, 1 p.m. All are invited for seed-starting and gardening conversation. There will be seeds to choose from and light instruction. There will be dirt involved so dress accordingly. Extra seeds welcome for seed-swapping.

**Tech Help with Sam & Nicole:** Thursday, March 28, 2-4 p.m. Drop by the library to have your technology questions answered. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

## Library Planning for the Future

The East Hampton Public Library, located at 105 Main St., reminds residents that there is still time to participate in its Strategic Planning process and help to shape the future of the library. All are invited on Tuesday, March 26, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the library's Community Room for the final Community Conversation and let library staff know what initiatives you would like to see from the library in the coming years.

No registration is required; all are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Can't make it to the Community Conversation? Take the survey instead! The survey is available until March 31, digitally on the library's website ([www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org](http://www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org)) or as a paper version at the library, Town Hall, and Senior Center.

## 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](http://cc-eh.org) or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

## Fundraiser for Community Cares

Po's Rice and Spice, located at 97 Main St., will host a fundraiser to support East Hampton Community Cares on Wednesday, March 27, from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Po's will donate 15% of the day's sales including meals in the restaurant, take-out, delivery and gift cards to this program.

East Hampton Community Cares is sponsored by the East Hampton Commission on Aging to provide background-checked volunteers

from the East Hampton community to assist older (70+) or disabled adults including veterans.

This program started in 2023. This fundraiser is an effort to expand the program and make more people aware of what is offered for older adults and to raise awareness of the need for volunteers and of the free services offered by East Hampton Community Cares.

## Rotary Club Scholarship

East Hampton Rotary Club Scholarship applications are available to high school seniors who reside in either East Hampton or Marlborough.

All students must be graduating/have graduated from a secondary school accredited by the State of Connecticut and use the scholarship for expenses at an accredited school. The school may be a 4- or 5-year college or university, a

community college, a trade school or a commercial school. There are multiple single- and multi-year scholarships available.

Applications are due by April 8, and are available online at [tinyurl.com/EHRotaryScholarship2024](http://tinyurl.com/EHRotaryScholarship2024), or through the guidance department of the East Hampton, RHAM, Mercy, Xavier and Vinal high schools.

## Music for a Sunday Afternoon

Members of the New England Chamber Choir will present "Music for a Sunday Afternoon" on Sunday, April 7, at 4 p.m., at Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam.

The concert feature works by Bach, Haydn, Purcell and Schubert to showcase the church's Appleton organ which dates back to 1827. It is one of the oldest surviving instruments in the country, made by the Boston organ maker

Thomas Appleton.

Soloists from the choir will also sing a few familiar tunes by Richard Rodgers and George Gershwin, two "pops" composers.

A free-will offering will be accepted at the concert. Refreshments will follow in the handicapped-accessible lower hall. The church is located at 52 Middle Haddam Rd. in Middle Haddam.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

**Weekly Activities: Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m.; **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 at 1 p.m. -- next session runs March 6-May 15, and cost is \$20; **Tai Chi:** Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m. -- next session runs March 7-May 9; **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.

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

**Mighty Magnificent Men's Group (MMM):** Meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 10:30 a.m. This is an opportunity to meet others and share resources.

**Blood Pressure Screenings:** Monday, March 18, at 12:30 p.m. The screenings are free.

**Line Dancing by Video:** Tuesday, March 19, 10 a.m.

**Meditations and Reflections:** Wednesday, March 20, 10:45 a.m. Practice meditation and

share reflections on your experience.

**The Great British Bakeoff Cooking Demonstration:** Thursday, March 21, 1 p.m. Mary Lee Brody returns with recipes for One-Bowl Brownies, Mini Oreo Cheesecakes and Classic Chocolate Cake. Samples will be provided. A \$3 donation is requested. Only a few spots are left.

**AARP Safe Driving Class:** Friday, March 22, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 or \$20 for AARP members. Exact cash or checks made out to AARP.

**Art With Karen:** Sunday, March 24, 2 p.m., at the senior center. Create a simple piece of art. There is a \$5 fee for materials.

**Special Volunteer Appreciation Celebration:** Wednesday, April 10, 1-3 p.m. All senior center volunteers are welcome to attend; call the senior center to register.

**Trips: Shopping and Lunch in Old Saybrook:** Wednesday, April 17, 11 a.m. Head to the Estuary Thrift Shop and have lunch on your own at The Little Pub. Cost is a \$4 donation for transportation.

**April Lunch for Seniors at Howell Cheney Technical High School:** Thursday, April 4, leaving the center at 10:30 a.m. Have lunch prepared by the school's culinary students. Bus transportation is a \$4 donation; pay for your lunch at the school.

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

## Yoga with Amie Fundraiser

The Friends of the East Hampton Public Library will host a Yoga Class taught by Amie Meacham at Creative Dance Center on Friday, March 22, from 7-8 p.m., as a fundraiser for the library.

Tickets are \$20 per person and prior registration is required. For more information, visit the Events page on the library website, [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org), or email [friendsofephpl@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofephpl@gmail.com).



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### Upcoming Senior Trips

East Hampton Senior Center, located at 105 Main St., is offering a pair of coach bus trips for seniors in the coming months. To register or for more information, stop by the center or call 860-267-4426. Payment for trips is due at signing.

**Daffodil Days with Tea at Blithewold:** Wednesday, May 1. Located in Bristol, R.I., overlooking Narragansett Bay, Blithewold is a 33-acre garden estate. Its famous daffodil display features over 50,000 daffodils.

The visit will include a Tea Luncheon on the heated porch or patios with scones, finger sandwiches, mini quiches, desserts and tea; and a guided tour of the garden and 45-room mansion featuring vintage heirlooms.

Cost is \$139/person based on 35 to 50 participants. Depart at 9 a.m. from the senior center and return at 9 p.m.

### 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.

**Lancaster, Pa., and Performance of Daniel:** July 17-19. Features a visit to the Old Windmill Farm, Quilt Shop, Dinner in an Amish Home, National Constitution Center and the Liberty Bell.

The trip will include two nights at Comfort Suites in Lancaster, Pa. The first night will feature dinner at a real Amish home. On Day 2, visit the Old Windmill Farm, an authentic 72-acre working Amish Farm owned by the Lapp Family. Visit the Lil' Country Store & Miniature Horse Farm, a quilt shop, Kitchen Kettle Village, with lunch on your own. Then, settle in reserved seats at the Sight & Sound Theater for a performance of *Daniel*, a story of exile, faith and trust. Have dinner at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord.

On Day 3, visit Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park, visit the National Constitution Center featuring a multi-media "Freedom Rising" exhibit, and walk through Philly's historic district to the Liberty Bell.

Cost is \$645 double occupancy or \$779 for a single, based on 40 participants. Price includes two nights' hotel, two breakfasts, two dinners, sightseeing and admissions, tour escort, driver and tour director gratuity.

### Upcoming Budget Meetings

The East Hampton Board of Finance will be holding several budget meetings over the next week.

**Board of Finance Public Hearing/Special Meeting:** Monday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers #107 at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, and via Zoom. The town and Board of Education will present an overview of their budgets. The board will also gather input from the public and other boards.

**Budget Workshops** will be held at the Town Hall and via Zoom on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 19, 4 p.m.: General Government, Regulatory, Health & Human Services and Culture & Recreation;

Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.: Board of Education.

Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.: Public Safety and Public Works.

### Online Farmers Market

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

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

### Winter Harvest Farmers Market

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

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Happy Birthday!... Andover Seniors Young at Heart celebrated March birthdays with cake and ice cream at the meeting on March 6. Pictured are Ylo Anson, Betty Davis, Barbara Steele and Perry Lindley. Photo by Mary Duval.

### Adult Show & Tell

On Tuesday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m., Andover Public Library will present an evening of Show & Tell for Adults.

For this program, the library invites adults to bring to the library something they treasure. It could be a collection of vintage thimbles, travel posters, comic books, pottery, Steiff teddy bears, tea cups, baseball cards...

whatever you want to show off. Be prepared to tell us a little bit about your collection. Don't have a collection of stuff to share, but want to tell us about your experiences meeting Elvis or the Beatles? Stories are also welcome.

The library is located at 355 Route 6. For more information, call 860-742-7428.

### 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](mailto:andoverctchurch@gmail.com) or visit [www.andoverctchurch.org](http://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.  
**Maunder Thursday Service:** Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m.

**Free Easter Family Portrait:** Sunday, March 31, 10 a.m. All are invited to the Easter morning service, and to have their picture taken before or after the service.

### 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. There is shopping on Tuesdays, Foodshare rides bi-monthly on Wednesdays, Food Pantry Mondays and Wednesdays, and lunches bi-monthly on Fridays. For all Young at Heart events, including movies, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057, and call Town Clerk Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2 for all trip information. For all senior events and information, visit the senior page of the town website, [andoverct.org](http://andoverct.org).

Note: Senior transportation calls are now only heard from 9 a.m.-noon, by calling Palazzi. 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.

**Shopping Dates:** Willimantic: 3/26; Manchester: 3/19. Call Palazzi for transportation.

**Senior Luncheon:** Will be held at the Town Hall community room Wednesday, March 27 (note the change of date), with entertainment by the RHAM band. No walk-ins accepted. Call Palazzi for transportation. Future lunches will be held April 5 and 19; call Palazzi for reservations by the previous Wednesday.

**Upcoming Trips:** Friday, March 29, to Clinton Outlets with lunch at Log Cabin; Thursday, April 4, Empty Bowls at RHAM; Friday, April 19, *Legally Blonde* at Little Theater of Manchester. Call Carol Lee for more information.

**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. Call Palazzi for a ride.

**Transportation Available:** Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums, board meetings and medical appointments are available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans, disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you.

### Easter Plant and Bake Sale

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Easter Plant Sale and Bake Sale from Wednesday, March 27, through Easter Sunday, March 31, at the firehouse on School Road.

Hours are: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Wednesday-Saturday, and 10 a.m.-noon on Sunday.

There will be many plants to choose from including lilies, tulips, azaleas, mums, hyacinths, hydrangeas, daffodils, spring baskets, pansies and more, as well as treats.

### Commission, Committee Members Needed

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

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

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### Scholarship Opportunity Announced

The East Hartford Garden Club has announced the availability of one \$1,000 scholarship to any full- or part-time student who is a resident of Andover, Bolton, Bloomfield, Coventry, East Hartford, East Windsor, Glastonbury, Manchester, Middletown, Vernon, Storrs or Windsor Locks.

ticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, environmental concerns, botany and other allied subjects.

Applications with the submittal instructions are available at the guidance department of the attending school. All completed applications must be received by April 1 to be considered.

The student must plan on majoring in hor-

### 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](http://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](http://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.

### 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 fundraiser for the senior lunch 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](mailto:nanasworld@comcast.net). All money received goes to support the senior program.

### St. Patrick's Pot Luck Dinner

All are invited to a St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck Dinner on Friday, March 15, at 6 p.m., at Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6. Bring a favorite dish to share.

Leave a message at 860-742-7696 with any questions.

### Veterans Meeting Canceled

The Andover Veterans meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 16, has been canceled. Watch for more information on a future meeting.



**Yeomans' Work...** Andover historian Scott Yeomans showed photos of animals, birds, and still lives to Andover seniors on March 1. This is a photo of oyster catchers seen flying together. There were 35 seniors enjoying a hot meal and Yeomans' presentation.

### Andover Community Garden

The Andover Community Garden Committee (ACGC) is seeking volunteers to participate in planting, weeding, watering and assisting in upcoming projects. This is open to all ages, abilities and genders, residents and families.

Upcoming projects include: roof replacement on the garden shed, gutters and water collection system, and border fence installation (pending funding).

The ACGC said it would like to engage all town residents in gardening and other sustainable practices, provide opportunities for residents to share their knowledge with others, and help support residents in need. With potential collaboration with other community organizations, the ACGC said it hopes to provide fresh produce to Andover Food Pantry on a weekly basis. The committee said it intends to connect with young people in town.

The committee currently offers six plots that

can be assigned to interested gardeners. However, the potential for "sharing" a spot with your family and/or group expands the number of people directly involved with the program. For example, last year Town Hall employees requested a plot for their herbs and the garden club at Andover Elementary School requested some garden space for their use.

In the past, participation in the committee's weekly gardening social hour without registering for a plot was highly encouraged. Some residents wanted to be involved with the group by helping with the gardening chores but did not want the responsibility of maintaining their own gardens. The ACGC said it hopes to continue this involvement for the upcoming year. Also, this year's goal of continuing to share fresh, organically grown vegetables with Andover's Food Pantry further supports the committee's community outreach efforts.

### Learn CPR

All are invited to learn CPR Monday, March 18, from 7-9 p.m., at the Andover Volunteer Fire Department.

Classes include use of training materials, CPR/AED/Choking for adults/child/infant, and a two-year certification from the American Heart Association.

Cost is \$20 and registration is required; to do so, call Deputy Chief Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074.

### Scholarship Available for Andover Students

Andover Elementary School is taking applications for the Andover Education Association and the Andover PTA Annual Scholarship. The scholarship is being offered to any Andover student.

Applications may be obtained from the RHAM High School guidance department or by contacting Andover Elementary School at 860-742-7339.

Application deadlines are May 3.

### 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.



## Andover Residents: Have Your Say!

The Andover Planning & Zoning Commission is in the process of updating the Town's 10-year Plan of Conservation & Development. Your thoughtful responses to our survey will greatly assist the Commission in determining priorities over the next decade. Please take a few moments and let your voice be heard!

**Scan the QR code to access the Survey!**

or go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/AndoverPoCD](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AndoverPoCD)  
(Hard copies also available at Town Hall)

REG-8-24

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Chicken Marsala Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce

Balkan Meatballs Beef meatballs sautéed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

Stuffed Pork Chop

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Stuffed Sole

Crab meat stuffing served over spinach

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# Andover Native Reports on National Trial

By Michael Sinkewicz

After two full days of jury deliberations, something finally seemed different inside Stamford Superior Court on March 1.

Morgan Cunningham, an Andover native assigned to cover the trial for WTIC-AM 1080, noticed an increased law enforcement presence that wasn't there before, including an influx of Stamford police officers and numerous court marshals — which meant one thing: a verdict was about to be read.

"That struck me as a red flag," he recalled. Cunningham — who is a morning news anchor, editor and weekend talk show host at WTIC — immediately alerted his station: "It's happening."

Later that day, Michelle Troconis was found guilty of conspiring to murder Jennifer Dulos, and was convicted of five other charges that concluded she tampered with evidence and hindered the prosecution.

