

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 48, Number 09

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

March 22, 2024

Maple Festival a Big Hit in Hebron

By Michael Sinkewicz

Thousands of residents flocked to Hebron last weekend to celebrate one of the community's proudest and longest-standing traditions: the Maple Festival.

Those who hit up the two-day extravaganza were treated to delicious maple products ranging from kettle corn and grilled cheese sandwiches to familiar favorites like "sugar on snow."

This year's event was billed as the rejuvenation of a festival that some people felt had drifted away from the local spirit that initially spawned over three decades ago. Accordingly, the theme of the weekend was "Bringing it Home."

In its first crack at organizing the festival, The Town Center Project Inc. (TTCP) — which took over following a seven-year run by the Windham Chamber of Commerce — emphasized Hebron nonprofits, businesses and of course, sugarhouses.

"We received stellar feedback from the community," TTCP President Holly Habicht said on Monday morning. "We couldn't be happier."

With the festival falling during the closing days of winter, weather is always a sensitive subject that can often influence overall turnout, and sometimes rain — or even snow — has made unwelcome appearances in prior years. But despite a few ominous forecasts, the backdrop of both event days was mostly sunshine.

Conditions were perfect to stroll through the center of Hebron where a variety of vendors were stationed; there was the Douglas Library parking lot — the central hub of the event — along with other focal points down Main Street at Brain Freezers, the fire house and the Village Shoppes plaza.

Across from the library at the Century 21 location, Mike and Barbara Burruano volunteered to oversee the skillet-tossing game. While the "sport" didn't technically incorporate anything



The Hebron Maple Festival was held last weekend and, as he does every year, Ron Wenzel eagerly explained the syrup-making process to folks who stopped by his sugarhouse.

maple-related, it proved to be fan-favorite.

Participants would sling either a 6- or 12-inch skillet towards a line of baskets spaced roughly 15 feet apart, with higher point values awarded the further you sunk the shot; the deepest throw was practically from Marlborough — the skillet was hurled from 45 feet away.

"We researched it this morning before we hopped in the car to get here!" festival-goer Mike Burruano exclaimed.

Hebron's Maple Syrup

Anyone who was able to separate themselves from all the refreshments downtown — the scent from the American Legion burger

tent was particularly irresistible — was likely branching out to the abundance of attractions throughout town.

At the top of the list were Hebron's famous sugarhouses, which Habicht has referred to as the "backbone" of the event.

The festival was dedicated to Russell Schaller, longtime owner of the Woodyacres sugarhouse, who passed away last year. His son, Dave, took over the operation and made sure Cone Road was ready for maple weekend.

His site featured the Outlaw Ridge Sled Dogs — owned by Hebron resident Becki Tucker — and the UConn Woodsmen team, whose ax-

chopping skills were on full display. But unsurprisingly, many residents stopped by specifically to acquire some syrup or get a sneak peak into how Schaller makes it.

"It's been awesome," Schaller said Sunday morning. "We sold out of everything yesterday."

As the crowd piled into his sugarhouse, he said Woodyacres was hosting "a lot more people this year" than at the 2023 Maple Fest.

"Yesterday was shoulder-to-shoulder in here all day long," he said.

Over on Skinner Lane, Wayne Palmer of the Winding Brook Sugarhouse asserted that the festival had successfully returned to its roots.

"Holly's done her homework," he said. "She did a good job at getting us out of the weeds."

Years ago, when Palmer first started welcoming guests to his property, he had to address a potential problem: "how am I going to manage this driveway?" To reach his sugarhouse, you have to bravely embark up the pebble path on foot, or drive and risk the awkward encounter of another car coming from the opposite direction. At one point, Palmer put a sign at the bottom of the driveway notifying everyone to walk, but lately he's removed it.

"Somehow it's working," he joked.

Inside the sugarhouse, Palmer showcased his equipment and explained how he collects sap with a vacuum tube line. So far this season — which he said would likely extend another week for him — the syrup output has been slightly below average.

"If you did everything looking back, you could've scratched a season out of it," he explained. "The stars had to line up for you and that's impossible to predict."

Maple season at the Wenzel Sugarhouse ended the week before the festival, and it wasn't a banner year for him either; Wenzel said he still

See Maple Fest a Hit, page 28

Marlborough Eyes 9.24% Tax Hike

By Michael Sinkewicz

Marlborough is confronting a "perfect storm" as it puts together the 2024-25 budget, according to Town Manager David Porter; the unsettled weather includes a shrinking net tax base, the expiration of pandemic-era funding and pressing capital needs throughout the community.

And as a result of that storm, the town is looking at a possible tax increase of 9.24%, though local leadership appears to be in favor of letting residents make the final determination.

The overall budget proposed for 2024-25 is \$28.13 million — a \$1.03 million, or 3.81%, increase over current-year spending.

Last month, the local Board of Education (BOE) unanimously approved an \$8.67 million budget — a \$229,396, or 2.72%, increase over the current year. In addition, the school board approved a \$75,000 capital plan to address three

projects at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School — which brings the total local district increase up to \$304,396, or 3.61%.

Marlborough's levy of the RHAM BOE budget is currently slated at \$11.39 million — a \$130,932, or 1.16%, increase.

The town budget represents the largest of the three increases; the spending package is slated at \$7.07 million — a \$547,328, or 8.39%, spike over the current year. However, most of the new funding is represented by capital, which comes in at \$764,577 — a \$457,628, or 149%, increase.

Meanwhile, town operations rose by \$89,700, or just 1.44%.

As presented, the new mill rate would be 37.94 — a 3.21 increase — which equates to a 9.24% increase. For a property assessed at \$250,000, the tax bill would increase by \$802. And for a property assessed at \$650,000, the bill would

jump up by \$2,086. Accordingly, residents with properties assessed within that range would see a tax increase in-between those amounts.

"That is a big number, no doubt," Porter said during a phone call this week.

Perfect Storm

In a follow-up email, Porter outlined the conditions that led to the budget request, and why he's hoping residents will support the proposal at referendum.

Revenue, he began, is a distinct challenge this year.

There is a reduction in taxable real estate on the grand list due to the exemption of the Middlesex Hospital facility located in town, as well as reductions in taxable motor vehicles and state and federal funds — primarily because pandemic-era programs are lapsing.

See Marlborough Tax Hike, page 27

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**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](http://ahmyouth.org) for more information and to register.

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## From the Editor's Desk Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Who says Easter egg hunts are just for kids? While the pages of this week's *Rivereast* feature notices about area egg hunts this weekend that are for the junior set, there's one coming up in nearby Glastonbury that is strictly adults-only.

Hops on the Hill Brewery will hold its second annual "Beer-ster Egg Hunt" on Saturday, March 30. The event is exactly what it sounds like: a beer-themed egg hunt.

On March 30, the brewery, located at 275 Dug Rd. in South Glastonbury, will open at 1 p.m. and the hunt will begin promptly at 2 p.m. There is no entry fee or registration required; just simply show up. You must be 21 or older to participate.

There will be over 300 hidden eggs scattered throughout the farm field, and each person can find one egg while supplies last. Each egg contains a unique prize. Prizes range from annual Mug Club memberships, free merchandise, complimentary tickets for upcoming shows, candy, and more surprises. To claim your prize, simply bring your unopened egg to the prize table.

To ensure participants stay fueled and satisfied throughout the day, Rolling Smokehouse Food Truck will be on-site, serving up barbecue before, during, and after the hunt. The brewery will remain open until 6 p.m., and live music by Ali Kat will be featured from 2-5 p.m.

If you like craft beer and also want to channel your inner kid, this sounds like a fun afternoon! Hops on the Hill offers a variety of brews, including IPAs, stouts, pale ales, pilsners, lagers, red ales, and more.

For more information on Hops on the Hill Brewery, and the Beer-ster Egg Hunt, visit [www.hopsonthehillbrewery.com](http://www.hopsonthehillbrewery.com).

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I've written in this space about available college scholarships in the area, but before they head for the green pastures of higher education, there's another important milestone for high school seniors: the prom.

And if you live in New London County – which in *Rivereast-land means Colchester* – and are having money troubles, a Norwich consignment shop may be able to help.

Kidsignments, located at 105 Lafayette St. in Norwich, has collected gently-used formal gowns to give for free to young ladies who perhaps need a bit of a helping hand. And now, with prom season upon us, the store is looking to distribute them.

The project is, fittingly and wonderfully, called "Operation FairyTale." All that's required to "shop" for your free gown is your local high school ID. Give Kidsignments your dress size, and they'll do the rest!

If interested, give Kidsignments a call at 860-949-3008.

\*\*\*

Do you own a small business in East Hampton or Portland and maybe need some help yourself? There's a special grant available that you should look into.

The application period for the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission's 2024 Business Operating Grants Program is open through March 31, 2024. The program, funded through the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, offers grants of up to \$25,000 to qualified small businesses in Middlesex County Connecticut.

The grants are designed to provide financial and technical assistance to business owners so that they continue business operations and offer employment opportunities for Middlesex County residents. The grant funding may be used for equipment and/or technology, leasehold improvements, and other fixed costs, including costs associated with supply chain disruption, increased employee travel time/mileage expenses, increased vendor costs, new/additional marketing expenses, and costs associated with bringing on new employees – either full-time or part-time.

Businesses that apply must be based in, and have operated in, a Middlesex County town

**Editor's Desk continued on page 5**



**Lighting the Way... East Hampton's Cub Scout Pack 57 has announced six scouts recently earned the highest Cub Scout rank, Arrow of Light, and advanced to Scouts BSA at the annual Blue and Gold Ceremony. Pictured are den leader John Pierson, Aaron Pierson, Lionel Wilson, Andre Magnum, Aiden Pierson, Alex Gora and Jeffrey Walitynski.**

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### Possible Border Wall Solution

To the Editor:

I think if we start deporting all our liberal Democrats like Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Murphy and their followers, along with our illegal freeloaders, I think Mexico would seriously consider building a border wall.

Problem solved!

Frank Blume – Colchester

### Immigrants

To the Editor:

"The lie populist (a person, especially a politician, who strives to appeal to ordinary people who feel that their concerns are disregarded by established elite groups) politicians spread most is that our problems are easy to solve and that sinister forces – 'billionaires,' 'special interests,' 'globalists,' 'big corporations,' even 'Jewish financiers' or just 'business as usual politicians' (Immigrants) – are standing in the way. Steamroll these string-pullers and quislings (traitors), and everything will be great. That's the language of demagogues and those who help pave the way for them." -- Jonah Goldberg. Words in parentheses added by me.

The 4 Ps of Root Cause Analysis are: Policies, Process, People and Place. Immigrant defined as a person living in a country other than that of their birth. What Policies were put in place that

caused these People to leave the Place of their birth and embark on a long, dangerous journey? The United States has done quite well for itself (think Henry Kissinger), being the root cause of so many people needing to leave their homes to come to America. Maybe men, women, and children would feel safer at home if we stopped "helping" their countries.

Immigrate defined as to come to a country of which one is not a native, usually for permanent residence. Blacks weren't native, they got forced here. We came on boats so that makes us not native. "The white man came and night entered our future with him. Our council has asked the question since I was a boy: What are the Huron to do?" Huron chief in *The Last of The Mohicans*. If a people were here before us, I guess that makes the rest of us immigrants.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Manning – Andover

### Belltown Budget

To the Editor:

On March 18, the East Hampton Board of Finance received their budget presentations from the Town Manager and the Superintendent of Schools. Like every other small town in the state, East Hampton has been presented with the need to make substantial increases in spending in order to maintain levels of service – both in the schools and to the town in general. While

## Bulletin Board

"I'm off to take a walk," my wife announced one day last week. "The weather is beautiful. Want to come along and get some exercise?"

"No, thanks," I replied. "I'm exhausted."

"Ah."

"In fact, I think I'll take a quick power nap," I said.

"A power nap."

"Yes, you know, kind of recharge my batteries so I have the energy to face the many challenges of the day."

She gave me the look. You know the look. It's that kind of lip bite and incredulous arched eyebrow thing—typically accompanied by a sort of suppressed snort—that women tend to do when confronted with what they consider extreme stupidity.

"You seem a bit bemused," I said. (I've been doing a lot of crossword puzzles this winter, thus the 'bemused'.)

"No, no. I'm just wondering why you would be so tired. It concerns me."

"Hey," I protested, "I've been on the go since I got up this morning."

"Yes, I guess walking out to the mailbox to get the newspaper and then spending an hour on the crossword puzzle must have been positively exhausting. And before that, of course, you had to put on your socks."

Two can play that game. "Actually, it was the 20 minutes I spent searching high and low for the TV remote you decided—for reasons best known to you and Satan—to leave in the silverware drawer."

"I was multi-tasking."

"You were talking on the phone with your mother while emptying the dishwasher and at the same time ignoring my cries for assistance."

"That's multi-tasking. As for your so-called 'cries,' I'd characterize them more as petulant shrieks." (It seems I'm not the only one around here who likes crossword puzzles.)

"Well, I was multi-tasking, too."

"You were sitting on the couch alternately staring into space and whining something about egg rolls being only half the size they used to be between enraged screams demanding to know the location of the TV remote."