Cunningham covered the trial for not just his outlet — which he said was the only radio station on site — and for its sister stations in New York City: WCBS-AM 880, WINS-AM 1010 and WINS-FM 92.3.

Since Dulos' mysterious disappearance in May 2019, Cunningham has pursued the story — one that drew both local and national media interest — as the country anxiously awaited its conclusion. Following the culmination of the trial earlier this month, he recapped his experience inside the courthouse with the *Rivereast*, offering a unique perspective on the events that unfolded.

"At one point since it's crowded, I almost brushed elbows with Michelle Troconis — not intentionally, but it came within inches," Cunningham said.

### 'Make it Count'

For the duration of the trial, which began in January, Cunningham was a "one-man army," trekking from the parking garage, to the lobby, to the fourth floor. Despite his consistent workout, he joked that he still didn't lost any weight during those seven weeks.

Essentially, his job was to provide a "play-by-

play" for an audience that relied solely on his voice. After calling the station or hopping on a Zoom link, Cunningham searched for the precise combination of words that would somehow add color to the actions and emotions he just witnessed.

"You have to let your instincts take over," he explained.

Cunningham asserted that attending the trial and either reporting on site or recapping events he physically observed was a worthwhile endeavor. As the case gained more attention both locally and across the globe, it became an essential story to his listeners that he felt required careful scrutiny and thorough journalism.

"It was one of the most consequential moments in news," he said. "Our job is to be there."

There are practical benefits of viewing critical developments in-person, and being in the general vicinity as they unfold. Cunningham's approach: "make it count."

While other correspondents might've relied upon secondhand accounts, he was able to immerse himself in the trial, which "brings impact and depth to the reporting."

"It really makes a difference for the audience," he said.

For example, sources were naturally more accessible inside the courthouse. Cunningham conveyed that he found it somewhat surprising how people involved with the case would be walking the halls or waiting in a nearby conference room during breaks.

"Nobody was too far away," Cunningham recalled. "You knew who to approach and who to not approach."

At one point leading up to the verdict, he bumped into Troconis' defense attorney, Jon Schoenhorn, and was able to score a one-on-one interview.

That result, Cunningham emphasized, wouldn't have been possible if he wasn't hanging around the courthouse.

"I'm so glad my company believed in this approach," he expressed, adding that his WTIC news team played a crucial role with the behind-the-scenes efforts.

Earlier this winter, Cunningham notified the New York stations that he would be attending

the trial, and rather than send their own reporter, they opted to tap into the resources of their sister station. He would provide them updates on major developments or hop on air for an interview breaking down the overall status of the proceedings.

Those stations "believed in me with handling a story of that magnitude," he said. "I'm very proud they put that trust in me."

### Observations From the Courtroom

Troconis was accused of conspiring to cover up the murder of Jennifer Dulos, a 50-year-old mother who went missing in 2019; her body was never found. At the trial, prosecutors alleged that Dulos' estranged husband, Fotis Dulos — who killed himself in January 2020 after being charged with his wife's murder — had attacked her in her New Canaan home before driving away with her body.

At the time, Troconis was in a relationship with Fotis Dulos and was also living with her daughter at his property in Farmington.

Both Dulos and Troconis maintained their innocence. A variety of evidence was presented at trial, and Troconis had taken a trip with Fotis Dulos to Hartford, where he disposed of multiple garbage bags, which was caught on surveillance cameras.

According to police, there were zip ties and additional items — some containing Jennifer Dulos' DNA. Other items had blood stains on them, while others had Fotis Dulos' DNA on them, and one of the bags had Troconis' DNA on it — information provided by a forensic examiner during the trial.

"It's real life," Cunningham said in regard to sitting in the courtroom and watching the case unfold. He added that many people have seen trials depicted on TV shows or in movies, but reality is much different. "You can't be prepared for that type of thing."

He reached out to his legal contacts to review terminology and legalese as the trial approached: "what do I need to know?"

One of his main questions was, "How would it end?" While nobody knew the outcome of the trial, he could predict the different scenarios and the subsequent results. His contacts advised him that a verdict would be announced once additional law enforcement agents entered the courthouse.

As that critical moment arrived, Cunningham recalled a palpable sense of "anticipation and tension." He described the moment as

"awkward."

His job was to observe, and what he saw was difficult to find relatable: "How can I empathize with any of these people?"

Cunningham explained that Troconis was in tears, and members of prosecution's side were emotional and hugging; they had all gone through something he had never experienced.

"This is a real-life moment that's impacting people," he conveyed. "I really don't know how they feel."

Ultimately, his job — no matter what — was to remain neutral, and it didn't involve taking a stance on the verdict or exhibiting any outward excitement or disappointment. He told himself to stay calm.

"I'm not apart of the story," he expressed. "Don't inject yourself into the story."

Along with awkwardness, Cunningham said the other dominant feeling was stress. Typically, broadcast news is tightly woven to time; everything that goes on air is strategically mapped out, and most events have a fixed duration. Trials, however, only have loose estimates, and some aspects are entirely unknown — including the deliberation period.

"It adds a different level of stress," he said. "You have to be alert and ready for anything."

### Nationwide Attention

Along with local institutions such as the Hartford Courant, numerous national outlets covered the verdict, including the New York Times, CBS News, ABC News, NBC News, and CNN.

While Cunningham and his news station have covered trials before — some even gaining significant attention — the Troconis trial seemed unique.

"It did surprise me to an extent," he said, referring to the national investment.

The case spanned multiple jurisdictions across Connecticut, which he said was "unusual," and led to an interesting legal narrative. And in 2019, Jennifer Dulos was simply missing, but of course, "it turned out to be so much more."

"You've got to understand that when it started, it was a different type of story that evolved over time," Cunningham said.

Perhaps, he theorized, viewers were waiting for a dramatic moment.

"People were expecting some sort of a bombshell to come out," he explained, adding that it could've come in the form of an unforeseen revelation. "None of that happened."

### Dean's List

Andover residents Emily Metcalf and Cameron Rhodes made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island.

### Enrolled at Eastern

David Lozada of Andover is among the students newly enrolled at Eastern Connecticut State University this spring 2024 semester.

Lozada is a sophomore majoring in exploration — undecided.

### 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 town-clerk@andoverct.org.

### Town-Wide Tag Sale Coming

The Andover annual Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, May 19. Proceeds benefit the Andover Senior Luncheon Program.

Residents who would like to be included and have their address listed on the tag sale map should send a check for \$10 payable to Town of Andover and mail it or bring it to: Town Clerk, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232. Include a list of items that you will have for sale so it can be included on the map.

Send information and payment so that it is received by May 3.

### Bingo & Baskets

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6 in Andover, will hold a Bingo & Baskets night Friday, March 22, 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 with questions.

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

**IDENTIFY THE SIGNS**

Early detection can improve treatment and quality of life. For more information visit [IdentifyTheSigns.org](http://IdentifyTheSigns.org).

### Open Call to Apply for Grant Funds

Andover's Greater Together Community Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has released its open call for 2023 project proposals. Up to \$10,000 will be awarded in grant funds to one or more proposals.

All projects must benefit the residents of Andover. For further details on project guidelines and how to apply, visit [hfpg.org/Andovercf](http://hfpg.org/Andovercf). Project applications or grant proposals will be accepted until March 15.

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### Alumni Benefit Event

There will be an Alumni Benefit Event for RHAM Scholarships and Project Graduation Saturday, May 11, at 6 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron – featuring music by the Rockin’ HeartBeats.

This event is hosted by RHAM Alumni with the proceeds to provide scholarships to RHAM seniors and to benefit RHAM Project Graduation.

Tickets are \$20 per person (early bird price) until March 1; after that, tickets are \$25. Blackledge Country Club will serve flatbreads, pastas and snacks, and a cash bar also will also be available.

available. There will be a raffle of many great items.

A limited number of tickets will be sold, all in advance, and none will be available at the door. Tickets can be purchased by cash or check only. Checks should be made out to RHAM Alumni Benefit.

Raffle prizes are always welcome. Further information and tickets are available from committee members Bob at 860-558-5823 or 860-228-3388, Lynn at 860-416-1575, or John at 860-295-8484.

### First Steps in Music

AHM Youth and Family Services will hold a First Steps in Music Class for children Birth-5 and Adults, at the AHM building, 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron, on Wednesdays starting March 27.

Participants can choose from 9:30-10:15 a.m. for children ages 2-5, or from 10:30-11:15 a.m. for children ages Birth-2.

This interactive program is a developmentally appropriate and researched early childhood

music program taught by music teacher Mallory Kokus with singing, movement and rhythm activities and instruments. Cost is \$125/family for the eight-week session.

More information is at ahmyouth.org/programs-services/family-resource-center. To register, visit ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home. Contact Becky Murray at 860-228-0871 or beckym@ahmyouth.org with any questions.

### Empty Bowls Dinner Event

Students and staff are prepping for their third Empty Bowls dinner event to be held Thursday, April 4, from 6-8 p.m., in the RHAM High School cafeteria.

At the last Empty Bowls dinner, in 2018, over 400 ceramic bowls were made and due to overwhelming support from the community, organizers sold out of tickets, ran out of bowls and almost completely ran out of food, raising over \$7,000 for local food banks. For this year’s dinner event, organizers exceeded its goal of making 400 bowls and hope to match the turn out from 2018. Tickets are on sale now, and all proceeds will benefit the Hebron Interfaith Human Services Food Bank, Marlborough Food Bank and Andover Congregational Church Food

Pantry. At the dinner, guests are invited to choose a handmade ceramic bowl to use for a simple meal of soup and bread and to take home as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world. In addition, there will be student ensemble and solo performances from RHAM’s select choir, for diners’ entertainment.

Dinner tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and children and can be ordered at www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/Empty-Bowls-Dinner/MeSL. Additional monetary and food donations will also be accepted and T-shirts with the student-designed logo will be sold. Follow the link to order dinner tickets, T-shirts and make donations.

### AHM College Scholarships

AHM Youth & Family Services is accepting scholarship applications from Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough students who are planning to attend college in the fall. Each of the scholarships is needs-based. Applications are at ahmyouth.org/college-scholarship-application. Deadline to apply is May 15.

**Erin Garvie Memorial Scholarship:** This scholarship was created in memory of Erin Garvie, who passed away in 1998, during her senior year at RHAM High School. She was a star soccer player and president of the student council. This scholarship was created by the Garvie family and friends. Over the years, this college scholarship has been awarded to RHAM High School students who participate in high school athletics.

**Paige Houston Memorial Scholarship:** This scholarship was created in memory of Paige

Houston, who was entering her senior year as an honors student at RHAM High School in 2013 when she passed away. Paige was active in cheerleading with the RHAM Youth Football and Cheerleading League and had planned on pursuing a career in early education. This scholarship was created by the Houston family and friends. Each year a college scholarship is awarded to a RHAM High School graduate.

**William Stelzner Memorial Scholarship:** This scholarship was created in memory of William “Bill” Stelzner, who passed away in 2016. Stelzner was known for his humanitarian work locally, regionally, and nationwide. This scholarship was created by the Stelzner family and friends. Each year a college scholarship is awarded to a RHAM High School graduate who plans to attend a two-year college and has volunteered in the community.

### QPR & Narcan Training

AHM Youth and Family Services is hosting a QPR and Narcan training session Monday, April 1.

Training will include: The Good Samaritan Law, support information and resources, and warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond. Participants will receive a QPR (Question, Persuade, Respond) training booklet and a two-dose supply of Narcan.

There is no charge for this training. Registrants must be 18+. Visit ahmyouth.org for more information and to register.

### Tap Into Nature

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Hebron and AHM Youth and Family Services partner each year, to host Tap Into Nature. This year’s free event will take place Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, during Hebron’s Maple Festival. Tap Into Nature is located both indoors and outdoors at AHM, located at 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron.

Educational activities include: Meigs Point Nature Center, Hebron Pollinator Pathway, Native American Storytelling, Birds of Prey, Animal Tracks & Signs, a Maple Syrup Demo, and more.

All ages are welcome. Donations will be accepted at the door to help support AHM’s programs and services.

### AHM Spring Clean-Up Walk

AHM Youth & Family Services, in partnership with the Hebron Green Committee, will be at the Earth Day Clean-up on Saturday, April 20. AHM invites you to test your knowledge on what kind of litter will be found on the sides of town roads and in town parks, and also how much you know about the harm this litter can do to the environment.

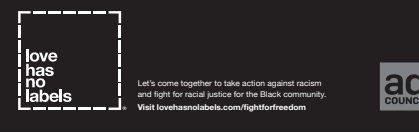
All are invited to take a 10-question quiz at tinyurl.com/bc6w6z8f that will be accepting submissions until Friday, April 19, at 2 p.m. Everyone who completes the quiz has a chance to win a gift card to a local restaurant.

More information will be coming soon. Direct questions about the survey to AHM Prevention Coordinator Jenn Boehler at jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

## On it.

Ending racial injustice requires all of us to work together and take real action. What can you do to help?

- Educate yourself about the history of American racism, privilege and what it means to be anti-racist.
- Commit to actions that challenge injustice and make everyone feel like they belong, such as challenging biased or racist language when you hear it.
- Vote in national and local elections to ensure your elected officials share your vision of public safety.
- Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.



**Basketball Star...** RHAM High School junior Maddy Evans was honored as a CCC East All-Conference basketball recipient at the University of Hartford on Feb. 20.

### Project Graduation Meetings

AHM Youth & Family Services coordinates Project Graduation for RHAM High School and said it would like parents of the junior and senior class to attend upcoming meetings to learn what is planned and to help with details.

Meetings will be held Wednesdays, April 3 and May 1, from 6:30-7:15 p.m., via Zoom.

Zoom meeting information is located on the AHM Project Graduation webpage, www.ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/project-graduation.

Direct questions to Jennifer Boehler, AHM Project Graduation coordinator, at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional

# Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the Rivereast Standouts of the Week for the week of March 4-10:

**Emma Kelly – East Hampton High School (Ice Hockey):** Kelly helped her ice hockey co-op – which features players from East Hampton, Mercy, and Northwest Catholic – to a 7-0 win over Ridgefield in the opening round of the state tournament. Kelly, a junior at EHHS, is also a cross-country runner for the Bellringers during the fall season.

**Tyler Wydo – Portland High School (Basketball):** Wydo made the All-Shoreline Conference (SLC) second team after scoring 17.4 points per game during the 2023-2024 season. Wydo, a senior captain, also shot a blistering 82% from the foul line and added five rebounds and 1.5 steals per game. In Wydo’s final game at PHS, Wydo dropped a game-high 23 points as the Highlanders beat Westbrook 57-42 on Feb. 9.

**Ethan Lovetere – Bacon Academy (Ice Hockey):** Lovetere was named all-conference after starring for the Eastern Connecticut Eagles co-op ice hockey team this winter. Lovetere, a junior at Bacon Academy, now turns his attention to lacrosse where he was a first-team All-Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) selection as a sophomore last spring.

**Brady Hulland – RHAM High School (Basketball):** Hulland capped his high school career by scoring 53 points in two state tournament games. The prolific senior first scored a game-high 28 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter as the No. 17 Raptors erased a deficit to eliminate No. 16 seed Hamden (52-40) in the opening round of the Division II tournament. Hulland then netted 25 points, with 13 coming over the final eight minutes as RHAM again ral-



**Emma Kelly, a junior from East Hampton High School, recently wrapped up for junior season on the ice playing for the Mercy co-op.**

lied but fell short against top-seed Manchester, losing 56-54 in the second round.

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

### 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.



# 'Frustrated' Players Make Push for Turf

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester officials are facing renewed calls for turf fields at Bacon Academy — the district's high school — as student athletes and coaches continue to press for overdue improvements.

"I'm frustrated," Jacob Cerniglia, a junior at Bacon and a captain on the school's varsity football team, told the *Rivereast*.

Last fall, Cerniglia — who plays on both the team's offensive and defensive lines — said he broke his arm while practicing on the school's softball field, where the squad is often situated.

He was tackled in the mud, which he described as a "dangerous" field condition for athletes to play in.

"Having turf would make a difference," Cerniglia conveyed, adding that he missed half his season due to the injury. "It hurts" to play on the current fields, he asserted.

Cerniglia's story wasn't unique. Over the past week, numerous athletes, coaches, parents and residents spoke during multiple local board meetings advocating for swift action at the athletic complex.

Even some out-of-town observers joined the dialog, including Joshua Bessette — the boy's varsity soccer coach in Waterford, who con-

veyed that the field conditions "weren't a good look for the school."

"I always dread coming to Bacon to play," he said during a Board of Education (BOE) meeting on Tuesday, adding that the main field — used for soccer, football and lacrosse — mainly consisted of "dirt" and "crabgrass."

During the meeting, though, the BOE took the most decisive action yet to advance potential renovations at the athletic complex. The school board unanimously agreed to spend \$25,000 to have FieldTurf, a division of Tarkett — an international company — who had previously examined the facility, render an itemized list of the possible upgrades at the complex that would include assessments of the its existing assets, such as the drainage systems and draft documentation related to permitting.

The funding, which was transferred in the school district's current operational budget from the electricity line item to professional and technical services to cover the expense, represents a significant step in soliciting updated information and pricing that could ultimately be presented to the public and spawn a townwide referendum for final approval.

Last month, the BOE received a presentation from FieldTurf that broadly outlined the installation of multiple turf surfaces, new LED lights, resurfacing the tennis courts, upgrading the softball field and new ADA-compliant pathways at the Bacon complex.

The rough price-tag: \$7.5 million. But residents will likely not officially weigh-in on the topic — at least at the ballot box — in the immediate future.

Democrat Chris Rivers, the BOE's vice-chair and chairman of its facilities subcommittee, stated during the recent meeting that "this is going to be a lengthy process" and there was "due diligence that has to happen."

In a follow-up interview afterwards, Rivers said the first step is fully identifying the problem. While the board received an overview of a potentially massive overhaul, there were details that still need to be fleshed out.

"I don't have enough information as a Board of Education member to even say if that's a vision that we ultimately want to build towards for that price tag," he said, adding that completing the overall endeavor in separate phases rather than one lump sum may be a more logical financial choice. "In my mind, it's a little unfair to try and ask the town for \$7.5 million to build the field of dreams even though I'd really like to."

To be clear, Rivers emphasized that upgrades to the complex — which has remained largely the same since the school was constructed over 30 years ago — were "long overdue."

"Myself, and most of the people I speak to, see we need to do something with those fields," he said.

Skip Starks, the Bacon variety boys' soccer coach, has attended almost every board meeting over the past month to push officials to move forward with the upgrades.

"This is the farthest we've gotten with it," he said following the school board's action this week, adding that "nobody is going to write a \$7.5 million check because the soccer coach said we have a crappy field."

But, Starks explained, the community needs to keep highlighting the complex's issues in front of the town's boards and reiterate the plea for funding.

"We can only present it and show the interest and hope that it pushes through the channels quickly," he said. "We have to let them know it's important to us."

Rivers said major town projects typically fall under the purview of the Board of Selectmen (BOS). The school board, he said, could've asked the town to earmark the funding for the field assessment, but the district had the ability to absorb the cost.

"If it's something to benefit the schools and their function, in my position, I'm comfortable with saying we can find [the funding]," he said, adding that there were some savings from within the current school budget that could comfortably be tapped into. "We have a little more wiggle room than the town typically does."

Moving forward, the scope of the potential project will likely be overseen by the BOS.

"What we're doing on the Board of Education is saying yes, this is a problem; yes this is a priority; let's get a little more information and then send that over to the Board of Selectmen in the hope that they can pick it up."

Last month, the BOS established a new five-member ad-hoc Recreation Needs and Coordination Committee charged with evaluating town and school recreation assets. At the top of its list of priorities is the feasibility of a new turf field in the community, according to First Selectman Bernie Dennler III.

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

This week, the BOS was expected to hold interviews for the new committee, with members potentially being appointed this month.

During the BOS's latest meeting on March 7, Dennler said the field at Bacon is a "serious problem."

"Something has to change at the Bacon field," he said. "I feel very strongly about that. I don't know myself what the answer is."

It's unlikely that any significant funding request would be included in the 2024-25 budget proposal, or be put out to referendum in the upcoming months.

During FieldTurf's initial presentation in front of the school board, Chris Hulk, director of design and construction at FieldTurf, conveyed that the price would hold through the calendar year, but warned that if the project was delayed, he'd expect a 3-5% escalation cost. Over the past three years, Hulk asserted that costs have jumped anywhere from 10-20% due to inflationary pressures, which would equate to a \$750,000-\$1.5 million increase with this proposal — based on the quoted numbers.

If the project was approved at referendum at the beginning of June, Hulk said, then at least one field — most likely the main "stadium" location — could be completed by the beginning of September, in time for the fall sports season.

Dennler said that he reached out to the town's bond counsel, who advised against a new project while the town is still working through the senior center bond project and new fire apparatus. In addition, Dennler said that issues within the town's finance department, coupled with an overdue financial audit report, would make taking on another large project difficult.

"We may not be the most appealing candidate for bonding at the moment."

Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III has also suggested alternative funding avenues that could include leasing the fields or possible state reimbursement — an application he said was submitted after being contacted by state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48).

Along with injury concerns — including sprained ankles anecdotes relayed by other student athletes at meeting — there is a morale issue. Both the high school's lacrosse and football programs have rented space at a facility in Montville to allow early-season practices to take place on schedule. And over the past decade, numerous games, state tournament contests or "senior night" events have been relocated to alternative sites in neighboring towns.

"These kids work their rear ends off their whole lives and at the culmination of their careers, we're shipping them off to other places because we're embarrassed and can't use our facility," Starks said. "That's tough."

## 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; Saturday morning, 10 a.m.

There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken Alter's Facebook page, on "Ask the Rabbi - Bible Portion."

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

## DTC to Celebrate Two

On the evening of Friday, March 15, the Colchester DTC will honor two people for their service to Colchester: Goldie Liverant and Mary Tomasi.

The celebration will take place at the Polish Club at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and there will be a cash bar.

All are invited. While tickets will be available at the door, for the purposes of planning,

an RSVP is requested. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at [secure.anedot.com/colchesterdemocrats/donate](https://secure.anedot.com/colchesterdemocrats/donate), or by sending a check to Colchester DTC, 89 Shadbrush Drive, Colchester, CT 06415.

Contact Monica Swyden at 860-465-7909 or [monicacswyden@gmail.com](mailto:monicacswyden@gmail.com) for more information.

## CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0028-0208, Rehabilitation of Bridge Nos. 03395 & 03396, Route 2 WB & EB over Route 85

Town of Colchester

March 19, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Register: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTColchester28-208>

YouTube Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/@ctdotofficial/streams>

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of the project is to extend the service life of Bridge Nos. 03395 and 03396 by addressing the structural deficiencies, areas of advanced deterioration, and ultimately bringing the bridges up to a state of good repair while also considering impacts to Route 2 traffic above and Route 85 traffic below the bridges.

Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed project are not anticipated.

Construction is anticipated to begin spring 2026 based on the availability of funding. The estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$14,500,000. This project is anticipated to be undertaken with 80 percent Federal funds and 20 percent State funds.

Please register for the virtual public information meeting at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTColchester28-208>. Registration is required to participate. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the meeting.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please direct comments and questions by April 2, 2024 to: [DOTProject28-208@ct.gov](mailto:DOTProject28-208@ct.gov) and 860-594-2020 or Lesgie Ruiz, Transportation Engineer, at [Lesgie.Ruiz@ct.gov](mailto:Lesgie.Ruiz@ct.gov) or at (860) 594-3351.

### ACCESSIBILITY

This meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube, and closed captioning will be available. Non-English translation options will be available on Zoom and YouTube. The recording will also be available on CTDOT's YouTube Virtual Public Information Meeting playlist: [portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpmarchive](https://portal.ct.gov/ctdotvpmarchive)

Persons with limited internet access, use the call-in number 877-853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 813 9968 4957. Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Lesgie Ruiz.

Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS).

Language assistance may be requested by contacting CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

RE3-8-24



## EVANS FARM STAND

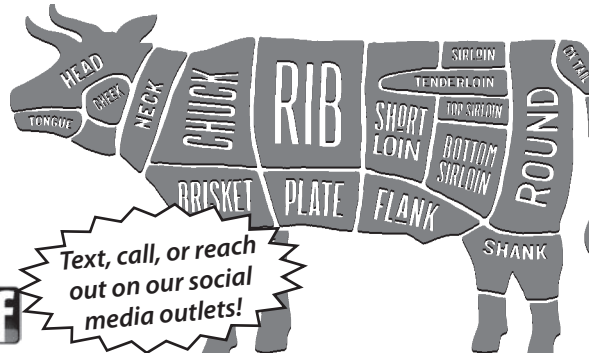
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# BOE Adopts 3.97% Budget Increase

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Education (BOE) this week unanimously adopted its spending plan for the upcoming 2024-25 fiscal year, requesting \$45.73 million to run the district — a \$1.75 million, or 3.97%, increase over current-year spending.

While the BOE shifted a few expenses throughout the proposal during its March 12 meeting, the overall bottom-line remained identical to the original amount recommended last month by Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III.

In addition, the school board officially adopted a capital improvement plan (CIP) that it will look to tap into funding already included in the operational budget proposal or through any leftover funds at the end of the current fiscal year.

By approving the CIP outline — which came in the form of a list of projects rather than yearly priorities — the board addressed a shortcoming in its long-term planning identified last year by the Board of Finance.

Salaries and benefits represent the largest piece of the spending plan followed by special education costs at nearly \$10.5 million. Included in those categories are certified staff salaries, which increased by \$1.44 million, and classified salaries, which spiked by around \$180,000.

One new initiative includes funding for two registered behavioral technicians at \$79,332, although both are currently being funded through an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. The new funding would address special education needs moving forward.

Through a board-approved reshuffling of

the district's finance department, \$15,219 was identified as a savings from classified salaries, which the board moved to capital outlay. Then, there was roughly \$45,000 saved from a technical transportation line; that funding was reallocated in the proposal to a painting program (\$22,050) — which was technically returned to classified salaries — and the rest went to capital outlay: Essentially, after the crisscrossing of accounts, the board allocated funds that resulted in a net increase to capital outlay of \$38,931.

During a budget workshop on Saturday morning, the BOE heard presentations from each school principal in the district.

Bacon Academy Principal Amy Begué highlighted students' academic progress, including spikes in test scores, and confirmed that the district's flagship school was in good shape.

"What we have and what the board has supported is working very well," she said.

Judy O'Meara, principal of Colchester Elementary School, informed the board that while the proposal reflects a decrease in the number of teachers at her school — due to a shift in enrollment — the state's new kindergarten age cut-off could impact future decision making.

Starting with the 2024-25 school year, children need to turn 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 to be eligible for kindergarten. Previously, 4-year-olds could enter kindergarten in the fall as long as they turned 5 by the following Jan. 1.

Accordingly, parents are allowed to request a waiver, and the responsibility of making the final assessment falls onto the district.

"Everyone is doing something different," O'Meara told the board, adding that currently,

29 families have made a request.

At the subsequent meeting on Tuesday, she stated that if 18-20 of those students were accepted, the district would potentially need to add an additional kindergarten teacher.

The school board, during both meetings, largely expressed support for the spending plan and the work outlined by the administrators. Chris Rivers, vice chairman, agreed with a previous assessment made by Sullivan that the budget was "status quo."

"The community should be proud of what our schools have done," he said.

The capital plan will likely receive further analysis by the board now that it's approved.

Many of the most expensive projects included on the sheet, which Rivers described as a "living document," will likely need to be addressed in a long-term approach. Those items include replacing the Bacon Academy roof, at \$4 million, and the outdoor athletic complex restoration at \$7.5 million.

The school board also approved a facilities study costing roughly \$14,000, which is allo-

cated through the current budget. To do so, the board approved a transfer from an employee insurance line item and moved funds to a professional and technical services line.

As Bacon Academy — the district's oldest school — rapidly approaches a "major overhaul," which Rivers said may come within the next decade, a thorough examination is required to receive new recommendations.

Board member Margo Gignac explained the request: "What does a 30-year-old Bacon Academy really need and what will it cost?"

Following the meeting, Rivers told the *RiverEast* that the capital plan would address a variety of problems in the near- and long-term. But, it was wise, he added, not to specifically map out a three-year blueprint because unforeseen expenses typically pop up and make those outlines irrelevant. That approach, he said would've been "insufficient for managing this size operation."

The plan, he concluded, is "a really good step forward."

## Absentee Ballots Available for Primaries

Absentee ballots for both the Democratic and Republican presidential preference primaries are available in the town clerk's office through Monday, April 1. (Primary Day is Tuesday, April 2.)

In Connecticut, in order to vote in the primary you must be a member of the party to which the primary pertains.

Absentee ballot instructions: Fill out an application for an absentee ballot. You may obtain an application in the town clerk's office, or visit [oabr-sots.ct.gov](http://oabr-sots.ct.gov) where you can fill out an application. You must be a current Colchester voter at the time of the application.