"It only appeared that I was staring into space. Actually, I was pondering the great mysteries of the universe. Why are we here? Is there a god? What's with all these TV ads selling deodorant for people's unmentionable lower regions? Should I buy some? I wonder if we'll have French fries for dinner. Will they be crinkle fries or regular fries? Who does Caitlin Jenner's hair? Can she still throw the javelin? I have so many questions."

"I see." She was clearly unimpressed.

"You do realize, of course, that intense mental exertion can be as exhausting as physical exertion," I added.

"Thus the need for a power nap."

"Exactly."

"Tell me something. Exactly what is the difference between a power nap and a regular nap?"

"That's easy. Power naps are used by busy people on the go to renew and refresh themselves—consider it a brief timeout before heading back into the game."

"And a regular nap?"

"Regular naps are for wayward children and enfeebled seniors."

I swear I could still hear her laughing from the end of the street as I settled in on the couch.

Jim Hallas

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

## RIVEREAST

### News Bulletin

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

Published Every Friday by The Glastonbury Citizen

87 Nutmeg Lane • Glastonbury, CT 06033

Telephone (860) 633-4691

Email: [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com)

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

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Connecticut has enjoyed remarkable financial success, small towns have not benefited from the surpluses in Hartford. Our state representative has done nothing to help the district receive those funds. We have been left to carry the burden ourselves, as taxpayers.

To keep up with rising costs and make up for the reductive policies of previous boards and councils, we are being asked to invest more than is fair. But governing is expensive, and it doesn't get less expensive by ignoring the reality of those costs. Our Town Council and boards of education and finance want to be able to help every person, family, and household in town, but there are limits to what a municipal government can do. State laws prevent certain actions that could relieve financial strain on those for whom that relief would be most valuable.

In the short term, we must provide the services residents rely on; public safety departments that operate well; students that receive a quality, accredited education; senior citizens that receive the assistance they depend upon from the Senior Center; a Library that continues its outstanding levels of service; our roads to be safe for travel. This budget is going to ask for increased funding just to keep our current levels of service. When you consider whether to support or reject a budget referendum this summer, the choice will be between maintaining what East Hampton is or losing what we've built.

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

### Maple Fest Thanks

To the Editor:

The Hebron American Legion Post 95 and Hebron Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8776 thank the patriots for the purchase of either/ both a famous Legion burger, fries or chili, and/ or a hot dog at the recent Hebron Maple Fest. A Hebron event like nothing experienced in many years!

Many responsible persons and entities are at the forefront of this coming to fruition, i.e.

TTCP – Holly, and staff, Colebrook – director Scott, the Hebron Maple Fest committee. We give our trust and thanks to our friends of Hebron law enforcement, Hebron first responders, for maintaining/keeping us, and the general public traffic and pedestrians, safe; a difficult job many take for granted – we do not! We also thank Mr. Andy Tierney and his support staff for the logistics, and the Hebron Public Works crew for the safety and beautification of the Town of Hebron; it is a beautiful community.

A grateful thanks to the “stars” of the Hebron Maple Fest: the owners/purveyors of the participating maple sugarhouses, providing the extraordinary display of what this event emphasized.

The Hebron Maple Festival was hard work and a labor of love, producing a fine product and the willingness to provide demonstrations of the sugar/maple process. Thanks to all responsible for returning the Maple Festival back to Hebron, after a tumultuous six or seven years under the claws/jaws of the Windham Chamber of Commerce.

We (the Legion and the VFW) also thank our “neighbors” Douglas Library for educational oversight, and “Flour Girl” and her staff. Visit ‘em both, a great experience – food for the mind and the soul!

### Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

for at least 24 months, have no more than 50 employees, and be in good standing with all municipal, state, and federal authorities. A full list of eligibility and application requirements can be found on the commission’s website at mxcrc.org.

All applicants are encouraged to attend

To all, be well, stay safe.

For God and country, respectfully submitted for the commanders, the female and male veterans working the booths and elsewhere within the Legion.

**R. A. Mangillo,**  
Hebron American Legion Post 95 Adjutant  
and VFW Post 8776 Member

### Republican National Committee

To the Editor:

“The RNC wasn’t going bankrupt fast enough, so they brought in an expert.” – Rick Lenzie via X, formerly known as Twitter.

**Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough**

### They Brought It Home

To the Editor:

I wanted to thank the Hebron Town Center Project volunteers for all their hard work to bring a successful Maple Fest to town this year. It was one of best festivals that I can recall. The concept of “Bringing It Home” was successful, and Hebron set an example for the rest of the state on how a maple festival should be celebrated.

The crowds were huge, there was a great variety of vendors, the food selections were excellent, and the weather was cooperative. The weekend was topped off with a record-breaking tractor parade, which shows off what our small town has to offer. Kudos to all the many folks who put this event together.

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

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

### Don’t Forget to Vote!

To the Editor:

Connecticut’s presidential primary is Tuesday, April 2. Under Connecticut law, only voters affiliated with a political party are allowed to vote in primaries and the deadline to change party affiliation has passed. On Election Day, the polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. This year, voters also have the option of early in-person voting. For details of early voting in your town, see your town clerk’s office or website. Absentee ballots are also accepted under certain conditions; you can request an application for an absentee ballot from your town clerk or by going to the secretary of the state’s website. Once you fill out the application, you need to submit it to your town clerk for them to issue you an actual absentee ballot. If you decide to vote by absentee ballot, you must return that ballot before the polls close on April 2 in order for it to be counted.

However you choose to vote, vote if you are eligible to do so. The average turnout nationwide in the 2020 presidential primaries was about 40%. Too many people either don’t have the right to vote now or fought too hard in the past for it for us not to take advantage of it. If you don’t vote, you have no right to complain about the outcome.

**Sincerely,**  
**Martha Taylor Dumas – Portland**

*Note: Dumas is a member of the Portland Democratic Town Committee, but said she is writing as an individual.*

a live or recorded information session for a better understanding on eligibility and application requirements. To register, also visit mxcrc.org.

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See you next week.

### Thanks, East Hampton Lions

To the Editor:

We would like to thank the East Hampton Lions for the delicious corned beef and cabbage lunch. Thanks also goes to Fred Galvin for cooking, and the VFW for the use of their kitchen.

A great time was had by all from Chatham and Bellwood. The seniors enjoy having a great meal cooked for them.

**Shelley Grendzinski, Tenant Commissioner**  
East Hampton Senior Housing

### Make Your Voice Count

To the Editor:

Hello to everyone that lives in Colchester! My name is Abby and I am a senior at Bacon Academy taking civics right now. I’m writing today to make sure you know that you currently have a chance to make sure that your opinion on our town and school budgets is heard.

Answering the budget survey is one of the ways you can be a part of the process; in addition, you can also attend meetings, give citizen comments, write emails to the different boards, and vote on the budget referendum.

I’m learning all about the Constitution and how our founding fathers crafted documents to give us a democracy where everyone can speak their mind. Right now, in our small-town of Colchester, the Board of Finance is asking you to help them understand what you want so they can make the best choices possible.

Do your part by going to the Town of Colchester website and using the link to the survey you can find in the ‘Town News’ section with the headline ‘Board of Finance Budget Survey’; complete and submit it before it closes at the end of March! You can also find the schedule for all the budget related meetings on the town website, too.

Everyone’s voice counts, so submit your survey today!

**Respectfully,**  
**Abby Belding – Colchester**

### Historic Maple Success

To the Editor:

Thank you to the numerous enthusiastic people that stopped by the Hebron Center History table at last weekend’s Maple Fest. We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to share our cherished local history with so many interested individuals and families, young and old. The reaction from those that generously spent their time listening and asking questions was simply awesome! The support for preserving Hebron’s unique history is alive and strong.

Whether it was learning about Hebron’s dis-

tinctive bedrock, Hebron Gneiss, that is made out of 600 to 400 million-year-old ocean sediment, the effects of the last glacier, which covered Hebron between 100,000 to 20,000 years ago, the role of the Paleoindians, who roamed this land 12,000 to 8,000 years ago, or the Sachem Attawanhood, who deeded vast acres of land to Hebron’s first colonial settlers in 1675, the response was fantastic. But perhaps most inspiring was seeing the excitement of people as they learned that the unique stone wall laneways created between 1780 and 1830 to protect the important glacial lodgment till soil in Hebron Center are still intact. Scores of people took the flyers for the upcoming Hebron Center Walking Tour. I hope you will join us too, Sunday, March 24 at 2:30pm for this journey through time and space. We will meet the Raymond Brook Preserve parking lot at 52 Kinney Road. The walk is about a mile and lasts about 40 minutes. Boots or hiking shoes are recommended. More details are posted at Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Special thanks to The Town Center Project for all your hard work and hosting an outstanding event and “Bringing It Home.” Judging by the endless stream of smiling faces, all visitors enjoyed it as much as I did.

**Sincerely,**  
**Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston**

### Christianity Rising

To the Editor:

Americans should beware of the rising political power of the country’s fastest-growing Christian movement: New Apostolic Reformation, a theological movement that calls for Christians to assert dominion over “seven mountains” of life – government, business, family, education, media, religion, and the arts. They are an extreme group of Christian nationalists, who see Donald Trump as the anointed person to help create a Christian state. In their fervor, they believe that Trump could be justified in calling for revolution. They also undergird militant elements of the radical right, including a former Army major who runs an Idaho tactical-weapons training camp billed as being for “Christian men who believe the times warrant a high standard of firearms readiness.” Alabama Supreme Court Justice Tom Parker has publicly associated himself with this movement—a world of megachurches, modern-day apostles and prophets, media empires, worship bands, and millions of followers. Parker ruled that frozen embryos should be considered “extrauterine children.”

This movement is supplying an argument for authoritarianism, becoming a political force behind the rise of leaders such as Trump and Brazil’s Jair Bolsonaro. Such leaders do not admire

*See Letters, page 6*

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

democracy. They want to eliminate it. Less religiously radical Christians may not agree with this ultra-religious view, but they implicitly support it when they vote for conservative candidates under the thrall of Trumpism. And this points to the hypocrisy of Christians. Most really believe that they are nice people, and most of them are. However, those nice people get caught in the miasma of malignance that their hateful brethren have generated. The Christian world should create yet another denomination just for the hateful, the bigoted, the prejudiced. Then, truly Christian folks could exhibit what it really means to be aligned with Christ and his teachings and not be associated with the fraudulent, repugnant underbelly of Christendom.

**John Barnowski - Colchester**

**Free Speech**

To the Editor:

Currently there is a case before SCOTUS considering if the government can censor citizens through social media, in other words censor by proxy or subcontract, which the Biden administration has been doing but has since been exposed. So they have brought the case to SCOTUS because they want to circumvent the Constitution again, especially now there's an election coming.

Freedom of Speech is a principle that supports the freedom of an individual or a community to articulate their opinions without fear of government retaliation, censorship or legal sanctions. The importance of free speech is that people are free to put information out in the public eye for knowing individuals to distinguish.

On 12-29-2012 Obama signed HR-4310, the National Defense Authorization Act; section 1078 authorizes the use of propaganda inside the U.S., which was banned since 1948. This removed the penalties for knowingly publishing propaganda, giving government-sponsored media free rein to lie. It seems the government feels the public is somehow not as privileged as the media to have their voices heard, be they fact, opinion or fiction.

**C. Anne Johnson - Marlborough**

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**Where I Stand**

To the Editor:

Portland's Joanna Schnurman imagined anti-Semitic elements in my 3/8/24 "Israel" letter. Reaching the 300-word maximum left no room for differentiating "Orthodox Jews" into its various tribes Haredi, Haralim, Hasidim, Sephardim, modern Orthodox Jews, etc. But Schnurman used this to imply I thus referenced all "Jews around the world." She ignored where I wrote "Albert Einstein and other famous secular Jews" were "revolted when fascist Jewish militias massacred a peaceful Palestinian Arab village." Thus careful readers know I stand with secular Jews, and honor them by referencing their opinions and building my letter around those opinions. I also stand with secular Christians, Muslims and Hindus while holding contempt for their literalist tribal members who believe they alone are God's chosen people. These latter forces, along with nationalism, are civilization destroyers.

Thomas Paine said the study of theology was the study of nothing. He did not believe in the creeds professed by any church, because his own mind was his own church. So hold I. Consider Netanyahu's Israeli parliament's increased funding for ultra-Orthodox schools. These Jewish schools educate 20% of all Israeli students, drilling scriptural studies instead of science and math, preparing them for life in the Middle Ages. So said Nobel laureate Aaron Ciechanover. Israeli students test below all other industrialized nations in math, science and reading. Half of Haredi men are unemployed. With the

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ultra-Orthodox population growing rapidly and Netanyahu happily funding it, American and Israeli Jews have bigger problems than labeling Israeli critics such as myself as anti-Semitic. The same holds for all religious tribes seeking supremacy through procreation instead of winning devotees through reason and teaching natural law (math and science) and historical truths. Another Medieval 'Dark Age' looms if religious fecundity vanquishes secularist logic.

Finally, our tax dollars are being used for Palestinian genocide. Focus more there.

Edmund Smith – Andover

### Hold Your Wallet

To the Editor:

Hello Marlborough taxpayers... I hope you are sitting down.

At the March 14th Marlborough Board of Finance meeting, the town manager discussed the proposed budget with the Board of Finance and went to great lengths to justify a 3.21 mill rate increase (that's a 9.24% jump) as less than the growth of the CPI over the course of the last several years. This is in spite of a whopping \$650,000 surplus from FY 21-22 and unknown surpluses yet to be determined for FY 22-23 and FY 23-24.

It should be noted that the budget increase for Marlborough Elementary School comes in at a reasonable 2.72% and pales in comparison to the Town Hall operations and capital budget increases.

Suffice it to say, this is a huge tax increase. I encourage you to go to the Town of Marlborough website and pull up the Board of Finance meeting minutes from March 7th and 14th. You will find them to be interesting reading.

So, I suggest you place a firm grasp on your wallets and follow the budget process closely before you go to vote at the budget referendum in May.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

### Women's History Month

To the Editor:

March is Women's History Month and the theme is centered on women who advocate for equity, diversity and inclusion. Thinking about this important moment, made me remember how much work it was to be included in the local political world. Twenty-plus years ago, it was very difficult for a woman to run for political office. As a Democrat, who grew up in a Republican family, I found it easy to find a friend and someone who shared my goals. Melissa Engel also had strong roots and wanted to share her thoughts and ideas with others.

More than once we were on the ballot, on opposing parties. We were both elected and served many terms together. This is when we realized that basically we agreed on many projects. We became a "team" and spent many hours and days together talking about what was best for East Hampton. Keep in mind...this activity was frowned upon by both of our parties, so we had to meet where no one would notice. Memorable times for both of us!

Today the bond is still strong and we are comfortable talking about those fun days as well as the current political climate. Our local political scene appears to be strong and the elected officials can achieve many great strides by working together.

So, Women's History Month reminds me of the goals that we had years ago and how we achieved those goals. That was by working together and learning from each other. Thank you to the women who are currently serving and making a difference in East Hampton.

Barbara Moore – East Hampton

*Note: Moore is chair of the East Hampton Democratic Town Committee but is speaking as an individual.*

### Wonderful Send-Off

To My Family of Friends:

Thank you for the wonderful retirement send-off this past weekend. You made the day very special for me. After 24 years working at the senior center I have managed to add to my family, a family of friends. Saturday was a testimonial to that. I know how much work the Dream Team had to do for such a special event. Wow! The outpouring of caring and kindness is beyond words. I love East Hampton; it is a great community. This weekend exemplified that as well. Thank you to the local businesses and friends who contributed to the entire event, the food, the music, the Interact Gang, the proclamations and gifts.

My words cannot express the outpouring in my heart. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Jo Ann Ewing,  
Retired East Hampton  
Senior Center Director

### Craft Fair Thanks

To the Editor:

Thank you to all that attended the 2024 Maple Festival Craft Fair at Gilead Congregational Church!

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the vendors and attendees of our Craft Fair held during the Maple Festival this past weekend. The event was a resounding success thanks to the enthusiastic participation and support of each and every visitor. What an inspiration to see so many people come together to celebrate creativity, craftsmanship, and fellowship! Your patronage by choosing to support small businesses and independent artists helps foster a thriving creative community right here at home.

Once again, thank you to everyone who attended our craft fair. We look forward to welcoming you back next spring!

The Gilead Church Family

### Background Building Blocks

To the Editor:

Anyone who has ever been involved in theater knows it takes more than just the people on stage to create a show. Those in the background usually don't get credit, yet they are the building blocks that help to make a show run.

To the people who helped with EHMS' Beauty and the Beast Jr., I thank you. Carl Pastor, your beautiful artwork helped our students look like living portraits. Dan Mussen, you created a rose feature that helped add a magical touch. Kathy Lynch-Mussen, you helped bring our village and castle to life with props and costumes. Sarah Riddell-Moore, you were at all our rehearsals and helped wherever you were needed, from painting to giving hugs. Parents of EHMS Drama Club students volunteered their time to help support their child and to help backstage run smoothly. Several high schoolers came to

See Letters, page 14

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- 2. JESUS CHRIST** voluntarily "gave His life" and "laid down His life" so that all may be saved who place their complete trust in Him. "No man taketh it (My life) from Me, but I lay it down of Myself; I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:11, 15, 17, 18).
- 3. THE DEVIL** played a major role in the crucifixion: "And supper being ended, the DEVIL having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him." John 13:2
- 4. PILATE** the governor played a part because "he delivered Him to be crucified." Matthew 27:26
- 5. THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND ELDERS** persuaded the multitudes and they all cried out, "Let Him be crucified!" Matthew 27:20, 22, 23
- 6. THE ROMANS** crucified Christ because they nailed Him to the cross. Matthew 27:27, 31, 35

## 7. WE ALL MADE NECESSARY THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST!

For God, in His great love and grace, determined to save that which sin ruined. It was because of our sins that He suffered and bled and died. God, knowing our HELPLESS and HOPELESS condition, showed His mercy by giving His Son, even to the point of death on the cross, making it possible to save us. Christ perfectly took the penalty for our sins:

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him THE INIQUITY OF US ALL" (Isaiah 53:6). "But God commendeth HIS LOVE toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, CHRIST DIED FOR US" (Romans 5:8). "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). "For Christ also hath once SUFFERED FOR SINS, the Just (Christ) for the unjust (that's us), that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

Yes, the LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS is able to reach us. God has GOOD NEWS for every hearing heart. God has issued His ROYAL, and RIGHT invitation for every heart to place its whole condition, course and cure upon WHO HE IS and WHAT HE HAS DONE – His death, burial and resurrection. You cannot enjoy the message and meaning of the Resurrection, its glorious HOPE and its immediate HELP, apart from a saving relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. "BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

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# Quarry View to be Redesigned as Nordic Spa

By London Brazal

A 6.14-acre site at the north end of Brownstone Ave overlooking the historic Portland quarries has been approved to be sold and redesigned into a Nordic spa.

Earlier this month, the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved, 5 to 0, the request for Quarry View Historic Park to build a Nordic-inspired spa. The land, located at 311 Brownstone Avenue, was purchased by Dean Soucy and Darlene Rice five years ago. The couple transformed the area from an informal dump to a historic park.

Soucy and Rice bought the land to keep Soucy's equipment but then instantly fell in love with it and quit his demanding job. Rice told the *Rivereast* that she was born and raised in Portland and that her husband 100% belonged here, working on the land. Though, both in their 60s, they were ready to see the next chapter of Quarry View and decided to put it on the market. "It's a great town and this will be a phenomenal addition to not only the tax base but the people itself and the next generation," said Rice.

Pomeroy Lodging is a Canadian-based company in the hospitality industry and opened its first hotel in British Columbia in the 1940s. The company prides itself on honesty, quality, industry and family. The organization now owns 20 properties and employs nearly 3,000 people. Nordic spas are newer in the company's endeavors and have locations in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, as well as in Girdwood, Ala. According to the company, no spas look the same. Alyeska Nordic Spa and Kananaskis Nordic Spa both

have a mountain and forest aesthetic while the rendering for Portland has a barn-like theme to match the history of the surrounding area.

The Nordic spa concept is inspired by Scandinavian wellness and encourages guests to use hydrotherapy. The wellness motto is hot, cold, rest and repeat. The hydrotherapy cycle is designed to relax the mind and body. As an all-season destination, there are indoor and outdoor relaxation services. In the design, there are some hot tubs, saltwater baths, saunas, steam rooms, a cold plunge, a bistro and a lounge.

New construction will span 33,000 square feet across the area and parking is already in place without a need to expand the lot. Based on the designs, there will be an underground detention system and water quality unit with multiple rain gardens. Buildings are going where the turnaround was and the organization will be saving the landscape and adding native trees and plants to add to the authenticity of the area. According to First Selectman Ryan Curley, the spa will create about 70 new jobs and construction is expected to begin around May or June of this year. A completion date is targeted for 2025.

Curley told the *Rivereast* that this is roughly a \$40 million project but will be a big revenue generator. The company reached out in 2022 and discussion has been developing ever since. "It's really good for the town and their plan is to make Portland the health and wellness capital of New England," said Curley. With that, the spa gives another reason for people to visit Portland which can lead to more exposure of the small

local businesses. The company had ideas to bring the Nordic spas to the continental United States and originally had thoughts of building in Colorado. After more searching, Pomeroy Lodging wound up in Portland.

The history of the quarries extends to the 1650s when an English stonecutter came to Portland, according to the town's website. European Americans were enticed by the availability of brownstone, a valuable resource for gravestones and construction. With the Connecticut River a few feet away, the accessibility to the brownstone quarries made transportation affordable. Many family businesses flourished that eventually consolidated into three partnerships. In the 1850s, the town supplied brownstone all over the country, Canada and England.

Quarry View is a brownstone quarry, more than 330 years old, and registered as a Historic National Landmark. There are natural springs and artifacts including dinosaur prints and carved dates in the stones dating back to the 1880s. At the east end of the property, there is a trail that leads to 80-ft brownstone walls left from the quarry's operations. The patio has been a place of gathering, where the couple hosted drum circles, weddings, celebrations of life and unique camping.

Rice explained that she and her husband will work as consultants to make sure the company retains the history and integrity of the land. "It's extremely important that they will do it," commented Rice. "We're ready to see the new life."

## 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 *Rivereast 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 [rfpgwpsherwood@aol.com](mailto:rfpgwpsherwood@aol.com). The deadline to receive applications is April 5.

## Tag Sale Donations Sought

The Portland Historical Society will hold its 28th annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day Saturday, May 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The society will participate with its own tag sale on the grounds of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History.

Volunteers from the society will receive items in good condition at the Ruth Callander House garage, 492 Main Street, from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, April 13 and 20. No textbooks, electronics (including computers or printers),

clothing or footwear, large furniture or unwieldy items (dirty, broken, rusty) are accepted. Vintage and antique items are always welcome. If you are cleaning and tossing photos from the past, please contact the historical society to find out if they would like them for their collection. These photos can be of people, places and events from Portland's history.

For more information on donating items or photographs, call 860-982-1486 or email [PortlandHistory@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandHistory@gmail.com).

## Zion Lutheran Church News

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

Throughout Lent, Zion has been collecting various items for the Portland Food Bank. On March 24, the church is especially collecting shaving cream, hand lotion and body lotion; but any items are welcome at any time.

The schedule for Holy Week at Zion is: Maundy Thursday Service: March 28, 6 p.m.; Good Friday Worship, March 29, 6 p.m.; Easter Sunday, March 31, 9 a.m.

Members of Zion will also participate in the annual community "Cross Walk" beginning at St. Mary Church, at noon on Good Friday, March 29.

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.

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.

## First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. All are welcome to participate in the worship services and activities of the church. The church is handicapped accessible and also offers You Tube services for those unable to attend in person. The church office is open three mornings a week, and may be reached at 860-342-3244.

**Worship Services:** Held each Sunday at 10 a.m. The March 24 Palm Sunday worship service will be led by the Intentional Interim Minister, the Rev. Barry McCarthy. Palms will be distributed at the service. Coffee hour follows the service and is a time of fellowship for all. All are invited to participate in the worship service and coffee hour.

**Easter Bake Sale:** Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m.-noon. Cookies, breads, pies, candy and assorted treats will be available.

**Holy Week:** Maundy Thursday Service is on March 28 and will begin at 7 p.m.

On Friday, March 29, the Portland religious community will lead a Good Friday walk around Portland's Village District. The walk begins at noon at St. Mary Roman Catholic Church.

Easter Sunday is March 31. Two services will

take place. The first is at 7 a.m. and will be an outdoor service held in the backyard of the church. The 10 a.m. Sunday worship will be held in the church.

**Children's Activities:** Church School and Infant/Toddler Care are available each Sunday. School aged children begin in the worship service in the sanctuary with their families and will be brought downstairs for church school after the Children's Message. Infants/toddlers may be dropped off in Fellowship Hall before the service or at any point during the service. The Faith Formation program is under the direction of Mary Clark.

**Adult Choir:** All are welcome to join the choir, which sings at Sunday worship services. Choir practice is held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** The Women's Fellowship of the church sponsors a Prayer Shawl Ministry. All knitters are invited to be part of the knitting group that makes the shawls on Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

**Twelve-Step Groups:** Alanon meets at the church on Sundays at 7 p.m. Living Clean meets at the church on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

**Community Outreach and Service:** The church collects non-perishable food for Portland Food Bank and Amazing Grace Food Pantry at each Sunday's worship service. The church sponsors meals for Streetfire Ministries and St. Vincent De Paul in Middletown.

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



### Easter Bake Sale

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., will hold its annual Easter Bake Sale on Saturday, March 30, from 9 a.m.-noon.

This fundraiser supports the church's activities and mission. Featured items include cardamom bread, a variety of sweet breads, cakes, pies, lots of cookies, pastries, and bunny lollipops.

### Easter Egg Hunt

The Portland Parks & Recreation Department will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 23, at 11 a.m., at the Portland Recreational Complex. Rain date is Sunday, March 24, at 1 p.m.