After the town clerk's office receives the completed application, you will be given an absentee ballot to fill out. If you apply in person, you can fill out the ballot at that time or take it with you to return within the specified period. If you ap-

ply online the ballot will be mailed to you. Deadlines for receiving the fully filled-out ballot and enclosed envelopes are:

If delivered in person, it must be delivered to the town clerk no later than Monday, April 1, at 4:30 p.m.;

If delivered in person by a family member, or qualified designee (such as a caretaker, police officer in town, or registrar/deputy registrar of voters in town), it must reach the town clerk's office by the end of polls on Primary Day;

If delivered by mail it must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Primary Day; or

If put in the Absentee Ballot box located in front of Town Hall, it must be placed by the 8 p.m. close of polls on Primary Day.

For more information, call the town clerk's office at 860-537-7215.

## Monthly Veterans' Coffee Meet-Up

The Town of Colchester is inviting former military members to the first "Veteran Coffee House" on Saturday, March 16. Unless otherwise announced, the meetings will be held on the third Saturday of each month, from 10:15 a.m.-noon, at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave. (April's meet-up will actually be on Friday, April 19.)

This monthly gathering is being organized

to connect those who served their country in the armed forces with other veterans, and guest speakers will provide information about beneficial veteran programs and services as well as health and well-being.

Coffee and light snacks will be provided. For more information, call Mary Emerling at 860-537-2921.

## Taste of Italian New York

Colchester Senior Center, located at 95 Norwich Ave., is offering a "Taste of Italian New York" trip on Saturday, April 20, departing St. Andrew Church at 7 a.m. -- and reservations are due soon.

This is a trip to three New York food "hot spots." Eat, shop and bring home some Italian food items. Visit Zabar's gourmet market in the Upper West Side. The market is known for their selection of meats, smoked fish, cooking gadgets, and New York bagels. Then have a family-style lunch at Carmine's Italian Restaurant, where the menu will include such items as rigatoni, broccoli and sausage in marinara, chicken in lemon butter, ravioli, and chocolate

cannoli with pistachios. You will then continue to Arthur Avenue in the Bronx and explore the Arthur Avenue Retail Market, a covered Italian market bringing together under one roof various Italian food specialties.

Coolers are encouraged on this trip. Cost is \$151/person. Space is limited; register by coming into the senior center to reserve your spot before March 20. Trips are available to Colchester Senior Center members and their adult guests over the age of 18. Membership is free for Colchester residents aged 55 and older. There is an annual fee of \$15 for seniors residing outside of Colchester.

## Land Trust Hike

The Colchester Land Trust (CLT) is offering two trail hikes in one on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17, at 9 a.m.

The hike is free for CLT members and kids under 18, and \$5 for non-members. Leashed dogs are welcome; must bring waste bags.

CLT board member Scott Sivek will lead a three-mile hike through Bulkeley Hill Preserve, then one mile up the paved road and into the two-mile Hayward Reserve of East Haddam and back to the Bulkeley Hill Preserve parking lot. Total miles are roughly 6-7. This is a moderate difficulty, moderate elevation hike, featuring non-groomed dirt trails with rocks and roots. Please dress for weather and wear appropriate

boots or sneakers. Bring bottled water and sunscreen. Tick and bug protection strongly suggested.

From Route 2, take left on Route 16W to Bulkeley Hill Road on the left; follow for 1.5 miles to the preserve's graveled parking lot on the right, directly across from the mailbox at 243 Bulkeley Hill Rd. The entry has a wooden hanging sign. For more information, email [scottsivek@gmail.com](mailto:scottsivek@gmail.com).

Visit [www.colchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.colchesterlandtrust.org) to register/pay in advance. CLT is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that works to permanently protect open space in Colchester. Visit the aforementioned website to join or donate.



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# Andover Woman Killed in Crash

By Michael Sinkewicz

An Andover woman died this week following a motor vehicle crash in Colchester, according to state police.

Shortly after 5:30 p.m. Monday, Alycia Ziegler, 39, of 273 Hebron Rd., Andover, was driving northbound on Amston Road (Route 85) in Colchester near the intersection of Village Court when she crashed, according to police.

Ziegler crossed over the lane and struck a

large tree, setting her car on fire, police said. Bystanders and emergency personnel pulled her from the vehicle and started CPR, according to police. The resuscitation efforts, though, were unsuccessful and Ziegler was pronounced dead.

State police are investigating the crash; anyone with more information is asked to call Troop K at 860-465-5400.

## Encore Boston Harbor Casino Trip

Colchester Senior Center will offer a trip to Encore Boston Harbor Resort Casino on Wednesday, June 5.

Encore Boston Harbor is a luxury resort and casino in Everett, Mass. All 166 tables come with phone chargers and beverage service. The 3,100 slot machines offer games for every enthusiast, from video to reel slots. You can also stroll Harbor Walk, which surrounds the property along the Mystic River.

Cost is \$136 and includes a cnccludes Casinobonus of \$20 in free slot play (subject to

change), a deluxe motorcoach and, prior to the time at the casino, a family-style meal at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in Park Square.

Register by coming into the Colchester Senior Center, located at 95 Norwich Ave.

Trips are available to Colchester Senior Center members and their adult guests over the age of 18. Membership in the senior center is free for Colchester residents age 55 and older. There is an annual fee of \$15 for seniors residing outside of Colchester.

## Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

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

**Holy Week Schedule: Palm Sunday, March 24:** 9 a.m., Worship Service w/ Palm Sunday Processional; 10 a.m., Pancake Breakfast.

**Mundy Thursday, March 28:** 7 p.m., Worship Service: The Last Supper. The church will contemplate the last night Jesus spent with his disciples. Communion will be served. **Good Friday, March 29: Noon,** Worship Service: Stations of the Cross. Walk throughout the Sanctuary from station to station and contemplate the seven last words Jesus spoke from the cross. **Easter Sunday, March 31:** 6:15 a.m., Sunrise Service at Lake Hayward; 9 a.m., Worship Service w/ Communion. Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ together; Communion will be served at our service in the sanctuary.

**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.

## CYSS News & Notes

Colchester Youth and Social Services has announced the following programs. Unless noted, registration is required for all programs, at [www.colchesterct.gov/yss](http://www.colchesterct.gov/yss). For more information, contact CYSS at 860-537-7255 or [youthservices@colchesterct.gov](mailto:youthservices@colchesterct.gov).

**Colchester Boys Council:** This new group for fifth grade boys meets Mondays from 3:15-4:30 p.m. CYSS prevention coordinator Marquis Lawson will lead the group. Boys will connect with others in their age group and share their experiences, questions and concerns. Space is limited.

**Meeting Childhood Challenges: In this program,** a continuation of "Supporting Your Anxious Child," parents of children ages 8-12 can come together for a discussion on supportive ways to respond as a parent and to learn methods to navigate childhood challenges. There will be time for questions as well. The program will meet March 27, April 24 and May 22, from 6:30-8 p.m. each night, at Cragin Library - Norton Room A. Registration is required for each date.

**Makin' Moves: Thursdays, 3-4:30 p.m., from April 18-June 13. Fifth-graders will get ready**

**for their upcoming move to middle school.** Their time together will include a private middle school tour, some talk about lockers, team-building activities and leadership games. There will be a few meetings in September to check in after the school year begins. This group is expected to fill quickly, CYSS said.

**After 2: This** afterschool program for middle school-aged students meets Tuesdays from 2-4:30 p.m. throughout the school year. This program provides time for kids to have homework help, or just some quiet time to complete their work, small social-emotional learning group time, as well as a safe place to hang out. Registration is required in advance.

**Drop In @ the Youth Center:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m., for grades 6-8. In this program, kids can drop in to the youth center for a snack and play some games. You do not need to pre-register to attend the Youth Center. However, students will receive instructions for online registration at their first visit, as they must be registered online to attend again. Call CYSS for more information.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

Monday, March 18: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

Tuesday, March 19: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 10:30 a.m., Read Across America @ Cragin Library; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, March 20: 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., Shamrock Social Luncheon; 1 p.m., Sewing Circle; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

Thursday, March 21: 9 a.m., Exercise w/Anne; 9:30 p.m., Free Lucky Bingo; 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, March 22: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:30 a.m., Lunch Bunch to Filomena's; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

## Garden Club to Meet

The Colchester Garden Club will hold its next meeting Monday, March 25, in Norton Room A at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave. All are invited to attend.

There will be a social time at 5:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 6 p.m. Speaker that evening will be Gail Ridge, who will discuss the topic of "invasive jumping worms" that remove vital nutrients from topsoil killing plants. Ridge is an expert on insect behavior and ecology with the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station in New Haven.

The Colchester Garden Club (CGC) provides opportunities for folks to learn and share ideas about flower and vegetable gardens, landscape and floral design, conservation and so much more. The club's 77-plus members help to create and increase our collective knowledge through club meetings with Speakers, community ser-



**Invasive jumping worms will be discussed at the March 25 meeting of the Colchester Garden Club.**

vance projects, garden tours and social activities.

The CGC is a member of the Federated Garden Club of Connecticut and the National Garden Clubs of America. The CGC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with all-volunteer members from over five different local towns.

## Kindergarten Registration

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

To register, go to [colchesterct.org](http://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.

## Fish Fry Fridays

The Colchester Fish and Game Club is holding its annual Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, 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. Takeout is available by calling the club at 860-537-2593 after 5:30 p.m. on Fridays.

## Ukrainian Church Making Pierogies

St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church will be selling homemade pierogies to support the church on Saturday, March 23. If you need some, place an order by calling Brenda at 860-365-0281.

There will be 165 dozen available for sale.

## CBA Lunch and Learn

The Colchester Business Association invites local businesses to a Lunch & Learn at Fresca Tequila Bar & Grill, 232 New London Rd., on Thursday, March 21, at noon.

Learn more about social media advertising, content creation and more for growing your business online. Special instruction with the software Canva will be covered.

Pre-register online at [www.colchestercba.com](http://www.colchestercba.com); cost is \$20 and lunch is included. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of lunch to get settled before the presentation.

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

★ *Divided Hebron cont. from page 1*

quest of the public tonight, to ignore the request of the voters - is to ignore what the public is asking for," Alexander said.

Republican Peter Kasper, chairman of the BOS, stated that the vacancy actually dated back to the 2021 municipal election, when Republican Diana Morales originally won the seat. Voters, he conveyed, spoke during that race and chose their Republican party preference for the term.

But some individuals argued that the recent contest should carry the most weight. Adam Ockman, a Democrat who was appointed to newly established Charter Revision Commission, argued that Alexander was nearly elected in November; she was the next highest vote-getter after the winners.

"If this seat had been open in November, it would have gone to [Alexander]," he said.

Two school board members who both won their seats in the fall also spoke during the meeting - each in their individual capacity - to endorse the candidate of their political party.

Republican Kimberly Hills, who received the most votes out of any Board of Education candidate last fall, said that Nadeau-Schmeizl "brings such experience on the board."

"I feel like she's the best fit to fill this vacancy," she stated.

Eleisha LeMay, the only Democrat who won a school board seat last fall, said the selectmen should prioritize the election results.

"It is important that we respect the voice of the people," she said. "And in this case, the voters of Hebron have chosen [Alexander] to serve on the Hebron Board of Education."

In her letter to the BOS expressing interest in the vacancy, Nadeau-Schmeizl highlighted that she has twins currently in fourth grade at the town's elementary school. Her tenure on the board included working on four separate budget cycles and participating on numerous subcommittees. She boasted near perfect attendance, only missing time due to a family emergency.

In addition, she is a member of the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board and a former member AHM Youth and Family Services, as well as the Connecticut Children's Medical Center Family Advisory Council.

In his letter of support, Petit - who is also the chairman of the Republican Town Committee - stated that Nadeau-Schmeizl has been a "devoted advocate" of the Hebron school system and was unanimously supported during the committee's January meeting.

"She has extensive experience with youth and mental health, a skill that is essential as our schools strive to prepare our children in today's stressful world," Petit wrote.

Democratic Town Committee Chairman Erin Bussiere asserted that compared to Nadeau-Schmeizl, Alexander received more votes at the election, which should resolve the debate.

"It's plain and simple; facts are facts," she said. "And if we are to believe that appointments are made based on the will of the people, that is a simple decision to make."

Bussiere said that while the BOE has featured a Republican majority, its chairman, Heather Petit, is a Democrat, emphasizing that the board has been able to work in a bipartisan manner and Alexander's appointment would not "inherently change the makeup of the board."

"During a time when there's distrust in the government and less and less people - particularly the younger generations - are not vested in the voting process, tonight is a great opportunity to show the voters of Hebron that the Board of Selectmen appreciates and respects that they took the time to engage our Democratic process and that their voices truly do matter," Bussiere said.

In December 2022, the selectmen appointed two new Republicans to the BOE after vacancies emerged. Petit was chosen for a term ending in 2025, and Sera Coppolino was approved for a term ending in 2023; she subsequently won reelection in November.

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# Bobcats Eliminated in Quarters

By Josh Howard

Despite having a young roster, Bacon Academy girls basketball made another deep tournament push this winter before falling to Sheehan, 51-41, in the quarterfinals of the Class MM state tournament on March 5.

Sophomore Skyelyn Schoen-Rene scored 16 points and junior Katelyn Novak added 14 points for the No. 4-seeded Bobcats, but it wasn't enough to overcome the precise outside shooting of the No. five-seeded Titans from Wallingford.

Playing at Bacon Academy, the home team seized the early momentum with Kovak scoring all of the team's 11 first-quarter points, highlighted by nine points in a row from the all-conference guard. During her personal 9-0 scoring run, Novak hit four straight shots to give the Bobcats a one-point lead after the first quarter.

Bacon Academy head coach Kevin Fennell said that Novak's offensive abilities have "gone to another level this year."

"Offensively I thought we executed pretty well against a pretty good defensive team for most of the night," the second-year coach added.

Schoen-Rene assumed the scoring load in the second quarter, connecting on a 3-pointer to close the half and then making a layup to start the second half, providing the home team their largest lead of the night at 23-18.

But the five-point cushion was short lived as Sheehan's prolific outside shooters heated up. The Titans connected on five straight 3-point attempts to ignite a 27-4 run that bled over into the final frame.

Sheehan drained 10 total three-pointers, eight in the second half as the team shot 50% from beyond the arc over the final two quarters. Liv Cassese and Megan Wreslen each scored 14 points to lead a balanced attack that got scoring contributions from seven players.

Fennell felt the swing in momentum in the second half ultimately came down to Sheehan's ability to make contested shots.

"They are obviously a talented offensive team, and we had some concerns about staying with

their quickness," added Fennell. "But I think the difference is they knocked them down and it took the pressure off of their shooters."