Families with children ages 1-10 will have a blast searching for candy-filled eggs and other goodies. Find the golden egg and win a prize. Golden egg prizes will be provided by Angela Aresco with Carl Guild & Associates.



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## Portland Vet Moves to Cobalt

By London Brazal

Keeping the rustic and historic aesthetic of an 1823 home, the Portland Veterinary Hospital, owned by Jonathan and Christine Gustavson, has moved to Cobalt.

Jonathan and Christine Gustavson studied at Oklahoma State University and moved to Connecticut to work as veterinarians. Jonathan worked with the Pieper-Olson Veterinary Hospital in Middletown while Christine was in Cheshire but later joined the Pieper-Olson team.

About eight and a half years ago, the Gustavsons bought the Portland location, which used to be a Pieper-Olson satellite. They right away knew they wanted to expand since the space was small and felt cramped for their operations. However, it was not possible to increase the size of the Portland building because of zoning regulations and other obstacles. Ultimately, they wanted a bigger space to better serve their clients and provide care for their pets; having more rooms allows for everything to flow smoothly.

As it turned out, they didn't have to go far. The Gustavsons live in East Hampton, and would often drive by a semi-abandoned house and barn on Route 151 in Cobalt. As it turned out, a client owned the property and the couple contacted him about selling. With no vet in East Hampton, it was a perfect fit. In 2020, the official request was presented to the town to change the zoning of the building at 9 Middle Haddam Rd. to allow for commercial use. In multiple public letters of support, the themes were the same. Fellow residents said how the Gustavsons would keep their promise of restoring the historic charm of the home and how the couple has had a successful practice in Portland and are happy with their business. Other residents showed support for the move to East Hampton because it would help revitalize the Cobalt Center and hopefully attract future businesses. Ultimately, the request was approved and the couple

began construction. The couple noted that they were fortunate for everything to go as planned and the only challenging part was time, trying to get everything done and in order to open.

Jonathan told the *Rivereast* that his wife was the planner and how the two wanted to keep the authentic charm of an 1823 home.

"Christine would go over things and make sure everything was on task. We enjoyed using the old materials and keeping it authentic," Jonathan said. When they first purchased the house, many rooms were already gutted which left the couple with many crafty choices. Trees that were knocked down to create additions for the house, were milled to use as countertops and trim for the doors. Some of the original windows were reused while the newer ones still match the aesthetic. The Gustavsons especially thank Nino Malatesta with Post & Beam who helped with the framing and structure of the house.

Other pieces that were recycled included the old flooring which is not used as a ceiling in some rooms. The old fireplace mantel remains while the brick has been used to decorate the receptionist's desk. The Gustavsons' kids even took the wallpaper from the original rooms and used them as backdrops for photos of the old house and maps of Cobalt when the house was first built. To further emulate the rich history of the community itself, Christine explained how the main colors are cobalt blue.

Another goal for the new veterinary clinic location was to make itself part of the community. "We're a local vet and we wanted to stick with the community," Christine said. The barn in the back of the property was a milking barn and still has the cow stalks. The couple plans to fix it up and, even though they will not be taking on any other types of animals in terms of services, they hope to have goats. With that, Jonathan mentioned how some inspiration was to create a museum look with maps and photos to show the history of the area.



**Drs. Jonathan and Christine Gustavson have moved their veterinary practice to a historic home in Cobalt. With original brick and wood filling the spacious rooms, pets and families alike can enjoy a welcoming atmosphere.**

Fortunately, the transition to Cobalt has been running smoothly. And, since the new location is only a five-minute drive from the old one, it has not been a big deal for the Portland clients.

As of now, the services remain the same with the focus on cats and dogs. There is a part-time doctor and the couple hopes later on, they will be able to add another full-time position. The Gustavsons noted they are always taking new

local clients.

With the move, the new name is the Cobalt Veterinary Clinic. For now, know, the old website still remains; for more information on the practice, visit [portlandvethospital.com](http://portlandvethospital.com).

Cobalt Veterinary Clinic, located at 9 Middle Haddam Rd., can be reached by phone at 860-342-3399.

### 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.

**Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program:** April 1-30. To participate, start at Portland Library and show your library card to pick up your passport and collect your first stamp. Then take your passport along as you visit as many of the participating public libraries in our state and collect a stamp from each one throughout April. If you visit at least five libraries, and then hand in your passport at Portland Library (due back by 5 p.m. Friday, May 10) you have the chance to win a prize from the CT Library Association.

**Youth Programs:** 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.

**Chess with Michael Pelton:** Monday, March 25, 3 p.m. All ages are invited to train for the Portland Chess Battle Royale on March 26. Registration is not required, but is recommended.

**Egg-cellent Adventures:** Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. April 4, 18 & 25, for grades K-2. Explore the wonders of the incredible edible egg. Space is limited.

**Read to a Therapy Dog:** Saturdays, April 6 and May 4, 10:30 a.m.-noon. The library has announced a partnership with Middletown High School's animal ambassador program. Each month, the library will host a therapy animal, and kids between the ages of 6 and 12 can make an appointment for a 15-minute session to read to an animal buddy.

### Police News

3/7: Ordoro Sanders, 38, of East Haddam, was arrested and charged with violation of probation, Portland Police said.

3/15: Justin Slater, 34, of 204 Jobs Pond Rd., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer, police said.

3/17: Jonathan Myers, 23, of St. Cloud, Fla., was arrested and charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, police said.

3/17: Robert McLellan, 41, of 183 Rose Hill Rd., was arrested and charged with violation of protective order, police said.

**Matchbox Madness:** Tuesday, April 9, 11 a.m., for grades pre-K-2. Design your very own race car and then test it out on our race track. Space is limited.

**Family PJ Storytime:** Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. Throw on some pajamas, grab a special stuffed friend, and help celebrate Week of the Young Child with a storytime and craft activity.

**Nintendo Switch Drop-In Play:** Thursday, April 11, 2-4 p.m. The library recently acquired a Nintendo Switch for programming. Kids in grades 2-5 are welcome to come for drop-in gaming including *Mario Kart 8 Deluxe*. No registration is required for this event.

**Teen Programs: LGBTQ+ Dungeons & Dragons Sessions:** Wednesdays, April 3 and 17, 6 p.m., for ages 13-19. On April 3, learn the basics of D&D and create your own character. The library will have 3D-printed icons you can custom design. Then on April 17, put your new character and skills to the test in your first game quest. Registration is recommended, but not required.

**Chopped:** Taco Edition!: Monday, April 15, 3:30 p.m. You'll be making tacos as a team, choosing from an assortment of delicious and fresh ingredients to make your tasty taco recipe. All ingredients are nut-free but may contain dairy, eggs or gluten. Space is limited.

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

**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.

**Book Clubs:** 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. Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, April 16, 1 p.m. *Get Shorty* by Elmore Leonard will be discussed.

**Ukulele Classes:** Tuesdays, April 9-30, 5:15 p.m. Staff at Conn Valley School of Music and Dance will offer four weeks of free 45-minute beginner lessons for ages 11 and up and adults of all ages. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one from the library. Space is limited.

**Monthly Writers' Cafe:** Saturdays, April 20, May 18 and June 15, at 12:30 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.

### From the State Representative's Desk

2024 Legislative Goals

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

What's in store for the 2024 legislative session? We are tasked with proposing, debating, and voting on legislation by midnight on May 8 – and things move fast. This year, I have promoted bills that echo resident concerns including crime, excess state taxes, artificial intelligence advancement, and more. Below, I want to share some of my proposals and information on how you can participate in the lawmaking process.

My legislative goals are simple: support our police, implement affordable solutions, protect our newborns, and advance quality legislation that respects the fiscal guardrails established in 2017. These guardrails, which were put in place to responsibly spend while paying down state debt, are essential to ensuring a stable economy that doesn't financially burden our middle- and low-income families.

On crime, our police are working hard to keep us safe, however current laws continue to restrict them from doing so to the best of their professional ability. That's why I proposed restoring a police officer's ability to execute consent searches of vehicles and to pursue suspects of property crimes. Also, with rising concerns of impaired driving, I support legislation that permits officers to conduct motor vehicle stops when they see marijuana.

On affordability, I want to create an opt-out option for the state's family leave payroll tax and exempt children's clothing under \$100 from the state's sales tax. Alongside maintaining our commitment to the successful fiscal guardrails, these bills will provide significant financial relief to our residents and families.

On public health, I submitted proposals to increase access to rapid sequence genome testing for critically ill newborns, expand newborn screening, and create an expansive mechanism for plasma donation centers in Connecticut.

On the environment, I am advocating for the Department of Transportation to replant the same number of trees removed during road construction locally, and for the state to create a stewardship program to encourage environmentally friendly disposal of solar panels.

On technology, I've submitted a proposal to criminalize deepfake pornography created by advanced artificial intelligence (AI) technology. Deepfakes are images using someone's likeness without their consent and my bill is intended to promote unsuspecting residents from becoming the victim of such a vile crime.

Don't forget: You also play a role in the legislative process and there are multiple ways to participate. Be sure to follow me on Facebook (@repcarpino), Instagram (@staterepcarpino), and to consider testifying at a public hearing.

As always, never hesitate to reach out to me with your questions, ideas, and concerns about any state issue by emailing me at [Christie.Carpino@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Christie.Carpino@housegop.ct.gov) or by calling me at 860-240-8700.

State Rep. Christie Carpino  
R-32nd District  
Portland & Cromwell

### 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. Curbside voting will be available for early voting. Residents requiring curbside assistance can call the Early Voting Room at 860-342-6740 when they arrive.

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.

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### Ronna L. Kuzminski Memorial Scholarship

ConnValley School of Music & Dance is now accepting applications for the Ronna L. Kuzminski Memorial Scholarship.

ConnValley School of Music & Dance will be granting \$500 to a graduating senior from Portland High School. This senior must be attending a two- or four-year accredited college in

pursuit of a career in dance, music, or the arts. Prior students of Conn Valley School of Music & Dance will be given priority.

Portland students can obtain an application form from the Portland High School guidance office. All applications must be received by April 15 to be considered.

### 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

### 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,

10:15 a.m. Throughout Lent, Zion has collected items on Sundays for Portland Food Bank. Items to be collected this Sunday, March 24, are shaving cream, hand lotion, and body lotion. However, 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.

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.

### 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.

**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 July 24-June 28; the second summer session is July 15-29; the third summer session is Aug. 5-9.

**Ladies' Spring Golf Clinic:** Mondays, April 22-May 20, 6-7 p.m., at Portland West Golf Course.

**Junior Golf Workshop (Grades K-8):** Saturdays, April 20-May 11, at Portland West Golf Course. The K-2 class is from 12:30-1:30 p.m.; the grades 3-5 class is from 1:45-2:45 p.m.; and the grades 6-8 class is from 3-4 p.m.

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

**Summer Quest Camps:** Monday-Friday, from June 24-Aug. 9., at the Portland high and middle school. Kiddie Camp runs 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m., and Base Camp and Teen Camp each run 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Extended AM and PM care available for Base Camp.

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

**Drop-In Volleyball:** Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m., through May, at Gildersleeve School. FREE for Portland residents.

**Tai Chi for Long Life:** Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., or Saturdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m., at the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St.

### 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:** 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.

**Medical Equipment Donations:** Call the senior center to ask if the center is seeking medical equipment donations at this time. Due to limited space, donations cannot be accepted at the senior center without prior approval by the director.

**Volunteers Wanted:** The senior center is also looking for volunteers to help with the congregate meals starting in June.

**Next Week's Programs:** Monday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Syncoize 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 (to register, email [bivenne@yahoo.com](mailto:bivenne@yahoo.com)); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m.; Dulcimer Progressive Class, 6 p.m. Wednesday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Syncoize 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.; UConn Nutritional Cooking Class, 10:30 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Senior center closed in observance of Good Friday.

**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 Duclos of "All Ears" in Portland. No registration is necessary.

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

**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-Friday. The delivery usually takes about an hour. For full details, call Holly at 860-342-6761.

### Dean's List

Brynn Hennessey of Portland made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.



**Free Throw Excellence... Portland's Aeryn Hall (left) converted 20 of 25 free throws and won in the 12-year old girls Knights of Columbus State Championship Free Throw event at St. Paul Catholic high school in Bristol on Saturday, Feb. 24. Also at the event, Portland's Connor Cummings (right) converted 15 of 25 basketball free throws and won in the 10-year old boys category. Aeryn and Conner competed against boys and girls, ages 9 through 14, from around the state. This was the third consecutive state championship victory for Aeryn. Aeryn and Conner advanced to the state championship by winning on Jan. 26 at Brownstone Council 7 Saint Mary's free throw event in Portland.**

### Portland Exchange Offering Scholarship

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.

### St. Mary Church News

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

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

**Weekday Mass:** Monday and Tuesday at 8

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

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

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

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

### Memorial Day Parade – Invitation to Participate

Portland's Memorial Day parade will take place Sunday, May 26, rain or shine – and local groups and organizations are invited to participate.

The parade will assemble at Victoria Road at 1:30 p.m. Floats or vehicles should assemble at 12:30 p.m. Step-off will be at 2 p.m.

The procession will stop for a brief ceremony at the Civil War monument on Bartlett Street, it will continue down Main Street as usual. A reviewing stand will be stationed at the Brownstone Intermediate School. The parade will then turn left on Waverly Avenue, left onto East Main

Street, and right onto Fairview Street, ending at Veterans Memorial Park.

Details about no parking and road closures for the day will be announced in the weeks ahead.

Registration forms may be picked up at 117 Main St. For more information, contact Sara Sterry Rutter, parade organizer, at 860-250-2041 or [ssterryrutter@yahoo.com](mailto:ssterryrutter@yahoo.com). People interested in volunteering for the Memorial Day Parade Committee should also contact Rutter.

Visit "Portland Memorial Day Parade" on Facebook, as additional information will be posted there.

### Xavier/Mercy College Fair

Xavier and Mercy high schools will hold a College Fair Thursday, April 4, from 6-8 p.m., at Xavier, 181 Randolph Rd.

More than 100 colleges will be in attendance. The fair is open to all high school students from Xavier, Mercy and surrounding towns.

### Honor Society Inductee

Jake Thompson of Portland, a student at Eastern Connecticut State University, was recently inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society.

Thompson is a sophomore majoring in business administration.

## Stuart L. Jablon, D.P.M.

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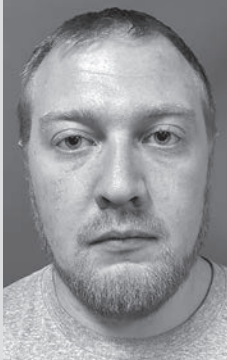
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# Man Charged With Going 115 MPH on Route 66

By Michael Sinkewicz

An East Hampton man was arrested last week after allegedly driving over 100 mph on a local road and attempting to elude police.



Joshua Secore

Joshua Secore, 27, was traveling on Route 66 in Marlborough at 8:35 p.m. on March 13 when a trooper clocked him at 105 mph, according to state police.

Secore was charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, interfering with an officer and reckless operation of a motor vehicle. He was released on a \$5,000 non-surety bond, according to police, and will be arraigned next month at Manchester Superior Court.

Police stated that Secore was heading towards East Hampton from the center of Marlborough. A trooper of the state police traffic unit was in the area as part of its "High Risk Rural Road" initiative, police said.

As Secore's GMC K2500 pickup truck approached other vehicles on the road, he

weaved into the opposing lane to pass them, according to police. The trooper – who was stationed ahead of Secore – turned on his cruiser's lights, but instead of stopping, Secore accelerated and reached an estimated speed in excess of 115 mph, police stated.

Secore was seen going around another vehicle at the crest of a hill in a curved section of the road, which created a "serious physical injury to himself and others," police stated in a news release.

After the trooper caught up to him, Secore "abruptly" stopped in a residential driveway, according to police. Although the trooper told Secore to remain in his vehicle, he exited the GMC, police said.

"Believing that Secore was about to flee from the scene on foot, Secore was immediately taken into custody without further incident," according to the police release.

Secore then "verbally admitted" he was "aware that the trooper was about to initiate a traffic stop" and that he "purposefully accelerated and entered a driveway in an attempt to elude the trooper," the news release stated.

Following the on-scene investigation, Secore was taken to Troop K to be processed.

## 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.

## Realtors Meet with Legislators

On March 5, the Greater Hartford Association of Realtors (GHAR) and the Connecticut Association of Realtors held an event at GHAR's headquarters in Hartford to meet with Connecticut legislators who serve on the Insurance and Real Estate Committee and the Housing Committee.

The Connecticut legislators on hand included state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55), who serves on the Housing Committee. GHAR Government Affairs Committee member and Marlborough realtor Ken Hjulstrom took the opportunity to speak with the legislators in attendance regarding bills that are being presented that address various issues involving real estate, affordable housing and tenant/landlord rights. Members of the the Connecticut Association of Realtors also talked about attempts to put incentives in place to convert vacant or underutilized commercial properties for residential use.

Hjulstrom spoke to the legislators on hand about a public forum held in Marlborough on Feb. 27. At that forum, about 50 Marlborough residents were in attendance to discuss mandates and proposals aimed at increasing the number of "affordable housing" units in Marlborough. This is a topic of conversation in many local communities.

As the spring legislative session moves forward, Senate Bill SB No. 6, "An Act Concerning Housing (To make housing more affordable for Connecticut residents)," will be winding its way through hearings. Anyone interested in learn-



Marlborough resident Ken Hjulstrom (left) spoke with Connecticut legislators, including state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55), at a recent event held by the Greater Hartford Association of Realtors (GHAR) and the Connecticut Association of Realtors.

ing more about this SB No. 6 and other legislation can read more about the details on the Connecticut General Assembly website.

## 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 elementary school population. Deacon Bill Gilles

leads the middle school program. For more information, call the church office.

**Confirmation Community:** Led by Helena Thomas, this is a 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program. For more information, call the church office.

**Adult Worship Choir:** Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 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.stjfisher.org](http://www.stjfisher.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

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### Holiday Closing

Town Hall, the Senior Center, and the Public Works garage will be closed Friday, March 29, in observance of Good Friday.

### 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.

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.

### 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.

### Arts Center Exhibit at Town Hall

The Marlborough Arts Center is holding an exhibit at Town Hall, featuring artwork by East Hampton resident Dianne Gorrick.

Gorrick is a former art teacher at Bacon Academy. Her current display ranges from traditional landscapes to imaginative themes.

This exhibit is open to the public during normal business hours at Town Hall, and will run through June 30. For more information, visit [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org), or contact the Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or [marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com).

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### Congregational Church News & Notes

Holy Week services are scheduled at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St. All sanctuary worship services are livestreamed at [mcc.marlbconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlbconchurch.org) for those who can't attend in person, and can also be watched later through the church web page. The Rev. Valerie Seaver will lead all the services.

**Palm Sunday, March 24:** The worship service at 10 a.m. will feature the annual Sunday School Palm Processional and a message for the children from Seaver. After the parade, Sunday School students will have an Ice Cream Seder meal, downstairs in the Great Hall.

Seaver's sermon title is "...that means you!" and is based on selected verses from Psalm 118 and Mark 11. After worship, all are invited for light refreshments at Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge; also during Coffee Hour, Dorcas Women's Fellowship will sponsor a homemade Easter cookie and chocolate lollipop sale to benefit their mission projects.

**Maunder Thursday Tenebrae Service:** March 28, 7 p.m. The service will include Holy Communion and a dramatic reading of the Passion Story.

**Good Friday, March 29:** The church sanctuary will be open for quiet meditation from noon to 3 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, March 31:** A Sunrise Service will be held lakeside at Lake Terramuggus at 7 a.m. Hymns will be led by a brass ensemble and

hot cocoa will be served. All in the community are welcome. Bring a lawn chair if you wish.

The church sanctuary at the 10 a.m. Resurrection Celebration will be decorated for Easter with flowers filling the chancel and Easter banners hung on the walls. The service will include special music from the Chancel Choir including Handel's Hallelujah Chorus to close the service.

**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, will be held from 1-1:30 p.m. March 24. Second-quarter mission giving will go the AHM Mental Health Fund

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop: Will be closed Good Friday and Holy Saturday, March 29 and 30.**

**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.

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

### Parks and Rec Upcoming Programs

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

**Trips: 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.

**Youth Programs: Parents Night Out:** Fridays, March 22 and April 26, 6-9 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center (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.

**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.

### 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.marlbroughlions](http://www.facebook.com/connecticut.marlbroughlions) or reach out to Lions Club member Jennifer Greloch at [jenbruhns@gmail.com](mailto:jenbruhns@gmail.com).

### Dean's List

Marlborough residents Brian Capozza and Cole Pilkington made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.

Capozza is in the computer science program, and Pilkington is in the mechanical engineering program.



Troop 28 scout Zachary Linderman, of Marlborough, is partnering with Hebron Interfaith Human Services to complete his Eagle Scout Service Project.

### Resident Working on Eagle Project

Troop 28 Hebron Eagle Scout candidate Zachary Linderman is partnering with Hebron Interfaith Human Services to complete his Eagle Scout service project, which seeks to provide fresh vegetables for those who utilize the HIHS Food Pantry.

Linderman will construct a 16-foot-long by 4-foot-wide raised bed vegetable garden at the HIHS facility on Pendleton Drive in Hebron. HIHS provides a number of support services to individuals, children and families facing challenging times in the area.

Linderman said he was drawn to the project when he found that providing healthy foods at

the food pantry such as fresh fruits and vegetables can significantly improve the diet of individuals who are often unable to afford or don't have access to such options.

Linderman, the son of Joanna Jaworska of Marlborough, is a senior at RHAM High School. He plans on attending Central Connecticut State University in the Fall to study Engineering.

HIHS continually seeks non-perishable foods, and contributions to support the food pantry and efforts such as the raised bed vegetable garden project.

### 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.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org).

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### 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 of voters' office to enroll in the Democratic or Re-

publican parties. (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.

### Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is open for activities. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information. The center also serves as a warming center.

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

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

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

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

**Sunday, March 24:** Senior & Youth Bingo, 2-4 p.m.

**Monday, March 25:** Free bread and bakery goods from Stop & Shop; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congre-

gate Meal, noon. Menu: boneless chicken marsala, parsleyed pasta, Italian mixed vegetables, whole grain white bread/fresh fruit; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; Setback, 3-4 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 26:** 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.; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.; Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 27:** Not Just Quilting, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: orange juice, hearty beef stew with potatoes and root vegetables, wheat dinner roll, vanilla pudding; Setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-7 p.m.; Nature Trails, 7 p.m., pool room.

**Thursday, March 28:** Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Tai Chi, 1-2 p.m.; Parkinson's Disease Exercise w/ Anne, 3-4 p.m.

**Friday, March 29:** Senior center closed in observance of Good Friday.

### President's List

Marlborough residents Mackenzie Donnelly and Max Nylen made the fall 2023 President's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

### Dean's List

Marlborough residents Mackenzie Donnelly, Max Nylen and Adam Whitmore made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

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

★ Letters cont. from page 7

auditions to be a support to students who nervously waited, then later gave up a weekend to help run front of house and backstage. EHMS PTO members ran the concession stands to help raise funds that directly benefit EHMS students.

Performing in front of a live audience can have a transformative effect. Things that weren't working before somehow come together. Even when things didn't go as planned, our students pivoted and rode the river of live theater. A lost scarf was picked up by another. A fallen wig was dusted off and put back on. The show carried on and they adjusted.

Lastly, thank you to the eight hundred audience members for showing our middle schoolers that they are worthy of our time and effort. Thank you for showing them courage, practice, and hard work is rewarding. There is value in community when we come together. We can lift each other up and cheer each other on.

Kate Werme - East Hampton

### Dinner Show Thanks!

To the Editor: A huge thank you to these amazing businesses for supporting the cast and crew of our annual Dinner Show! You all made the night beautiful and so delicious! We could not have done it without you!

Thanks to Black Walnut Bakery, Lakeside Bar & Grill, The Town Tavern, Pizzeria DaVinci, Maria's Pizza Palace, Papa Z's Restaurant and Pizza, Village Green Pizza and Restaurant, Stop and Shop, Big Y, Adam's hometown Market and the Colegrove Family.

Epoch Arts  
East Hampton

### Clean-Up Walk

To the Editor:

On behalf of AHM Youth & Family Services I'd like to announce an exciting partnership between AHM and the Hebron Green Committee for the Hebron Earth Day Clean-Up Walk taking place Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. During this event, Hebron community members will volunteer to collect trash from various locations throughout the town in an effort to lessen the amount of litter found in the community and reduce its harmful impact on the environment.

This year, as a recipient of the NIPS Grant, the clean-up walk will bring awareness and education to the problematic environmental impact of micro-plastics (specifically alcohol nip bottles). Ana Gopian, director of Tricircle Inc., will be counting, categorizing and photographing the nips and substance paraphernalia collected. She will include them in Ana's 'Paraphernalia Project' which will be shared with the community as means of educating residence on the importance of appropriate disposal and the impact these micro plastics have on our environment. How much do you know about the harm these micro plastics have on our environment? We invite you to test your knowledge on what kind of litter will be found on the side of our Roads and in our Parks. Take this 10-question survey at [tinyurl.com/bc6w6z8f](http://tinyurl.com/bc6w6z8f).

In order for this Earth Day Clean-Up walk to be successful, we're calling upon Hebron community members, parents and RHAM middle and high school students to participate in the walk. If you would like to sign up to volunteer please do so at [tinyurl.com/bdz8twp8](http://tinyurl.com/bdz8twp8). Volunteers will meet at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 20.

Any students participating will earn community service hours. The first 25 volunteers to sign up will receive a T-shirt to wear during the event.

Through collaborative efforts and education we can make an impact on the cleanliness, safety and well-being of our local environment!

Sincerely,

Ashlee Parks, Prevention Coordinator  
AHM Youth and Family Services

### Duped

To the Editor:

Each year, Colchester's taxpayers are asked to approve the "budgets of" the boards of selectmen and education in "the amount of." As an ex-member of the boards of education and finance, I wish there would be a disclaimer. "Warning: The line item budget you approved is only for illustrative purposes. The boards have the authority to transfer money between line items. The boards also have the authority not to spend the full amount of money in total or by line item presented to the voter."