After being outscored 24-6 in the third quarter, Fennell noted that he liked the way his team competed until the final whistle.

"That's the nature of this team from day one," added Fennell "They are willing to compete and whether it goes their way or not they continue together with a really strong effort."

Fennell had a previous stint as an assistant coach with the girls' team at Bacon Academy before taking over as the head coach of the boys' basketball program at the school from 2008-2013.

A year ago, he returned to the Bacon bench and led the girls' team to a 17-3 regular season and an appearance in the state quarterfinals.

Helping Fennell transition back to coaching were a pair of Class of 2024 players in Cara Shea and Emily Ferrigno.

The two were also key contributors as sophomores for the 2022 team that made the Class M state championship game under previous coach John Shea.

Following the Covid-19 shortened season in 2020-2021, the two departing seniors have been on the winning end often as the Bobcats have posted a 50-10 record (83%) in the regular season.

Fennell said Shea and Ferrigno "complement each other very well."

"They have been exceptional captains. They have made it easy for their teammates to play hard and play together," added Fennell. "Cara has a heart of gold and it comes off in her interactions with everyone, and Emily plays as hard as anyone in the league."

Along with posting a 15-5 regular season record, this year's Bobcats also finished with a perfect 6-0 record within the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Division II, taking home the division title for the second time in the past three seasons.

When addressing his team in the locker room after the game, Fennell reflected with his players



Emily Ferrigno (left) and Cara Shea are the two seniors on the Bacon Academy girls basketball team who played their last game in a Bobcats uniform last Tuesday. The pair helped the program to a state championship appearance and a pair of quarterfinals over the last three years.

on the season that was.

"I reminded them of their accomplishments and the growth this team had this season," stated Fennell.

Along with the team accomplishments, Novak and Schoen-Rene were selected first-team All-ECC and Shea made the All-ECC second team.

The two seniors were just as impactful in

other areas as well with Shea earning an ECC Sportsmanships Award and Ferrigno was selected as an ECC Scholar-Athlete.

Novak and Schoen-Rene, along with the team's leading rebounder Elizabeth Glover are three starters slated to return next season. Reserves Veronica Smith and Reagan Reid are set to take on bigger roles next winter.

## 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.

There are three tree species from which to choose: American Sycamore, Red Maple, and Eastern Redbud. 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](https://tpevents.org/school/4019). Information regarding how to purchase saplings, volunteer, or sponsor this event can be found at the website.

## CSC Board, Coach Positions Open

Several Colchester Soccer Club (CSC) board positions are available for the 2024 soccer season. For more information on open board positions, email Tim Daniels at [president@colchestersoccer.org](mailto:president@colchestersoccer.org).

There are also Travel Coach Positions open for the 2024 season. Interested candidates should contact Lee Elliott by April 7 by emailing [lee.elliott@colchestersoccer.org](mailto:lee.elliott@colchestersoccer.org).

## Polka Dinner Dance Sunday

St. Joseph's Polish Club, located at 395 South Main St., will host a polka dinner dance Sunday, March 17.

A dinner of chicken, rice, mixed vegetables, salad, roll and dessert will be served at 1 p.m. The Eddie Forman Orchestra will play from 2-6 p.m.

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

## Early Voting Starts Soon

Early voting for the presidential preference primary is about to begin, and the Colchester registrars of voters have passed along information about the process.

As per a new state law passed last year, there are now 14 days of early voting required for general elections; seven days for most primaries; and four days for special elections and presidential preference primaries.

To participate in early voting for the upcoming Democratic and Republican presidential preference primaries, go to Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., check in, present valid identification, and you will be allowed to vote. (If you are an unaffiliated voter, and wish to change your registration to either party, you may do so by coming to Town Hall to fill out an application and then return 24 hours later to vote.)

You will then be presented with a ballot to complete, and place it in an envelope. The sealed and signed envelope is then dropped into a locked ballot box. Your ballot will be processed (run through the tabulator) on Election Day along with all the same-day voting and absentee

ballots.

Presidential primary hours for early voting are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, March 26; Wednesday, March 27; Friday, March 28; and Saturday, March 30.

The August state primary will have seven days of early voting, from Aug. 5-11. Voting hours will be 10 a.m.-6 p.m. except for Aug. 6 and 8, when the hours will be 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Election Day will then be Aug. 13.

The general election in November will have early voting hours Oct. 21-Nov. 3, with voting hours from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. except for Oct. 29 and 31 when the hours will be 8 a.m.-8 p.m., with Election Day Nov. 5.

Voting and registrations will take place at Town Hall in meeting room 2 for early voting only. The primary or elections will be held in the districts you are assigned by street residence. Town Hall is the voting place for District 1; Abundant Life Church, District 2; and Bacon Academy, District 3.

For more information, call the registrars at 860-537-7204.



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## Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream. For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus, Inc." – at 860-398-9119 or visit [christianlifechapel.org](http://christianlifechapel.org).

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

**Women's Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

**Community Bible Study and Prayer:** Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

**Donuts with Don:** Fridays at 10 a.m. This is an open discussion on how God fits into your life.

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RE3-4-24





**Thanks, Public Works!...** Pictured Hebron Public Works crew members Oliver Murphy, Carl Floran, Paul Sylvester and John Harwood, after expertly clearing a blown-down tree on Monday. The large maple fell during the windstorm on Monday, coming down across the driveway entry for Frank and Ann Zitkus.

### Hebron Lions Pancake Breakfast

The Hebron Lions will hold their annual Pancake Breakfast during the Maple Festival on Saturday, March 16, from 8-11:30 a.m., at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds.

This year, the breakfast will support the Hebron Lions Charities. The Hebron Lions said they could not decide on one named charity this year, so instead they decided to raise funds for the Hebron Lions Charities, which is the source of the donations to all the nonprofit organizations the Lions give to. These beneficiaries include AHM Youth and Family Services, Hebron Interfaith Human Services, Douglas Library, RHAM Youth Sports, and more.

The Lions will serve up a hot breakfast including fresh scrambled eggs donated by Hillandale Farms, pancakes donated by BJs of Williman-

tic, sausages donated by the Hartford Provision Company (HPC), and hash browns donated by McDonald's of Colchester. Also included will be orange juice, coffee, and pure maple syrup donated from Hebron's own Wenzel's Sugarhouse.

The RHAM Leos Club will also be present, offering raffle baskets to help raise funds for charities. The Leos will perform free child eye screenings as well. Families can also have an opportunity to have their photo taken with the Hebron Lion and a Bunny.

Tickets are available online at [www.hebronlions.org/pancakes-breakfast](http://www.hebronlions.org/pancakes-breakfast) or at the door. Breakfast costs \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$8 for children 10 and younger.

For more information, email Dawn Swagger at [Dawn.Swagger@hebronharvestfair.org](mailto:Dawn.Swagger@hebronharvestfair.org).

### Parks and Recreation News

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering many summer programs. For full program descriptions and to register, visit [hebronct.recdesk.com](http://hebronct.recdesk.com) or call 860-530-1281.

**Easter Eggstravaganza:** Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.-noon, at The Pavilion at Burnt Hill Park, for ages 10 and under. There will be pictures with the Easter Bunny, music, arts and crafts, a bounce house, and more. Easter egg hunts will be broken up by age. This event is free and open to the public. No registration required.

**App Inventors April Vacation Camp:** April 8-12, 9 a.m.-noon, at Gilead Hill School, for grades 4-7. Use MIT App Inventor software to make fun, creative apps for phones and tablets. All materials provided. Cost: \$185.

**30+ Basketball:** Drop-in games for all skill levels ages 30 and over. Tuesdays, April 16-June 4,

### Dean's List

The following local students made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.:

Amston: Caroline Carlson, an education major and daughter of Heidi and Gary Carlson; Ryan Nelson, a nursing major, son of Lisa and Steven Nelson.

Hebron: Claire Keene, an interior architecture major and daughter of Stephanie and Andrew Keene.

7-9 p.m., at RHAM Middle School. Cost is \$20 for the session or drop-in for \$3 (cash only) each visit. **Home Alone Safety for Kids:** Monday, April 22, 5-6:30 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. This interactive course, for boys and girls ages 8-13, will cover safety concerns parents have when their children are by themselves. Fee: \$45.

### Church of Hope News & Notes

Hebron Church of Hope, 1 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m., with Education Hour at 9 a.m., including Bible classes for all ages.

The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Pastor Jordan Brown is available by appointment. For information about church beliefs, care, small groups, Kids Ministry, and Youth Group, visit [www.hebroncoh.com](http://www.hebroncoh.com), or follow the church on social media.

### Enrolled at Eastern

Amston residents Nicholas Kelley and Mattingly Veilleux are among the students newly enrolled at Eastern Connecticut State University this spring 2024 semester.

Kelley is a junior majoring in pre-social work, and Veilleux is a first-year student majoring in pre-social work.

### ★ Hebron Maple Fest Returns cont. from page 1

downtown route, the north route, which features the sugarhouses, and the south route — which includes stops such as St. Peter's Episcopal Church, where there will be maple grilled cheese sandwiches.

Habicht spent eight hours driving through town to map out the loops, and fair warning, they each take roughly 45 minutes to complete.

"You should be here Saturday and choose a loop and come back Sunday and choose a route," she advised.

This festival is dedicated to Russell Schaller, the former owner of the Woodyacres Sugarhouse, who passed away last year. His son, Dave, who currently runs the operation, said his father loved the Maple Festival and looked forward to it every year.

Along with an array of fun products for patrons to enjoy, his site will feature the Outlaw Ridge Sled Dogs — owned by Hebron resident Becki Tucker — and the UConn Woodsmen team, who will showcase skills like ax-chopping. "It'll definitely be an attraction," Schaller said.

Palmer, at his sugarhouse, will showcase the syrup-making process — a yearly lesson all festival attendees should observe.

"People are just fascinated by the whole thing," he said. "They walk in and go 'wow.'"

While each sugarhouse will tell a different story, mainly because they use different types of equipment, "We all get to the same place."

Palmer will feature an 11-year-old East Hampton student who will do his own presentation — perhaps a prodigy in the making?

"He's a clone of me," Palmer joked. Wenzel, describing his own passion, declared, "It's a disease, and there's no cure."

Wayne's wife, Kathy Palmer, interjected immediately: "It's not a bad one!"

They each own distinct memories after participating — and for a period, organizing the festive — for numerous years, that highlight the beauty of the Maple Festival.

Wenzel recalled one year when it snowed and the resident state trooper stopped by his sugarhouse to inform him the day's festivities had been canceled.

"And I got about 25 people in the sugarhouse already," he expressed.

But as the trooper — who parked in the driveway, as opposed to along East Street like most of the patrons — attempted to back out, she got stuck. So Wenzel gathered the crew of residents to help push her vehicle out.

#### Focused on Hebron

After several years with the Windham Chamber at the helm, the sugarhouse owners were adamant: something had to change with the Maple Festival.

Wayne Palmer recalled thinking, "We need the maple police."

"It started getting out of control," he said. Kathy Palmer added that the prior years were "sad" and "pathetic." She recalled, "People were going, 'Where's the maple?'"

Wayne added, "It had to change or it had to end."

Schaller expressed that the activity downtown took away from the sugarhouses, which negatively impacted the event's quality.

"It faded away from what it should be," he said.

Now, as Wayne Palmer explained, there's been

a "changing of the guard," which has given the sugarhouse owners more input and optimism moving forward.

"Holly's energy is infectious," he said. "I think she's the right person to spearhead this."

Habicht reviewed just some of the attractions that will be included this weekend. But residents can find the Maple Festival booklet online, which overviews every detail of the event and an itemized list of the entities involved, via [www.thetowncenterproject.org/maple-fest](http://www.thetowncenterproject.org/maple-fest).

The overall goal is to have patrons head downtown, see the local businesses and non-profits, and then branch out to the rest of the community.

Residents can find a craft fair at Gilead Congregational Church and explore the Donifer Farms Donkey and Eeyore Museum.

"Hebron's Own Expo" will feature local artisans and crafters instead of out of town vendors.

There also won't be any syrup from non-local producers.

"We won't do that," Habicht said. "We're not planning on having maple sugar from anywhere except Hebron in the center of our town."

TTCP's booth will showcase each sugarhouse and provide bios for their activities, which will ideally encourage people to travel to them afterwards.

There are a few "outside" vendors, Habicht conveyed, but they're individuals who have worked with TTCP before and each will be sponsored; they're handpicked and will not interfere or take away from the local options.

The American Legion will be making its famous hamburgers; Hebron Interfaith Human Services is making "sugar on snow"; Century 21 (across from the library) will have a skillet tossing contest and maple kettle corn; Brain Freezers will have an ax-throwing event; and Ted's Supermarket will have a chainsaw carver.

Other food options include: maple wings at Hebron Pizza, maple tastings at Country Liquors and maple craft cocktails at the Hideaway Tavern.

Don't forget the tractor parade at 2 p.m. on Sunday; it's always a fan favorite.

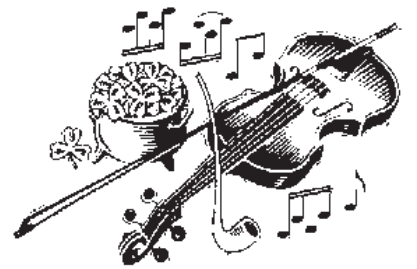
Overall, Habicht said there will be a "drastic" difference in the vibe of the event.

"The community has stepped up," she said, which made the shift possible.

Wayne Palmer emphasized the importance of mainly sticking to Hebron vendors and organizations.

"You can't say it enough," he conveyed. "If you sidetrack from that Hebron-only event, you've opened up a tidal wave of nonsense."

The two-day period is officially Maple Weekend, according to Maple Syrup Producers Association of Connecticut. But for enthusiasts, Hebron is the place to be. As Wenzel has previously proclaimed: "We're the maple capital of the state of Connecticut."



### LEGAL NOTICE Presidential Preference Primary HEBRON

Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Parties will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, with the primary being held on April 2, 2024. Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:

Democrats	Republicans
Name and Address: Marianne Williamson, Washington, D.C.	Name and Address: Ron DeSantis, Tallahassee, FL.
Dean Phillips, Excelsior, MN.	Nikki Haley, Daniel Island, SC.
Cenk Uygur, Los Angeles, CA.	Donald J. Trump, Arlington, VA.
Joe Biden, Philadelphia, PA.	Ryan Binkley, McKinney, TX.
Uncommitted	Uncommitted

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st Day of March, 2024.