So, for example, one can look at the 2020 through 2023 school years. The BOE monthly reports show voters significant tax dollars moved around and unspent. In that period, the Board of Education transferred \$600K out of labor line items to cover unexpected costs. Also at that time, the BoE chose not to spend another \$1 million in labor costs approved by voters. So, in total, actual labor costs were \$1.6 million under what voters approved.

So to those that ever believed every dime of approved labor costs was going to improve the education of our children. No, that did not happen.

So, this year, I hope people manage their expectations. The "budgets" are best guess estimates that tend to be very conservative. Elected officials have to plan for unexpected costs and revenue loss not in the budget. They must plan to fund the rainy day fund. So, what you see is not what you're necessarily going to get.

Be well,

James D. McNair III - Colchester

### Educated Consumption

To the Editor:

The March 1st edition brought letters and stories from surrounding towns, supporting education, in addition to stories from a well-respected Hebron historian. These types of stories, like sweeping landscapes, home cooked meals and old growth trees, are something humans have always cherished. This reminded me that education does not necessarily mean four brick walls. And while formal educations help, to be sure, a life education is equally important. Some careers consist of 10% classroom and 90% out of the classroom. In these careers many will spend 70% of their working lives, literally, outside. If you want to farm, raise livestock, be a tree doctor, a historian, a large animal vet, an environmentalist or a landscape architect, you will require an outdoor education which often includes understanding groundwater and stone walls.

Hebron officials have not quite cleared their plates of a 1980s "Reagan-omics"-type economy. The wheels of politics move slowly and while the gears audibly grind and smoke, sitting in plain sight, in the center of Hebron, lies the greatest type of classroom anywhere. People never stop learning, which is why the Raymond Brook Watershed attracts visitors from other towns and from all demographics. Different than the well loved Air Line Trail system, the Raymond Brook Park offers many walkers a slower paced trail. Visitors often pause to drink in the scenery or study a plant. Its sister property, 17 Kinney Rd., is well laid out, by previous generations, to offer a similar type of delectable

experience. Both landscapes, if left intact, are a wealth of beauty while offering countless unexpected educational opportunities.

Before reaching for another helping of pavement, with a hefty side of salt, consider the long term gains of supporting the Right to Learn by preserving Kinney Road for future generations. #save17.

Jean Tulimieri - Amston

### Thank You for Engaging!

To the Editor:

Thank you for those residents who participated in our 'Listening Sessions' for our budget process. I enjoyed the sessions very much and gained a greater appreciation for our community and the people who call East Hampton home.

But it also allowed me to meet people who didn't know me or for that matter voted for me. When I decided to run I wanted to be a part of change in our community to bring back civility, listening and respectful conversation with our residents. In the long run I hope that listening, understanding will lead and make our community stronger in the coming days and years ahead.

The people I have recently met gave me new assurances that we all want the same thing for our beautiful town. We want to make sure it has the proper care and up keeping for young and old and for our children to inherit a strong, vibrant community that they will proudly call home.

Don't sit on the sidelines, your voice matters! If you cannot make a meeting in person please Zoom in, raise your hand and make your comment! And more importantly it is up to you East Hampton to make sure you vote in our election processes whether budget referendums or political elections. It's up to you to East Hampton!

Respectfully, Deb Cunningham  
East Hampton Town Council

### Over Nine Percent

To the Editor:

Letters in recent weeks have addressed Marlborough's budget season, and some of the controversies inherent in it.

I have been pleased to get several calls thanking me for expressing thoughts about our town's needs, saying that my letters were representative of their concerns too. I welcome that feedback! Our community needs to understand that we will be voting on a budget representing a greater than 9% tax increase. Imagine 9% to people on fixed income, or young families starting out! Our mill rate would increase to 37.94.

But today I am writing about a truly grave concern. After a well-known man in the community chose to attend the Board of Finance meeting for the sole purpose of launching a vicious and personal attack on Debbie Bourbeau, he left the meeting. A mean, cowardly verbal attack on Debbie, our Board of Selectmen chair, was not only unwarranted, it was false! Deb has been serving our community for decades. Her service has included teaching at MES, serving on the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, president of the Library Board and the Marlborough Arts Center. Deb's service has included everyone who lives in the town.

Significant infrastructure needs, loss of tax money from the medical center, unpaid taxes, and reduced income from car taxes cannot be laid at Deb's door. What a shameful effort at divisiveness it was, a terrible example of pitting boards and services against one another, and a nasty personal attack as well. Rousseau said, "Insults are the arguments employed by those who are in the wrong."

Our BOF, BOS and BOE have a very difficult job ahead and it should be done collaboratively. Personal attacks on board members should not be tolerated by anyone.

Fran Terase - Marlborough

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# Town Manager Proposes Budget Close to \$20 Million

By London Brazal

As the cost of maintaining infrastructure increases and funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dwindle, the municipal budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year is slated at \$19.7 million, which is about a \$1.7 million increase from current year spending. The proposed mill rate is 39.11, a 3.05 increase from the current rate of 36.06.

If last year's budget battles are any indication, chances are slim that voters will give the green light to the \$1.7 million proposed jump.

The spending increase is a larger than what was originally proposed a year ago at this time, for the 2023-24 budget. That was a \$1 million increase over the prior year, and voters rejected it at referendum. After town officials cut that increase in half, reducing it to around \$500,000, voters passed the budget at a second referendum in July. For the current fiscal year, residents were relatively split on whether or not the budget was "too high" or "too low," according to last July's referendum votes.

In general, the leading drivers of the 2024-25 budget proposal are found in the capital improvement plan, the cost of pensions, and public safety; however, costs associated with debt service have dropped slightly. The challenges the budget faces this year, and trending for years to follow, is the rising cost of maintaining infrastructure and capital purchases as the spending plan proposes the final utilization of ARPA funds. Over the last two fiscal years,

those specific funds helped heavily contribute to capital improvements. With that in mind for future planning, the town has to consider ways to make more funds available for those inevitably increasing costs.

Public safety – which consists of the police, ambulance and fire department – is one of the significant changes to the proposed budget as mentioned by Town Manager David Cox. For the last few years, the police department has requested an additional officer to help prevent a reduction in the number of officers working and to supplement the existing level of service. About half of the time, the department only has two officers to perform patrol activities, respond to emergencies and respond to other calls to assist the community. With an additional salary and other increases to maintain the first responder's needs, the police department budget is slated to increase by about \$212,000.

Both the East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA) and East Hampton Fire Department (EHFD) are staffed by volunteers. The EHAA has concerns about the long-term viability of the organization and has modified its structure to include a few paid positions to ensure consistent staffing and improve its ability to respond. However, the current revenue structure for ambulance services is controlled and limited by the state. To help with financial support, the proposed funds are slated for about \$170,000. As for the EHFD, there is an increase

reflected in the budget to support the village code which almost doubled the volunteer stipend to \$2,500.

Another staff position that has been requested in previous years was to convert two part-time assistant positions to one full-time assistant at the senior center. However, Cox proposed a way to change how the senior center and the social services department interact by revising the job descriptions for the social services director and senior center coordinator. By adjusting responsibilities and better balancing the workload, Cox requested funding for an additional part-time employee to assist with both existing and anticipated responsibilities related to providing services.

One of the other significant changes to the 2024-25 budget is the inclusion of funds for drinking water and system expansions. Forty thousand dollars has been added to the public works department under the water division to address the issues of drinking water that have been on the town's radar for the last several years. The additional funds help support the ef-

fort to explore a larger and interconnected water system. Town staff is working with state regulators to test and implement resolutions to private drinking water wells in the community affected by sodium, chlorides and other contaminants.

The last notable change to the budget is the capital reserve fund. The Capital Improvement Committee has recommended a \$2.96 million plan for projects, equipment and vehicle purchases. However, with the use of sinking funds, grants, the remaining ARPA money and other funding, it offsets the amount to just over one million. In comparison to the current fiscal budget, the proposed capital improvement plan is about 16% higher, which is about a \$400,000 increase. There is a plan to transfer about \$1.89 million from the general fund but the plan will be finalized as part of the overall town budget.

Since trends in cost continue to increase, the town is looking at more ways to have sustainable methods to help minimize increases in capital improvements while planning for the next few years.

## 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.

## 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. 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., Satur-

days 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.

## 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.



Put Our Service to the Test!... East Hampton Middle School recently put on a production of Beauty and the Beast Jr. This picture is taken during the song "Be Our Guest."

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### Easter Sunrise Services

Faith leaders from East Hampton and surrounding area churches invite all to a combined congregation Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, March 31, at 6 p.m., at Sears Park on Lake Pocotopaug.

All attendees are asked to bring one or more non-perishable food items, to be donated to East Hampton Food Bank and Epoch Arts Food Pantry.

### Easter Bake Sale

Christ Episcopal Church, located at 66 Middle Haddam Rd., will hold an Easter Bake Sale Saturday, March 30, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Items for sale include candy, cookies, scones, granola, pies, cakes and bread. Jams, jellies and preserves will also be available.

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# Residents Show Initial Support for 2025 Budget

By London Brazal

The Board of Finance Monday held a public hearing to allow Town Manager David Cox and Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith to present their respective budget proposals for the 2024-25 fiscal year – and also to let the public share their concerns with town spending.

Several members of the East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA) took the finance board up on its offer, and spoke at the public hearing about the need to support the organization. Last year, the town used American Rescue Plan Act funds to pay off a leased ambulance, but the EHAA is looking for funding from the town, about \$150,000, to support a newer staffing model that includes a full-time chief, per diem personnel and incentivized volunteers. Ambulance Chief Donald Scranton said the staffing change has helped quicken response times and additional funds help continue “exceptional patient care and quick responses in our community.”

Also at the hearing, Cindy Craig, vice chair of the Commission on Aging, talked about the senior center budget following the retirement of director Jo Ann Ewing. Craig explained that she does not want to see the center lose out on funds because of a proposed change in the responsibilities of the director and the social services director. “We need people there to serve our community. We have a lot of seniors in this town and we have one of the best senior centers in the state,” said Craig.

Catherine Mojo, a member of the Arts and Cultural Commission with kids in public schools, supported the prioritization of the future of children's education and the importance of supporting the arts. “I am deeply committed to advocating for policies and budgets that prioritize the advancement of education, arts and culture,” Mojo commented.

## Budget Presentations

Following public comments, Cox and Smith presented the town and education budget. The total budget was slated to be \$57.79 million with 66% going towards education, 24% to the town's operations, 7% to debt and 3% to capital and transfers.

Debt service covers payments for general obligation bonds and capital leases used to finance long-term projects. This year, overall debt service costs decreased slightly, mainly because unused funds, note premiums, and project interest were applied to interest payments. Principal payments for the town's long-term bond debt stayed the same, as did payments for capital leases. About \$3.9 million is going to the debt service. With a chart about principal and interest payments for current debt and capital leases, it will take about 20 years to get under half a million dollars of debt. One of the town's goals is to update the debt affordability model for long-term planning and forecasting.

On the education side, the Board of Education proposed and recommended a budget of

\$38.08 million, marking a 6.21% increase over current year spending. The proposed budget reflects the current costs as the schools are trying to operate with a “maintain, but grow” philosophy. However, Smith presented changes that he and the BOE became aware of after the school budget was submitted to the Board of Finance.

One of the biggest adjustments regarded health insurance, with the switch from United HealthCare to Anthem within the same group partnership that created a decrease of \$122,000. Medical insurance is one of the larger items and with the change, it turns out to be a 2.49% increase rather than the original 8.86% for the item. However, the risk that comes from switching is the fact that open enrollment has not occurred yet. Another large adjustment was the certified salaries as there will be many retirements at the end of the year, both known and unknown at this time. The numbers and figures are not secured yet, but the BOE will be reviewing retirements at its meeting next week. From the proposed item, there is a decrease of about

\$100,000.

Two other adjustments include transportation and repairs and maintenance. Transportation has an anticipated change and will decrease by \$85,000. The budget for maintenance was higher based on the current budget freeze but is now expected to be lowered by \$50,000. Overall, the total for the proposed increase from \$2.22 million to \$1.86 million. This ultimately lowers the total cost from 6.21% to 5.21%. According to Smith, the recommended reductions do not impact teaching positions, class sizes or existing programs.

There were no comments made in the second round of public remarks and the BOF decided to wait until the department's workshops to discuss any points further. A special meeting will be held next Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 at Town Hall. Any comments regarding the budget can be emailed to [budget@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:budget@easthamptonct.gov), submitted through video or audio on the town's website, or mailed to Town Hall.

## Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship

The Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship was established to enable Joe to continue giving as he did in life. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by the Barber family to an applicant, chosen by a selection committee, who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and who has performed selfless service within their school and the community.

Applicants must be an East Hampton resi-

dent graduating with the Class of 2024 (whether from East Hampton High School or another High School) who have been accepted to attend an institute of higher learning after graduation.

Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office or by written request to [kbarber582@gmail.com](mailto:kbarber582@gmail.com). Applications must be received no later than April 5.