Stephanie Thomas  
Secretary of the State

The foregoing is a copy of the notice that I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, and the primary will be held on April 2, 2024. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:

Hours of Early Voting:	Location of Early Voting for all Hebron Voters
March 26, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.	Hebron Town Office Building Upper Meeting Room 15 Gilead Street Hebron, CT 06248
March 27, 2024-10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.	
March 28, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.	
March 30, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.	

Poll Hours on Primary Day:

April 2, 2024 - 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location of Primary Day Polling Place for all Hebron Voters :

Hebron Elementary School  
92 Church Street, Hebron, CT 06248

Absentee ballots will be counted at the Primary Day Polling Location at the close of the polls.

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 1st day of March, 2024.

Town Clerk, Francesca Villani  
Town of Hebron

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# 2024 Hebron Maple Fest – March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

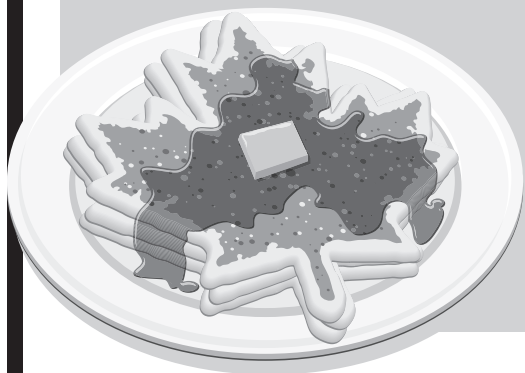
[www.thetowncenterproject.org/maple-fest](http://www.thetowncenterproject.org/maple-fest)



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(860) 649-0841
- Woody Acres Sugar House  
80 Cone Rd.  
(860) 228-1110
- Winding Brook Sugar House  
254 Skinner Ln.  
(860) 228-0246
- Parking

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### Absentee Ballots, Early Voting for Presidential Primary

Absentee ballots for the April 2 presidential preference primary are available at the town clerk's office, located at 15 Gilead St. Office hours are Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. For information, call 860-228-5971.

The primary will be held at Hebron El-

ementary School, 92 Church St., on Tuesday, April 2. Voting will be between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

New this year, early voting will also be available, in the upper meeting room at the Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, March 26-28, and Saturday, March 30.

### Christ Lutheran News & Notes

All are invited to worship at Christ Lutheran Church (LCMS), located at 330 Church St., Amston, on Sundays at 9 a.m. People who are unable to attend in person can join online at www.facebook.com/clchebron/live.

**Sunday Coffee Hour:** 10 a.m., after the morning service.

**Sunday Adult Bible Study:** 10:15 a.m., following Coffee Hour.

**Lent Season Service:** Wednesday, March 20, starting with a soup supper at 6 p.m. followed by a service at 7 p.m.

**Hebron Maple Fest:** March 16 and 17. All are invited to stop by the church's booth and have some of its maple cookies.

**Early Childhood Center (Daycare):** The center offers childcare, preschool and before/after school in a Christian environment. The center is open to all children regardless of faith. Immediate openings are available for children. For more information, call Jennifer Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are available at www.clecchebron.org.

**Caring Shepherds Social Ministry Group:** Holds regular food pantry days to distribute food staples, household and hygiene items as well as Bibles and prayers. For more information about donating or participating in food pantry days, call 860-228-1152.

### Douglas Library News & Notes

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

**Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. The schedule is:** March 15, *The Color Purple* (PG-13); March 22, *Ferrari* (R). Bottled water and snacks will be provided.

**Book Discussion:** Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m., at the American Legion, located next door to the library. *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry will be discussed. Copies of the book will be available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk. Must be over 21 to attend the discussion.

**Holiday Closing:** Friday, March 29, for Good

Friday.

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

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

**Jigsaw Puzzles:** The library has jigsaw puzzles available to borrow for a three-week period.

**Musical Instruments:** Learn to play a ukulele, jam on a Djembe drum, sing along while playing the keyboard, or find out what an otonatone is and how to play it. Instruments available to borrow for a one-week period.

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

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

### Dean's List

Amston resident Anna E. Lavenburg and Hebron resident Grace E. Nieszczezewski made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Fairfield University in Fairfield.

### Historical Society Clothing/Textile Drive

The Hebron Historical Society will hold its annual clothing/textile drive in April. Collections will be held Friday, April 5, from 4-6 p.m., and Saturday, April 6, from 8-10 a.m., at Old Town Hall, 26 Main St., adjacent to Douglas Library.

Acceptable items are linens, clothing, shoes, boots, purses, towels or any textile item. Items can be in any condition except moldy, and must

be delivered to OTH in a closed/tied trash bag. No electronics or toys, please.

Funds raised support the society's building maintenance and public programming. To learn more about the Hebron Historical Society, visit hebronhistoricalsociety.org. For more information, or to volunteer for this event, email mergonci65@comcast.net.

### St. Peter's at Maple Fest

St. Peter's Episcopal Church will be a stop on the Hebron Maple Fest bus route on Saturday, March 16, and Sunday, March 17. Hop on the bus, stop for lunch, then hop back on the bus to explore Hebron sugar houses and other local attractions.

On Saturday, St. Peter's will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., featuring maple lunch. The church will sell grilled cheese sandwiches and pulled pork sandwiches (all with maple flavoring), maple slaw, a maple dessert, and beverages both hot and cold.

On Sunday, starting at noon, St. Peter's will again serve lunch. Following the Tractor Parade, the church will switch gears and host an Irish cabaret from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The hall will be decorated for St. Patrick's Day, and a light meal will be sold, featuring Irish mutton stew, beef stew and Irish soda bread, with BYOB. Cost is a suggested donation of \$12. A Celtic band will provide music and maybe some dancing.

St. Peter's is located at 30 Church St. (Route 85) in Hebron. Visit www.StPetersHebron.com for more information.

### HIHS Move & Groove Food Drive

The HIHS Community Food Pantry staff and volunteers will hold a Move & Groove Food Drive during the Hebron Maple Festival, at the pantry's 26 Pendleton Drive facility. On March 16 and 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, the food pantry will be transformed into a family fun center complete with an indoor agility course, food-themed games, crafts, free balloons and door prizes.

Feeling adventurous? Sign up your family/team to participate in the town-wide Scavenger Hunt fundraiser. Teams will journey throughout the Maple Festival documenting their ad-

ventures with selfies and answering trivia questions. The highest ranking team each day will be awarded a prize.

All are asked to bring an item from the pantry wish list. Wish list items include hearty Campbell's or Progresso Soups, canned meats, pasta, canned fruits, and cereal. For each item you donate you will receive a door prize ticket.

To register for the Scavenger Hunt or find more information about the food pantry's needs, visit www.hihsct.org or www.facebook.com/hihsct.

### Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Lunch & Learn:** Wednesday, April 10, noon. Co-sponsored and lunch provided by Marlborough Health Center, sandwich, chips, bottle of water and cookie. Heather Hitchcock, community education manager with Bristol Behavioral Health, will discuss the realities of bullying among seniors and the impact it has on everyone. Registration deadline is Monday, April 8, at noon.

**Fitness Evaluation/Fitness Planning for the Exercise Room:** Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m., beginning March 19 and running through early May. Certified athletic trainer Samantha Freeman will evaluate your current fitness workout, give tips, and help create a plan if you're just getting started. To set-up an appointment, call the senior center.

**Watercolor Art Class Taught by Audrey Carroll:** Fridays, April 5 and 12. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Paint landscapes and beach scenes in this two-week class. Cost is \$25; a supply list will be available and some supplies are provided.

**Weekly Shopping Trips:** Pick-ups begin Fridays at 10 a.m.; pre-registration is required by the prior Thursday at 10 a.m. Schedule: March 22 and April 5, Stop & Shop; Thursday, March 28 (note the special day), Big Y.

**Volunteer Drivers Needed to Deliver Meals-on-Wheels:** Delivery takes approximately 30 minutes to an hour, and the general

time is between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. There is open availability for Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If interested, call the center.

**Movie Mondays:** Come early for lunch if you'd like (sign up by Friday at 9:30 a.m.), and have lunch at noon, followed by the movie at 12:30 p.m. To sign up for the movie or lunch and the movie, call the senior center. Schedule: March 18, *The Holdovers*.

**Bus Trip - Lunch at Windham Tech's Uncommon Kitchen:** Thursday, April 11. Bus will leave at 10:15 a.m. and return by 1 p.m. Have lunch featuring the food prepared by the culinary students at Windham Tech. Cost is \$16 which includes lunch, transportation and tip. Deadline to register is Wednesday, April 3; no refunds after this date.

**Chatham Health Monthly Presentation:** Wednesday, March 20, 2 p.m. The topic is diabetes.

**RHAM Bingo:** Wednesday, March 20, 2:30-4 p.m. The free games will be run by the RHAM National Honor Society students. Prizes will be awarded. No registration required.

**AARP Driver Course:** Monday, March 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the senior center. Arrive by 8:50 a.m. and bring something to write with. Fee for AARP members is \$20, and for non-members is \$25. Fee payable to the instructor day of class. Pre-register by noon Friday, March 22. Note: No food will be served, so if you may need something to eat, bring it with you.

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

### Free CPR Classes

The Hebron Fire Department (44 Main St.) is offering free AHA Heartsaver CPR classes for those who live or work in Hebron. Adult, child and infant CPR, and choking emergencies, will be covered.

The classes will be held from 6-9 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: March 20, April 17, May 15 or June 19. Call Donna at 860-228-3022 ext. 162 to reserve a seat.

### Preschool Screenings

The Hebron Board of Education will hold screenings at Gilead Hill School, 580 Gilead St., on Wednesday, May 15, for children that reside in Hebron and are 3 and 4 years old by the time of the screening.

Screens in areas of speech, language, cognitive, and motor development will be provided. Parents will also receive information to assist in fostering their child's growth.

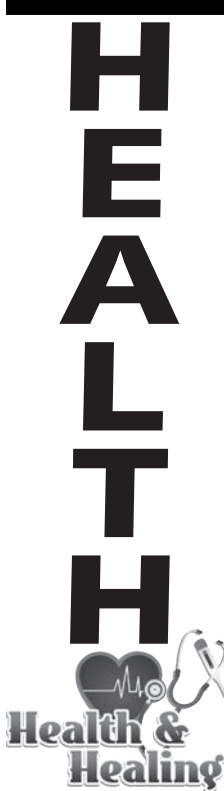
Call the office of the director of educational services at Hebron Public Schools at 860-228-2577 to register your child to participate in the screening, as reservations are required.

### Former Resident to Run Marathon

Ryan J. D'Amico, formerly of Hebron and presently from Newton, Mass., will run the Boston Marathon on April 15, to support the charity of Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

D'Amico is running in memory of his father John E. D'Amico, who passed away from cancer in 2017. He is also running in honor of his mother, Susan L. Heise of Amston, who is a cancer survivor.

D'Amico has been training for several months getting ready for the marathon and he has raised over \$10,000. All proceeds will be given to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.



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by George M. Mantikas, DMD  
**TEETH GRINDING: CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS**  
Teeth grinding, also known as bruxism, has various causes, including stress, anxiety, sleep disorders, side effects of medicine, and lifestyle. Because grinding usually occurs during sleep, many patients aren't aware it is happening. However, symptoms such as facial pain, headaches, earaches, jaw stiffness, sleep disruption, worn-down or broken teeth or fillings present themselves during waking hours. It is time to visit the dentist if teeth become worn, damaged, or sensitive, or if jaw, facial muscles, or ears become painful. Teeth worn from grinding are susceptible to infection, which can lead to painful abscesses. Grinding is easily treated by using a mouth guard to reduce the sensation of clenching or grinding, thereby preventing tooth wear and further damage to the teeth.  
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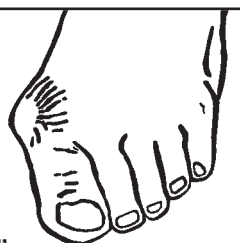
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### Deacon to Discuss 'Most Holy Cloth'

Benedict Locasto, a deacon at the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd, will give a talk Tuesday, March 20, at 7 p.m., at Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron. The talk will be on a "Most Holy Cloth" present he recently received from a cherished friend.

Called to visit a friend in New York, who lives about two hours away, Locasto at first was concerned about the length of the trip during the winter at the hectic Christmas season. His friend

told him he had a Christmas present for him. Locasto traveled there to accept what turned out to be a Scroll depicting the Shroud of Turin.

At his talk next week, Locasto will share about the "Most Holy Cloth" believed to be the burial cloth of Christ, which was said to have been originally brought to Europe by the Knights Templar. All are invited to come and learn more about the connection between the Shroud of Turin and this part of Connecticut. There is on-site parking at the church.

### St. Peter's News & Notes

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., holds two services of Holy Communion each Sunday: Rite 1 (no music), 8 a.m.; Rite 2 (with hymns and choir), 10 a.m. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski.

**Service Schedule for Holy Week and Easter:** **Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday:** 8 a.m., Rite 1 with Blessing of the Palms, and Passion; 10 a.m., Rite 2 with Blessing of the Palms in Phelps Hall, a bagpipe procession into the church, and the Passion.

Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.: The Service of Tenebrae.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 6 p.m. Agape meal with Holy Eucharist, followed by stripping of the altar.

Friday, March 29, 3:00 p.m. Traditional Prayer Book Good Friday Service, with Adoration of the Cross.

Easter Day, March 31: Sunrise Service, 6:30

a.m., at Gilead Congregational Church; 8 a.m., Rite 1 Holy Eucharist with hymns; 10 a.m. Rite 2 Holy Eucharist with brass ensemble.

**Meetings and Events:** Balance Class, Mondays, 10-11 a.m., \$5; Book Discussion: "10 Gospel Promises for Later Life," 11 a.m., Mondays in Lent (through and including March 18); Cub Scouts, Mondays, 5:30 p.m.; Buildings and Grounds Committee, first Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Boy Scouts, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Vestry, third Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Building Networks International, Fridays, 7:30 a.m.

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

For more information, visit [stpetershebron.com](http://stpetershebron.com), search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook, or email [office@stpetershebron.com](mailto:office@stpetershebron.com).

### Church of The Holy Family News

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit [hollyfamilyhebron.org](http://hollyfamilyhebron.org) for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096. Church of the Holy Family is a member of the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd, and is yoked with St. Columba Church in Columbia.

**Lenten Bible Study:** "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion," a video and discussion series filmed in the Holy Land, takes place Friday mornings from 9:15-10:45 a.m., at St. Columba Church, located at 328 Route 66 in Columbia. Edward Sri, who is joined by other lecturers, will guide participants through the last hours of Christ's life. To register, contact Janet or Jed Larson at 860-742-6344 or email [jjlarson278@gmail.com](mailto:jjlarson278@gmail.com). Good Shepherd pastor the Rev. Michael Philipino will join the group as time permits.