## Fish Frydays to Wrap Up

The Knights of Columbus, St John Paul II Council 6190 is offering a variety of fish dinners on Fridays during Lent. The last dinner will be tonight, March 22.

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 22 will be Diane Anelli, the cantor from St. Patrick Church.

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.



Diane Anelli

## 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

## 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.

## Winter Harvest Farmers Market

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

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

medical supplies. Save your change during Lent, or write a check with Missions in the memo line.

**Donations for Easter Bake Sale:** All are asked to donate baked good, jams and jellies for the March 30 Bake Sale in the Parish Hall.

**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).

## Bread-Making Demo at Church

On Tuesday, April 2, from 7-8:30 p.m., Christ Church on 66 Middle Haddam Rd. in Middle Haddam will hold a demonstration on how to make a boule of bread. All participants will receive a recipe along with some useful tips on general bread making.

The demonstration will take place in the Christ Church parish hall kitchen. Free parking for the event is at the rear of the church on Long Hill Road.

Cost for the demonstration is \$10, with all proceeds going to Christ Church. No pre-registration is required. There will be a door prize for one attendee.

## Xavier/Mercy College Fair

Xavier and Mercy high schools will hold a College Fair Thursday, April 4, from 6-8 p.m., at Xavier, 181 Randolph Rd.

More than 100 colleges will be in attendance. The fair is open to all high school students from Xavier, Mercy and surrounding towns.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org), or on Facebook at [facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary](https://facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary).

**Library Hours:** The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Holiday Closing: The library will be closed Friday, March 29, due to Good Friday.**

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

**Family Storytime:** Saturday, 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.

**Fun With Food!:** Wednesday, April 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m., for ages 3-5. Share a food-themed story, practice basic math skills while making a fruit pizza, and then eat the pizza.

**Ready to Read Book Club:** Wednesday, April 3, 4:30 p.m., for grades K-2. This month's book is *Baloney and Friends* by Greg Pizzoli. Registered participants will receive a book to take home.

**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).

**DIY Days: Grades K-8: DIY Squishy:** Saturday, Apr. 6, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Activities available while supplies last. No registration required.

**Teen Programs: Pizza & Poetry:** Tuesday, April 2, 5 p.m. April is National Poetry Month. Start the month with pizza and try some poetry writing, crafts, and other activities. Registration required for this program. Then all month, drop into the library's Teen Space for poetry-related activities like book spine poetry, and browsing poetic displays.

**Nintendo Switch Game Play:** Grades 6-12: Saturday, April 6, 2-3:30 p.m. Pull up a beanless bag chair in the library Community Room for a big-screen Nintendo Switch hangout. All skill levels welcome.

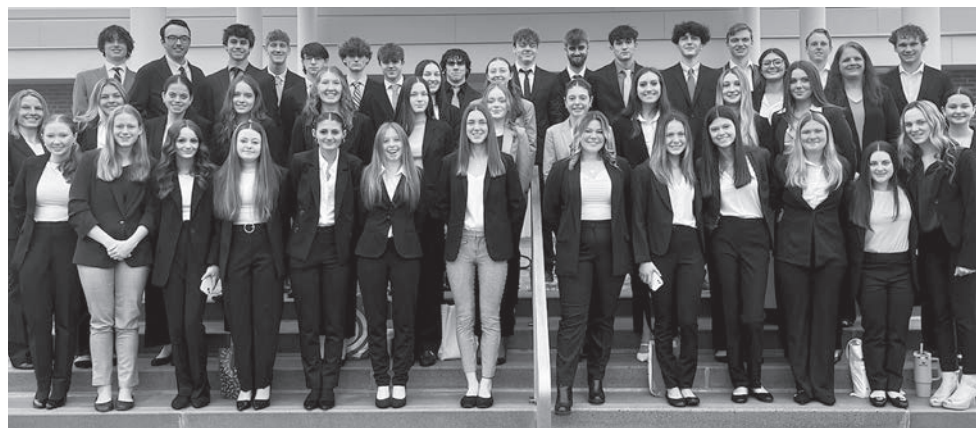
**Adult Programs: Seed Start and Swap:** Saturday, March 23, 1 p.m. All are invited for seed-starting and gardening conversation. There will be seeds to choose from and light instruction. There will be dirt involved so dress accordingly. Extra seeds welcome for seed-swapping.

**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.

**Cookbook Club – Spice It Up:** Tuesday, April 2, 6:30 p.m. Try new recipes and chat about our culinary adventures. The library will provide plates and utensils; all you need is your dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share.



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**DECA Thanks...** The East Hampton High School DECA Chapter would like to thank the East Hampton Lions Charities for its donation. This donation will support the chapter by enabling it to continue to grow and participate in business competitions and events. Pictured are DECA chapter members on their way to the recent 2024 DECA State Conference at the Aqua Turf.

**Senior Center News & Notes**

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

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

**Weekly Activities:** **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Cross-Stitch & Embroidery with Shannon:** Tuesdays, 2 p.m. -- Bring projects to share and work on together; **Yoga with Kitch:** Wednesdays 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.

**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.

**Meditations and Reflection:** Wednesday, March 27, 10:45 a.m. Relax and reflect through this guided meditation program.

**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.

**Shopping Trip to Windham Walmart:** Wednesday, May 1, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Take a trip to Walmart for some shopping and then have lunch on your own at a location to be determined. A donation of \$4 for transportation is requested.

**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.

**Carl Guild Grand Opening**

Carl Guild & Associates invites all to a Grand Opening open house for its new office at 40 West High St. The open house will take place Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Refreshments will be served, and people are invited to enter to win the "Go Local" East Hampton gift basket valued at over \$250.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Republicans Meet Next Week**

The next meeting of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee will be held Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m., at The Dublin, located at 42 East High St. The public is welcome to attend.

For more information, email [ehctgop@gmail.com](mailto:ehctgop@gmail.com).

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**Scout SuperNova...** East Hampton Cub Scouts of Pack 57 Aaron, left, and Aiden Pierson earned their Charles H. Townes SuperNova award. This is the highest award you can earn as a Cub Scout. Aaron and Aiden received their awards March 16, at the Blue and Gold celebration at East Hampton Middle School. To earn this award they had to participate in STEM activities, which included: performing science experiments, writing a scientific method report, interviewing a STEM professional, researching stem careers, and writing about five inventors and scientists, including Charles Townes, the inventor of the laser. Aaron and Aiden are fifth-graders and attend Center Elementary School.

### 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.

### Belltown Garden Club to Meet

Nancy and Erin Livensparger from Fire Ring Farm in Portland will present a follow-up to last year's program on garden composting, The "Hole" Deal, at the next meeting of the East Hampton Belltown Garden Club on Monday, April 1, at 6 p.m., in the East Hampton Public Library community room.

All are invited to come learn organic garden techniques used by a master gardener. The Belltown Garden Club is a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and national garden clubs. Call Sue at 860-575-1349 for more information.

### 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).

### Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Congregational Church of East Hampton on Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Potential donors may schedule an appointment by going to [RedCrossBlood.org/donate](http://RedCrossBlood.org/donate). Enter the zip code 06424 and select the church on that date.

Appointments are recommended, as there may not be availability for walk-ins. For more information, call the church office at 860-267-4959.

### 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.

### HNCC BBQ Chicken Dinner

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is hosting a BBQ Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru Takeout Event on Saturday, April 6, by reservation only.

This is the famous barbecued chicken the church has sold at the Haddam Neck Fair for over 40 years. The dinner includes a barbecued thigh/leg chicken quarter, baked beans, coleslaw and corn bread. Cost is \$15; cash only, please.

Call in your reservation to the HNCC Church office at 860-267-2336 or email to [officehncc@gmail.com](mailto:officehncc@gmail.com), and indicate your pickup time: 12-1 p.m., 1-2 p.m., 2-3 p.m., 3-4 p.m., or 4-5 p.m. Order deadline is April 2.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

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

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

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

### 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).

### Gelding Clinic

The Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue is hosting the 12th annual Gelding Clinic on Saturday, April 20 (rain date: Sunday, April 21), from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., to help economically challenged horse owners castrate their colts/stallions.

Veterinary students from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, under the direct supervision of both Tufts and local veterinarians, have all volunteered their time to perform the gelding. Cost is \$125 per horse/mule/donkey and covers all necessary aspects of the procedure, including anesthesia administra-

tion by trained professionals, the surgery itself, pain medication for comfort, and a penicillin injection to prevent infection.

Note: the clinic will take place at the CDHR (113 Chestnut Hill Rd.), so the rescue will be closed to the public on that day.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Registration deadline is April 8. To find out more and to register, visit [www.ctdraftrescue.org/geldingclinic2024](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org/geldingclinic2024). Questions can be sent to [ctdraftrescue@aol.com](mailto:ctdraftrescue@aol.com).

### Lake Clean-Up Day Coming

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, with the help and support of the Conservation Lake Commission and East Hampton Parks and Recreation, will hold the town's annual Lake Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 20. Volunteers are welcome to come down to Sears Park at 9 a.m. to help clean.

All volunteers will receive a Friends of Lake Pocotopaug T-shirt, gloves, plastic bags, directions and assignments along with a snack at Sears Park.

Dumpsters will be placed at Sears Park for bringing metals, tires (no rims), wood, plastics and brush. No furniture, mattresses or house-

hold items allowed. Friends of the Lake will only be collecting its plastic bags from around the perimeter of the lake.

The Friends of the Lake said it would like to thank sponsors Ace Hardware East Hampton, American Distilling, Bevin Bells, Center Package Store, Custom Auto & Marine, Critical Screenprinting, Lakeside Bar & Grill, Laurel Island, Paradise Marine & Dock Supply, Paul's & Sandy's Too and the Hairitage. Full details are available at [www.flpeh.org](http://www.flpeh.org).

For more information, call Joe Carbonell at 860-917-7366.

### 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.

**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.



**Drive & Drop...** The East Hampton Student Council's second annual "Drive & Drop" donation collection, held March 16, was a great success. This year, all items collected were donated to Protectors of Animals. Not only did the students fill a Jeep, but they also raised \$100.00 from a raffle held during lunch waves at school. Pictured from left are Neha Sidana, Kate Grenier, Holly Pugo, Taylor Ryan, Cameron Fraser, Sam Kearney and Delaney Russell. In front is Will Faber.

### Knights of Columbus State Raffle

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

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

The drawing will be held Saturday, April 20, at 9 p.m., at the Hartford Marriott Downtown, 200 Columbus Blvd., Hartford. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

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

### Dean's List

The following East Hampton residents made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.:

Jenna Ledas, a nursing major and daughter of Aimee and Darius Ledas; Ashley Stoeckle, a nursing major and daughter of Keri Glass-Stoeckle and Matthew Stoeckle; Lauren Walton, a biology/biotechnology major and daughter of Raquel and Quentin Walton; and Emma Wolfram, an interior architecture major and daughter of Deborah and Daniel Wolfram.

### 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 [friendsofeph@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofeph@gmail.com).


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**Ham Shoots**

The Belltown Sportsman's Club will have ham shoots Sunday, March 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.

**Easter Egg Hunt at HNCC**

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., will host its annual Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 23. The hunt begins at 1 p.m. by age groups. Rain date is Saturday, March 30. Over 1,000 colorful candy-filled eggs will be hidden outside the church. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos. There will also be Easter gift bags for the children to take home along with their candy. All are invited.