### Gilead Church Craft Fair

Gilead Congregational Church (672 Gilead St.) will host a Craft Fair Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., during Hebron's Maple Festival.

Some of the crafts that will be available for sale are handmade jewelry, local photography, handcrafted pet accessories, artwork, crochet and knit products, handmade soaps, and more. There will also be the famous Maple Cakes made by Women's Fellowship, to munch on as you window shop throughout the Fellowship Hall.

### Maple by Moonlight

As a kickoff to 2024 Hebron Maple Festival weekend, The Town Center Project is sponsoring the inaugural Maple by Moonlight Gala Fundraiser. This adult-focused event will be held at Colebrook Village at Hebron on Friday, March 15, from 6-9 p.m.

All are invited to come dance the evening away to The Sounds of Frank. More information and tickets are available by visiting [givebutter.com/c/4B5ES8](http://givebutter.com/c/4B5ES8) or by visiting [thetowncenterproject.org](http://thetowncenterproject.org).

### Library Friends at Maple Fest

The Friends of Hebron's Douglas Library will once again participate in the annual Maple Fest on Saturday, March 16.

All are invited to stop by and support the Friends' Boutique, located on the main floor of the library. Featured will be a variety of Easter items such as stuffed animals, toys and filled baskets. Also available for purchase will be a large number of gift-quality children's and recent (2023 and 2024) adult books for sale, priced from \$1 to \$4.

### Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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

**Scheduled Events/Meetings:** 3/17: Coffee Hour after worship will feature Irish Step Dancing by the Mulcahy School of Irish Dance; 3/17: Lenten Bible Study Group, 11:30 a.m.; 3/18: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 3/19: AA Meeting, 7:30 P.M.; 3/20: Yoga, 9:15 a.m.; 3/20: Choir Practice, 7 p.m.; 3/21: Prayer Shawl Group, 9:30 a.m.

**Prayer Shawl Group:** Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish House. All are welcome, regardless of knitting/crocheting experience.

**Lenten Study Group:** Sundays through

### The Worship Center News & Notes

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

**Worship:** Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. and are also broadcast on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut](http://www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut) and on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733](http://www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733).

**Life Group:** Meets the second Wednesday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Swensons' home in Columbia, for worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

**Journey Group:** For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Meets every other Sunday directly after the service; lunch is provided. Next meeting: April 7.

**Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship!** Typically held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church.

**Virtual Prayer Night:** Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via

### Transfer Station Hours Change

With daylight saving time here, the town Transfer Station has announced its change to summer hours. Hours are:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sundays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

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## Obituaries

## Marlborough

## John Gorski

The family of John Gorski, 85, sadly announces his passing at Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center on March 11.

John was born in New Britain on April 24, 1938, to Ignacy and Ann Gorski. He graduated from New Britain High School and studied engineering. He was drafted into the Army and proudly served his country in the states and South Korea. After the Army he married his wife Annie and eventually settled in East Hampton. He worked at New Britain Machine for many years as a job estimator/draftsman, then several other machine tool companies.

"Johnny," as everyone called him, had many talents. Among them were Master Gardener, beekeeper, and fisherman. He had a large garden and orchard where he grew too many crops for one family to consume. What wasn't eaten or canned by Annie, was given away to friends and family. John also kept bees which produced gallons of honey a season. Finally, John was an avid fisherman. On his summer adventures in Maine he would search the lake for the "big one." He was also a UConn women's basketball fan and loved falling asleep to golf on TV.

A low-key, quick-witted gentleman, he always had a comeback waiting. You could always find him at family gatherings entertaining his granddaughters: teaching them things about nature, showing them baby birds, and pushing them on the many swings throughout their property. One of his famous lines to say to them was, "Tell me something I don't know." John was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton.

Besides Ann, his wife of 58 years, he is survived by his son, Michael Gorski of Colchester; his sister, Frances Burr and husband Larry of Florida; his three grandchildren, Kara, Michaela and Nicole Gorski; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his brother, Chester Gorski and wife Judy (Goolsby) Gorski.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Tuesday, March 19, from 5-7 p.m. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday, March 20, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., East Hampton. Burial will be in the CT State Veterans Cemetery on Bow Lane in Middletown.

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



## East Hampton

## Jessie Schultz Sjoblad

Jessie Schultz Sjoblad, age 100, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 9, with family by her side. Born in Hartford on March 24, 1923, she was the daughter of the late Annie Fiala Schultz. She was married to the late Carl Frederick Sjoblad for 57 years.

Jessie graduated from East Hartford High School in the class of 1940. She worked at Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company and Pratt & Whitney during the war years. She and Carl raised their family in East Hampton.

She leaves her daughter, Lynda Allen and husband Gordon of Wilbraham, Mass., and her son, Steve Sjoblad and wife Rita of Glastonbury. She also leaves her joyful and caring grandchildren, Nathan Allen and wife Alice and great-grandchildren Thomas, James and Emily of New Orleans, La.; and Heidi Maserati and husband Michael and great-grandchildren Olivia, Elizabeth, Caroline and Madeline of Wilbraham, Mass. She also leaves several nieces and nephews and cousins.

Jessie was predeceased by her brothers, Edward Schultz and Harry Schultz, both of Glastonbury.

Jessie had many caring and loving friends and associates, especially her special friends in her bridge club of many years. She retired from Middlesex Memorial Hospital after 28 years and went on to volunteer for many years. She received the Presidential Letter and pin for her many hours of service. She was a communicant of St. Patrick Church and a charter member of the St. Patrick Guild, being very active in church activities. Many will remember her as the Jewely Lady at the annual church bazaars. A friend of the East Hampton Library and member of the former East Hampton Homemakers Club, she was also a member of the East Hampton Seniors and always enjoyed their many activities and programs.

She enjoyed traveling with Carl, reading, playing bridge, attending high school concerts and plays and spending time with her family. She especially loved working in her gardens and enjoying their beauty.

In 2020 Jessie left her home in East Hampton after 75 years and moved to the Arbors of Hop Brook in Manchester, where the community of residents and staff added her to their extended family. Jessie's final months were spent at Manchester Rehab and Healthcare Center, where she



was cared for with dignity and respect.

Jessie will be remembered as a wonderful mother and grandmother whose family made her life beautiful and complete. "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

Friends may call at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Tuesday, March 19, from 10-11 a.m. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., followed by burial in Lake View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the East Hampton Food Bank, 43 West High St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

## East Hampton

## David W. Lord

David W. Lord, 82, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Joan (Woods) Lord, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family. Born March 30, 1941, in Willimantic, he was the son of the late Benjamin and Isabel (Lyman) Lord.

David proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. David was a retired electrician having worked at Pratt & Whitney until his retirement. He was a member of the East Hampton American Legion and the former Marlborough Moose Lodge.

Besides his wife Joan, he is survived by his son, David Lord of Moodus; his daughter, Jennifer Lord and her husband David Harrison of Old Saybrook; his four grandchildren, Benjamin, Sydney, Skylar, Willow; and his special nephew, Jason Woods.

He was predeceased by his brother, Benjamin, and his four sisters, Betty Lou, Lucy, Norma, and Isabel "Tiny."

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Wednesday, March 13. A funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, March 14, in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, followed by burial in Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery on Bow Lane in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

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

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## Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Read

★ *Letters cont. from page 13*

up for being severely slashed.

The Board of Education consists of citizens either duly elected or appointed by the Board of Selectmen, who come from professional areas of expertise in the fields of medicine, education, and business. Therefore, it is more than merely insulting when members of the Board of Selectmen insult the intelligence or diligence of this board and its superintendent by cherry-picking and inaccurately gaslighting aspects of the budget they do not like and frankly do not understand. The world of schooling is almost nothing like it was decades ago, yet somehow, they know better than the superintendent of schools and this Board of Education? This is improper and unacceptable. It is behavior and antics like this that hurt our town and its reputation. It is long past time to display some humility, accept what you are no longer in touch with, and stay in your elected lane.

Our school motto is "Better Together for Children"; how about adults with responsibilities and influence do better together too?

**Sue Stolfi – Marlborough**

*Note: Stolfi is vice chair of the Marlborough Board of Education but said she is speaking as an individual.*

## Dangerous Bill

To the Editor:

There is a bill going through the state legislature that will make effective traffic enforcement in this state difficult if not nearly impossible. It is House Bill 5324. The title of the bill is "An Act Establishing Secondary Traffic Violations"

Section 1 states "(NEW) (Effective October 1, 2024) No officer may stop a vehicle for a violation of any provision of title 14 of the general statutes that is only a secondary violation. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit enforcement of a secondary violation by automated enforcement, by a mailed notice of violation or in the case of a vehicle stopped for a violation that is not a secondary violation." That leads to the question of what is a "secondary violation." Section 2 Subsection (86) states "Secondary violation" means a violation of any provision of this title that may be enforced only in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this act;" That definition does not tell me what motor vehicle laws are "secondary violations" Does that mean an officer cannot stop an unregistered motor vehicle or a vehicle with no tail lights? As a retired police officer serious arrests flowed from motor vehicle stop for a minor equipment violations. One incident many years ago I tried to stop a car with an expired registration sticker on the plate. The car turned out to be stolen and the driver was wanted for a murder that occurred during a house burglary in Ellington.

Most of the motor vehicle laws require the driver of the car be positively identified before enforcement action can be taken. How do you identify the driver if you cannot stop the car? Many times these stops result arrest for more serious crimes including drunk driving. Enactment of this law will result in unsafe roads resulting in death and injury.

**Louis Palshaw – Hebron**

## Thanks, Hebron Public Works

To the Editor:

Thank you to Hebron's Public Works Department employees for the excellent service they provide. And often during times of urgency! We are personally thankful for the efforts of Paul, Public Works Director; Darren, Foreman; Carl and Oliver, Arborist and Maintainers; and Paul and John, Lead Crew Operators, as they managed a fallen tree during Monday's windstorm.

Just after the day's normal work hours, a large maple tree broke off near the base and came down across our driveway entry, also pulling

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RES-7-21



Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Read

down a treasured juniper tree. (Fortunately, the maple didn't fall across the busy roadway.) Although after hours, I phoned the Public Works Department and Darren answered. Darren called back just-leaving workers and also notified the director. They all came over in short order during the gusty storm and worked right away to clear the driveway.

My husband had to work very late that night and, if not for Hebron's Public Works employees, he would have been unable to even enter our driveway and would have had nowhere to park (not wanting to call neighbors late at night). He would also have not readily been able to get to our house as we had a water-filled ditch, a stone wall, and trees all along the front roadway, except for the (blocked) driveway.

Not only did the workers safely clear the tree, but they also carefully, expertly propped up our large juniper tree. Hopefully, it has been saved!

We have known Public Works employees to consistently go above and beyond the call of duty to provide needed assistance. They also recently did so with another of our road trees last December.

Thank you again to Hebron's Public Works dedicated, capable, and caring employees. You are appreciated for providing essential services so very reliably and so well.

Sincerely, Ann and Frank Zitkus – Hebron

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION
At its Regular Meeting of March 6, 2024 the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decision: PZC 2023-013 of Galaxy Development, LLC (Applicant) and Kettle Club, LLC (Owner) – Special Permit and Site Plan Review for proposed multi-tenant building for commercial development including food service with a pick-up window on 0.79± acres located at 131 Linwood Avenue (Assessor's ID 11-00-027-000) Zoning District: Town Center (TC). APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS
Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chairman
1TB 3/15

TOWN OF PORTLAND LEGAL NOTICE OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY AND EARLY VOTING
Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Parties will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, with the primary being held on April 2, 2024, in each town. Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:
Democratic Party: Marianne Williamson, Washington, D.C.; Dean Phillips, Excelsior, MN.; Cenk Uygur, Los Angeles, CA.; Joe Biden, Philadelphia, PA.; Uncommitted
Republican Party: Ron DeSantis, Tallahassee, FL.; Nikki Haley, Daniel Island, SC.; Donald J. Trump, Arlington, VA.; Ryan Binkley, McKinney, TX.; Uncommitted
Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st Day of March, 2024.
Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State
The foregoing is a copy of the notice that I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, and the primary will be held on April 2, 2024. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:
Hours & Location of Early Voting:
March 26, 2024: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Portland Town Hall, 33 East Main St.
March 27, 2024: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Portland Town Hall, 33 East Main St.
March 28, 2024: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Portland Town Hall, 33 East Main St.
March 30, 2024: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Portland Town Hall, 33 East Main St.
Hours & Location of Primary Day Voting:
April 2, 2024: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Portland Middle School, 93 High St.
Absentee ballots will be counted at the polls.
Dated at Portland, Connecticut, this 11th Day of March, 2024.
Michael V. Tierney
Portland Town Clerk
1TB 3/15

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER
Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Parties will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024 and March 30, 2024 with the primary being held on April 2, 2024 in each town. Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:
Democrats: Marianne Williamson, Washington, D.C.; Dean Phillips, Excelsior, MN.; Cenk Uygur, Los Angeles, CA.; Joe Biden, Philadelphia, PA.; Uncommitted
Republicans: Ron DeSantis, Tallahassee, FL.; Nikki Haley, Daniel Island, SC.; Donald J. Trump, Arlington, VA.; Ryan Binkley, McKinney, TX.; Uncommitted
Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st Day of March, 2024.
Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State
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Hours of Voting:
March 26, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 27, 2024-10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 28, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 30, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
Primary Day- 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location of Polling Place:
Town Office Building 1
Community Room
17 School Road
Andover, Connecticut
Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location: At the polls
Dated at Andover, Connecticut, this 4th day of March, 2024.
Town Clerk – Carol H. Lee
Town of Andover
1TB 3/15

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF MARLBOROUGH DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE CAUCUS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING DELEGATES TO THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION 2024.
To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Marlborough, CT. Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party, and State election laws, you are hereby notified that A caucus will be held on: Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 PM at 47 Emily Road, Marlborough, CT. Check-in will begin at 6:30 PM. Please send any questions to: amvrooman@gmail.com. All enrolled members of the Marlborough Democratic Party are welcome to attend.
Aileen Vrooman, Secretary
1TB 3/15

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION
The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing and regular meeting on March 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Eaton Smith Council Chambers Room 107 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider and decide the following:
PZC-23-015: Text Amendment regarding Accessory Uses to Agriculture, proposed new Sec. 8.4.R.
The application was approved by the Commission. Further details of this decision are available in the Town of East Hampton Land Use Office.
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman
1TB 3/15

Town of Colchester LEGAL NOTICE
Public Notice to Transportation Operators
The Town of Colchester is applying for a capital grant under Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities of the Federal Transit Act, as amended by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law legislation, to acquire vehicles to be used in meeting the special transportation needs of seniors and/or individuals with disabilities in the Town of Colchester. Any interested transit or paratransit operator in the proposed service area may review the proposed application by contacting Patricia Watts, Director of Senior Services, 95 Norwich Ave. Colchester, CT 06415 at 860-537-3911. A public hearing will be held if requested by interested parties. Any comments should then be sent to the Colchester Senior Center with a copy to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, 5 Connecticut Ave. Norwich, CT 06360. Comments must be received no later than seven (7) days following publication of the Legal Notice.
Respectfully Submitted,
Taryn Scott
Executive Assistant
1TB 3/15

LEGAL NOTICE
GLOBAL 17 LLC
244 Middletown Ave.
East Hampton, CT
860.267.6639
Will sell or otherwise dispose of such personal property on Saturday March 30, 2024 at 8:00 AM
Property previously owned by:
A Paradis K Hartley M Jameson
2TB 3/15, 3/22

TOWN OF PORTLAND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION
At the March 5, 2024 regular meeting, the Inland Wetlands Commission took the following actions:
APPROVED with CONDITIONS - Application #23-03: 311 Brownstone Ave. Proposal to construct a spa with associated site grading, drainage, utility, lighting and landscaping improvements within the inland wetland regulated area. Application of Tartan Spa Operations, Inc and property of Dean Soucy and Darlene Rice. Map 28, Lot 54. Zone B-3.
Dated in Portland, CT. this 12th day of March 2024
Martha Dumas, Chairwoman
Inland Wetlands Commission
1TB 3/15

MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION
The Marlborough Conservation Commission at its regular meeting on March 4, 2024, took the following actions:
MOTION CONTINUED:
APPLICATION #11-23 – Town of Marlborough (Applicant) Hodge Road Culvert Replacement
APPLICATION #02-24 – Greylock Property Group, LLC (Applicant) 48 Unit Multi-Family Development
APPLICATION APPROVED:
APPLICATION #12-23 – Town of Marlborough (Application) South Main Street Reconstruction
Phase 3 – 154 South Main Street – 154 South Main Street to Exit 15 on Ramp with Conditions
APPLICATION #01-24 – Town of Marlborough (Application) to line Johnson Road and Kneeland Road Culverts with Conditions
YVONNE BOLTON, CONSERVATION COMMISSION CHAIR
1TB 3/15

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Parties will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, with the primary being held on April 2, 2024, in each town. Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:
Democratic Party: Marianne Williamson, Washington, DC; Dean Phillips, Excelsior, MN; Cenk Uygur, Los Angeles, CA; Joe Biden, Philadelphia, PA; Uncommitted
Republican Party: Ron DeSantis, Tallahassee, FL; Nikki Haley, Daniel Island, SC; Donald J. Trump, Arlington, VA; Ryan Binkley, McKinney, TX; Uncommitted
Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st Day of March, 2024.
Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State
The foregoing is a copy of the notice that I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, and the primary will be held on April 2, 2024. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:
Hours of Voting:
March 26, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 27, 2024-10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 28, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
March 30, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.
Primary Day- 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location of Polling Place: Early Voting Days- 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT
Primary Day: 15 North Maple Street, East Hampton, CT
Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location: 15 North Maple Street, East Hampton, CT
Dated at East Hampton, Connecticut, this 12th day of March, 2024.
Patricia Burnham, Town Clerk
Town of East Hampton
1TB 3/15

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER
Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Parties will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024 with the primary being held on April 2, 2024, in each town. Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the address of such candidates:
Democrats: Marianne Williamson, Washington, DC; Dean Phillips, Excelsior, MN; Cenk Uygur, Los Angeles, CA; Joe Biden, Philadelphia, PA; Uncommitted
Republicans: Ron DeSantis, Tallahassee, FL; Nikki Haley, Daniel Island, SC; Donald J. Trump, Arlington, VA; Ryan Binkley, McKinney, TX; Uncommitted
Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st Day of March, 2024.
Stephanie Thomas
Secretary of the State
The foregoing is a copy of the notice that I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, and the primary will be held on April 2, 2024. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:
Hours of Voting: EARLY VOTING
March 26, 2024 – 10:00am to 6:00pm
March 27, 2024 - 10:00am to 6:00pm
March 28, 2024 - 10:00am to 6:00pm
March 30, 2024 - 10:00am to 6:00pm
Location of Polling Place
Colchester Town Hall, Room #2
127 Norwich Avenue
Colchester, CT 06415
Hours of Voting: PRIMARY DAY
April 2, 2024 – 6:00am to 8:00pm
Locations of Polling Places
Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 1
Abundant Life of the Assemblies of God 2
85 Skinner Road, Colchester, CT
Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 3
If applicable, Absentee Ballots will be counted at the following central location:
Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT
Dated at Colchester, Connecticut, this 11th day of March, 2024
Gayle Furman,
Town Clerk
Town of Colchester
1TB 3/15

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION
At the March 7, 2024 meeting, the following actions were taken:
Approved with Conditions Application #23-10: 311 Brownstone Ave. Request for Site Plan Review for proposed construction of a spa with associated site grading, drainage, utility, lighting and landscaping improvements. Application of Tartan Spa Operations, Inc and property of Dean Soucy and Darlene Rice. Map 28, Lot 54. Zone B-3.
Dated at Portland, CT this 12th day of March 2024
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission
1TB 3/15

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on March 20, 2024, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s):
PZC 2024-002 of Hop Culture Farms & Brew Co., LLC (Owner/Applicant) – Modification of existing Special Permit to allow fee-based outdoor recreation in the form of semi-primitive overnight camping as an accessory use to the existing farm brewery on 37.28± acres located at 144 Cato Corner Road (Assessor's ID 05-12-024-000) Zoning District: Rural Use (RU)
PZC 2023-015 of the Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission (Applicant) – Proposed amendments to the Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations for the following: Part A: Amendments to Sections 3.2, 3.3, 4.2, 4.3, 5.3.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.3, 8.4, 8.8.9, 8.8.15, 8.10.4, 10.1, 10.5, 14.1, and 20.4 to achieve consistency with PA21-1, PA21-29, PA21-34, PA21-163, PA22-25 & PA23-142; Part B: Amendments to Sec. 8.2.1 the Standard Affordable Housing Requirement (10%), to create Sec. 8.2.2 Multi-Family Affordable Housing Incentive (30%) and Sec. 20.4 to create a definition of "Affordable Housing Unit"; and Part C: Amendments to Sections 3.3, 4.3, 13.6, 20.4 and to create Sec. 8.13 Manufactured Home Park (MHP).
At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of these applications are located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday).
Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair
2TB 3/8, 3/15



**TOWN OF PORTLAND  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org) to consider the following:  
**PZC Application #23-13:** Proposed Amendment to the Portland Zoning Regulations. Change to section 9.17.1 to increase the allowable MUD residential units to 350 from the current 240 and to increase the ration of allowable apartments from 16 to 21 per 5,000 square feet of commercial space. Change to section 9.17.5.E to allow the sum of the total commercial area to include any single upper floor to the total commercial area where only the ground floor counts currently. Application of BRT DiMarco PTP, LLC.  
**PZC Application #23-14:** 69 Marlborough Street. Request for Special Permit Modification. Application and Property of BRT DiMarco PTP, LLC. Map 19, Lot 68. Zone B-2, B-3 and TCVD. Dated at Portland, CT this 12th day of March 2024  
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
 Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 3/15, 3/22

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

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:  
 1. **Petition 2024-01 and 2024-02** – Petitions of Town of Hebron (Special Permit & Site Plan) to construct a pedestrian bridge and sidewalk connection between the Douglas Library of Hebron and Pendleton Drive. Application is filed pursuant to Sections 3.A.3.5.1 and 3.B.2.5.1 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, Hebron Green and Main Street Districts  
**Planning and Zoning Commission**  
 Mar 26, 2024, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (America/New\_York)  
**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://meet.goto.com/149979749>  
**You can also dial in using your phone.**  
 Access Code: 149-979-749  
 United States: +1 (571) 317-3122  
**Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:**  
<https://meet.goto.com/install>  
 Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 13th day of March 2024.  
 Frank Zitkus, Chair

2TB 3/15, 3/22

**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, March 28, 2024 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.  
**Application #23-02:** 77 Breezy Corners Road. Request for a variance from Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 for the side yard setback to allow construction of a garage addition 19 ft from the property line were 25 is required. Application and property of Peter Rand. Assessor's Map 16, Lot 11. 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 13th day of March 2024.  
 Joan Giesemann, Chair

2TB 3/15, 3/22

**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, March 12, 2024, at 7:00pm on the following:  
**Petition 2023-10** - Petition of Roderic A. McCarrison to create a five (5) lot resubdivision of a 26.98-acre split lot owned by David G. Ellenberg, Parcel #12-18 Church Street, Neighborhood Commercial and Residence-1 Districts. **Approved, with conditions.**  
**Petition 2024-03** - Petition of John A. Bond, Jr. for a Special Permit to install a temporary storage structure in accordance with 2.D.11.3 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations on premises located at Parcel #35-15 East Street, Residence-1 District. **Approved, with conditions.**  
 The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting can be seen using the following link:  
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/6e3f5348639ae5c3665c7188dbf0ce11803e500b3227374c109ab69a27318a2d>

1TB 3/15

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH**

Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Preference Primary of the Republican and Democratic Parties will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, with the primary being held on April 2, 2024, in each town.  
 Notice is also hereby given that the following are the names of the candidates (including the category "Uncommitted") which are to appear on the ballot at said primary in the manner and in the order in which such names and category are herein listed, under the office designation "Nomination for President of the United States", together with the addresses of such candidates:

<p><b>DEMOCRATS</b>                  Name and Address:                  Marianne Williamson, Washington, D.C.                  Dean Phillips, Excelsior, MN.                  Cenk Uygur, Los Angeles, CA.                  Joe Biden, Philadelphia, PA.                  Uncommitted                  Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 1st day of March, 2024                  Stephanie Thomas                  Secretary of the State</p>	<p><b>REPUBLICANS</b>                  Name and Address:                  Ron DeSantis, Tallahassee, FL.                  Nikki Haley, Daniel Island, SC.                  Donald J. Trump, Arlington, VA.                  Ryan Binkley, McKinney, TX.                  Uncommitted</p>
--	--

The foregoing is a copy of the notice that I have received from the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Secs. 9-433 and 9-471 of the General Statutes. As provided, such primary will begin with early voting on March 26, 2024, through March 28, 2024, and March 30, 2024, and the primary will be held on April 2, 2024. The hours of voting during early voting and at said primary and the location of the polls will be as follows:  
 Early voting will be at the Town Hall, 26 N Main Street Marlborough CT 06447  
**Hours of Voting:**  
 March 26, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.  
 March 27, 2024-10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.  
 March 28, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.  
 March 30, 2024- 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.  
 Early voting and absentee ballots will be counted at 26 North Main Street.  
 Primary Day- 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
 Polling place is at Elmer Thienes School, Community Room, 25 School Drive Marlborough CT 06447  
 Dated at Marlborough, CT  
 this 4th day of March 2024  
 Lauren A. Griffin Town Clerk  
 Town of Marlborough

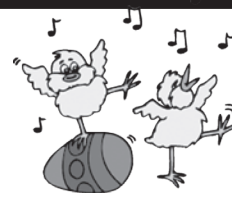
1TB 3/15

**EMPLOYMENT**

**PART-TIME POSITION:** Available in a team oriented Family Dental Office in Portland, CT. This position offers approx. 22 hours per week. The office is open Mon, Tues, Thurs and some Fri. The position's workdays and hours are flexible. No dental experience needed. No specific qualifications is needed. Applicant must be willing to learn new skills. On the job training & support for Dental Assisting, X-Ray certification and Office work will be provided. Fax your resume to 860-760-8080 or email [dentalinsight@yahoo.com](mailto:dentalinsight@yahoo.com) or call 860-510-3956.

**SEEKING AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC:** for immediate hire at fast growing shop in Middletown. Strong mechanical aptitude and troubleshooting skills. Must be able to diagnose and repair mechanical issues and be deadline and detail oriented. Ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment. 2-3 years automotive experience preferred. Diesel experience is a plus! Must have your own tools. Call George 860-346-5551

**WOMAN IN HEBRON HOUSEHOLD:** is looking for someone to help in her home, part-time, regarding chores, food shopping, laundry, etc. \$15/hr. Call 860-228-0809.



**SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST:** Part-time position with small professional office in Glastonbury. Duties include typing, creating and maintaining files, answering multi-line phones, ordering and maintaining office supplies, Word and Excel experience necessary. 8:30am-2pm. Please send qualifications or resume TO: **ADMINISTRATOR@CFMCONSTRUCTION.CT.COM.**

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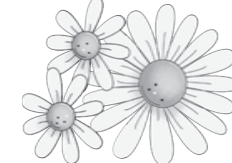
*Independent Living, Assisted Living & Memory Care*  
 We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Shifts available for hire: 3p-11p & 11p-7a! If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details!  
 Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k, Meals...  
 Call Cheyenne Baker at 860-801-1114 or email [cbaker@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:cbaker@colebrookvillage.com)

RE3-8-24

**Westside Manor is searching for an Attendant to fill our 1st and 3rd shift.  
7AM-3PM and 11PM-7AM**

*Attendant Responsibilities:* Housekeeping, Meal Prep and medication administration required for the position. Medication Certification Course is mandatory and offered with paid training.  
 Please call us at 860-267-4401 to schedule an interview today! Interviews are done by appointment only Monday thru Friday.  
**9 West High Street, East Hampton**  
*Job Type:* Part-time with potential to full-time  
*Salary:* Discussed upon interview

RE3-8-24



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RE3-8-24

**FREELANCE REPORTERS**

We are looking for skilled freelance writers to report on local government, meetings and community events in the towns we serve – Cromwell, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. Must be able to report news clearly and meet important weekly deadlines. Please send cover letter, resume and any writing clips or samples to: [greg@rarereminder.com](mailto:greg@rarereminder.com)

CIT3-14-24

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CIT1-12-23

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 We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Shifts: 7a-3p. 3p-11p. 11p-7a. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details!  
 Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k, Meals...  
 Call Maryla Underwood at 860-801-1114 or email [munderwood@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:munderwood@colebrookvillage.com)

CIT3-14-24

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RE8-13-21

  
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**PROPS OVERHIRE**  
**Full-Time, Seasonal**  
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RE3-15-24



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RE3-15-24

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RE3-8-24

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RE3-3-23

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Marlborough, CT

RE3-16-20

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Marlborough, CT

RE3-16-22

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RE3-8-24

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RE3-8-24



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