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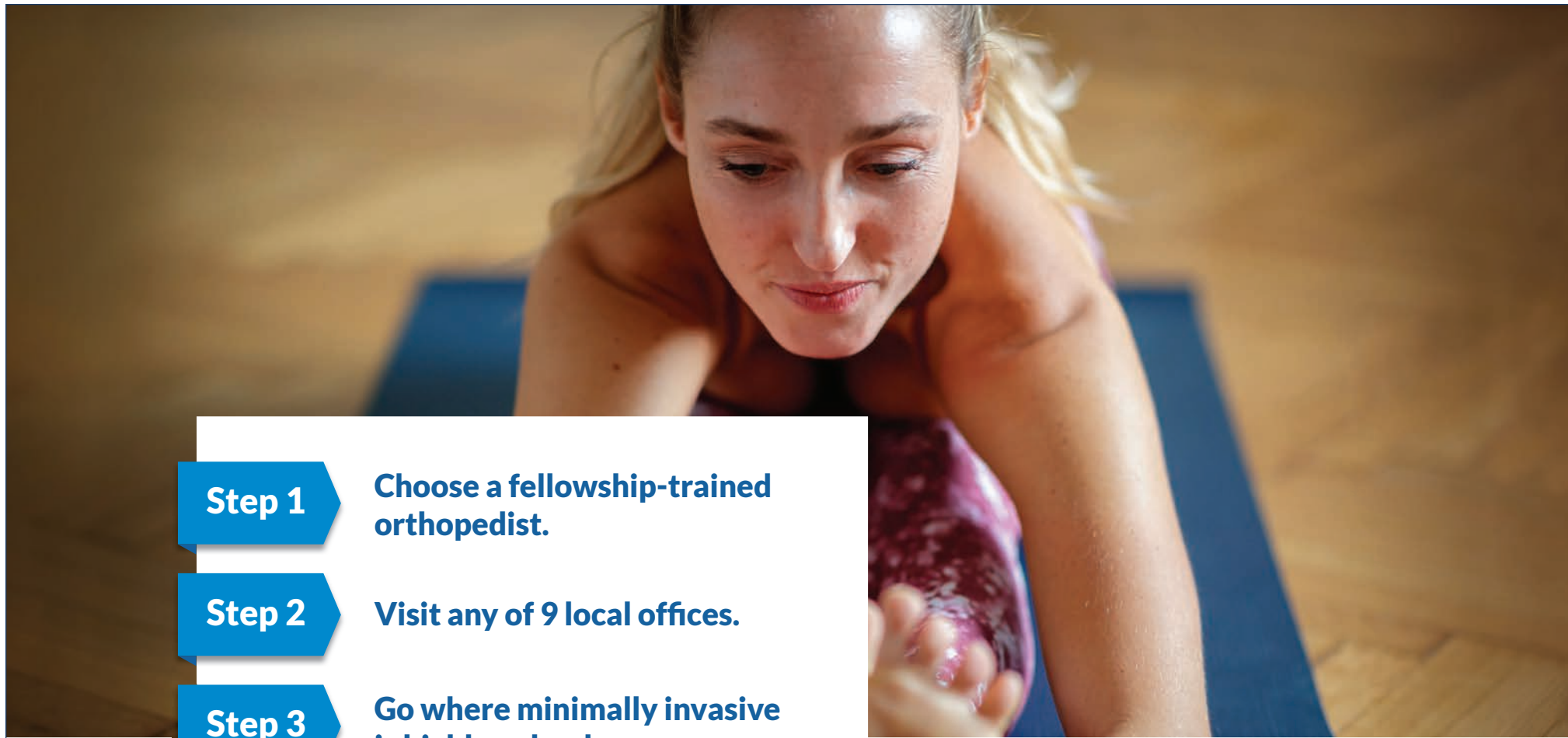


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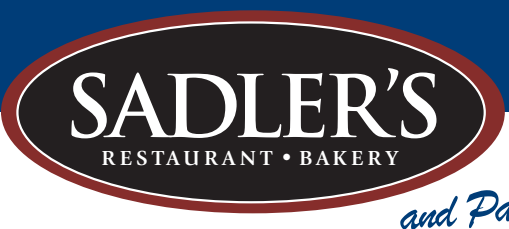


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**Joint Services at Church**

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.

On March 24, guest preacher seminarian Linda Choser will lead Palm Sunday services. Seminarian Christine Sima will lead worship Easter Sunday, March 31.

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

**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.

**Easter Week Services:** Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 6 p.m.; Good Friday, March 29, at 6 p.m.; Easter Sunday, March 30, Sunrise Service at Sears Park at 6 a.m. and regular service at 10 a.m.

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### 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 *Rivereast* 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 [rfgwpsherwood@aol.com](mailto:rfgwpsherwood@aol.com). The deadline to receive applications is April 5.



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### Honor Society Inductee

Andover residents and Eastern Connecticut State University students Duncan Page and Kane Waggoner were recently inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society. Page is a sophomore majoring in history, and Waggoner is a senior majoring in communication and theatre.

### 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.

### 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.

### Kindergarten Registration

Andover Elementary School is registering kindergarten students for the 2024-25 school year. Andover's kindergarten program is full-day. Parents of children who will be age 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2024, are asked to contact the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet or access it at www.andoverelementaryct.org. Parents choosing to have their child attend an alternative kindergarten or not attend school until the following year, and parents who will be home-schooling, are asked to inform the school of this decision.

### 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.

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# Town Administrator Reviews Budget Proposal

By Michael Sinkewicz

Andover officials continue to chip away at the 2024-25 fiscal year budget proposal, as the town faces a potentially substantial increase in spending.

Overall, the combined budget proposal comprised of the spending for local Board of Education, RHAM Board of Education and town operations doesn't add up to anything "extraordinary," according to Town Administrator Eric Anderson.

A draft of total budget expenditure is slated at \$12.88 million — just over \$400,000 more than the current fiscal year. But when fused with over \$2.5 million in revenue and a fund balance allotment, the expected taxpayer request drops to \$10.09 million — a \$143,858, or 1.4% increase over 2023-24 — which would result in a slight mill rate increase of .91%.

Last month, the local school board adopted a \$4.35 million budget to run Andover Elementary School next year — a \$113,262, or 2.67% increase from the current-year. The RHAM Board of Education is expected to officially approve its final spending plan next month, but Andover's levy will likely drop by significant percentage, resulting in a sizable savings.

The town budget, however, may spike "quite a bit."

At the moment, the town budget is penciled in at roughly \$4.35 million — up \$611,119, or 16.5% from the current fiscal year.

"It's going up a lot," Anderson said. "It's reasonable, but the Board of Finance still has hard decisions to make, and that's their call."

## 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.

## Collecting for Auction

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

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

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

## Commission, Committee Members Needed

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

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

## Dean's List

Andover residents Christina Pelletier and Rebecca Risley made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Goodwin University.

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## 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.

Following Board of Selectmen approval, the budget is now in the custody of the finance board, who is likely to finalize the proposal over the next month, Anderson said.

The finance board was scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, after press time. But looking ahead, the spotlight will likely be on the line items causing the considerable boost in spending.

"They're looking at the major cost drivers," Anderson said. "And they're going through that now."

Some large expenses are brand-new to the 2024-25 budget. For example, within the calendar year, the town will be opening its new community center, and while construction costs were covered outside the operational budget, the funding to staff and maintain the facility will be ongoing. Right now, an additional \$82,000 is in the budget to address those needs — and that figure may extend up to \$100,000.

The majority of the total increase is represented in the "capital" portion of the budget. Several areas are receiving larger allotments compared to prior fiscal years, while others are entirely new pockets of spending.

Open Space is slated to receive \$50,000 allotment, and Anderson recommended a capital line for the elementary school building in the amount of \$100,000.

Typically, Anderson explained, the town budgets on a 10-year capital plan to help lessen the financial impact on any given fiscal year. Sometimes, though, expectations don't always align

## PZC Alternate Sought

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

## Vendors, Donations Sought for 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 are also needed for the sale. For information, contact Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122 or nanasworld@comcast.net.

## 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.

with reality, and costs escalate. Replacing culverts, he said, has gone up "significantly in the last five years." Accordingly, the money the town had been storing year-over-year is nowhere near the expected price-tag.

The bridge and culvert fund, which usually hovers around \$100,000 each fiscal year, bumped up to \$175,000 in new proposal. In order for the town to be able to fulfill its match of a state project that's currently in the design phase, that line-item needs to remain inflated over the next two fiscal years.

Other sections of the budget don't have as much "wiggle room," such as salaries and employee benefits — which both saw increases. There are some savings, including the transfer of the administrative assistant's responsibilities to the tax collector. But Anderson warned that there weren't many reductions sprinkled throughout the town spending plan.

Despite the stark figures on the town-side, the two school budgets — when combined — will likely result in a net decrease compared to the current fiscal year. And even with the town portion added in, the total expenditure is still reasonable, Anderson conveyed.

"We're not talking about a big [overall] increase," he said.

\* \* \*

During its meeting this week, the finance board was also expected to review audit findings for the 2022-23 fiscal year and discuss a corrective action plan to address any recommendations.

Anderson said there were a few findings that required attention regarding school finances. A final action plan is expected to ultimately be provided to the independent auditor and then uploaded to the state Office of Policy and Management.

## Scholarship Opportunity Announced

The East Hartford Garden Club is offering 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.

The student must plan on majoring in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, con-

servation, 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.

## Congregational Church News

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

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

site Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.

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

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

**Maundy Thursday Service:** Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m.

**Easter Sunrise Service:** Sunday, March 31, at 6 a.m., at Siismets Farm.

**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.

## 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 resi-

dents 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.

## Friends of the Library News

Andover Friends of the Library, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has announced the following items of interest:

**Solar Eclipse Storytime:** On Monday, April 8, Connecticut will witness a partial solar eclipse. All are invited to join Library Friends Ellen Reppay and Julie Victoria on Saturday, April 6, at 10 a.m., to make a safe solar eclipse viewing box. The event is free and geared toward children; call the library at 860-742-7428 to indicate if you are coming, so that there are enough supplies.

**Library Friends Offer Scholarship:** Andover Friends of the Library is offering a \$1,000 schol-

arship to an Andover high school senior. Applications are due May 1, and are available at the guidance office at RHAM High School, at the Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6 and on the town website at tinyurl.com/2huzen57.

Completed applications must be dropped off at the library or emailed to the Friends at andoverfol@gmail.com. The applicant must be currently enrolled as a senior in any high school, use the scholarship to further their education, and hold a valid Andover Public Library card. For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428 or email the Friends at andoverfol@gmail.com.

## 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.

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: 4/2. Call Palazzi for transportation.

**Senior Luncheons:** 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.

# Legal Bills Soaring Over Budget

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester is facing a mounting pile of legal bills, worsening an already fraught financial situation in town.

Earlier this month, First Selectman Bernie Dennler III informed the Board of Selectmen (BOS) that the town had spent over \$170,000 on legal expenses during the current 2023-24 fiscal year — substantially more than was budgeted.

The town had only earmarked \$65,000 for all legal costs, leaving the town about \$105,000 over budget, with a little more than three months still remaining in the fiscal year.

The legal expenses budgeted for three separate departments are all exceeding their original blueprints.

To date, the town has spent \$82,000 on first selectman legal matters — \$50,000 over budget; human resources legal expenses have cost \$37,000 — over-extended by \$22,000; and the planning and zoning department's legal matters have cost \$40,000 — more than \$30,000 over budget.

During its meeting on March 7, the selectmen unanimously made a recommendation to the Board of Finance (BOF) that legal cases continue to be funded, and that the first selectman continues to provide updates to both boards. The finance board was expected to review that item last week, but its meeting was suspended

due to technical difficulties.

Dennler told the *Rivereast* that there were “no surprises” regarding the town's stark legal situation. Many of the cases were high-profile, he said, and have received local media attention dating back to the prior fiscal year.

Still, the first selectman is required to apprise the boards of selectmen and finance of legal expenses that exceed their budget, and get authorization for additional expenditures for specific legal issues — something Dennler claimed wasn't happening on a routine basis.

In order to cover the legal bills, the town has to find alternative funding sources. First, Dennler said, options within the current spending plan will be explored. For example, if transfers from other departments that aren't expected to go over budget can absorb the total legal amount, that would be the preferred route, he explained. Then if that fails, he said, the town would seek a special appropriation from its reserves to make up the shortfall.

While Dennler said there appears to be “substantial” issues within the current operational budget, it's the town's duty to try its best to stay within the spending perimeters approved by taxpayers at referendum. As many of the cases are ongoing, the total legal bill will continue to increase, although Dennler said it's “difficult to

forecast” the final amount.

In the meantime, the town has cash on hand to finance all of its legal cases — whose expenses are posted on the town website — without risk of going “bankrupt,” according to Dennler.

After reviewing the figures at the BOS meeting, Republican selectman Cliff O'Donal remarked, “Things have blown up here.”

Art Shilosky, the board's Republican vice chair, asserted, “we're going to get through this.” But, he added, “It's going to cost us.”

While the town's legal predicament likely didn't surprise local officials — Dennler had previously warned that certain items were on track to go over budget — the detailed breakdown of the numbers comes as the town continues to combat numerous financial hurdles.

Michelle Marceau, the acting director of fi-

nance, told the BOF last month that widespread accounting issues were close to being resolved. Those concerns had previously led to Dennler implementing a soft budget freeze in January.

But the soft freeze has since expanded, Dennler said, and the town has cracked down on overall spending as fears of going over-budget remained persistent. Through the end of February, 81.5% of the overall budget was expended, which Dennler told the BOF was “not an ideal place to be” at this stage of the year.

Certain departments, including Cragin Memorial Library and Youth and Social Services, have largely operated on donations and grants due to budget restraints.

“That's not a way to run a municipality,” Dennler said during a previous interview.

## DeCaprio to Host Food Drive

State Rep. Mark DeCaprio (R-48) will host a Food Drive on Saturday, April 13, at Stop & Shop, 99 Linwood Ave.

Those interested in donating are asked to consider canned foods, and other non-perishable food items. The proceeds will benefit the Colchester Food Bank.

“I hope you can join me at Stop & Shop in Colchester on Saturday, April 13th. All proceeds will benefit the Colchester Food Bank,

which does an admirable job helping those in need withing the community,” said DeCaprio. “With another holiday season coming up over the next few weeks, it will be very important for us to help replenish food banks here in Colchester, and across our state.”

The 48th General Assembly District includes Colchester, Bozrah, Franklin and Lebanon.

## 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.

## Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

**Let's Sew! Tuesdays, April 2-23, 6-8 p.m., at Town Hall, for ages 18 and up.** You will need to bring your own sewing machine, manual, power cord and supplies (thread, scissors, thread & pins). Cost: \$50/resident, \$55/non-resident. Class minimum is 2, and maximum is 5.

**Dog Training Classes:** Saturdays, April 6-May 18 (rain date of May 25 if needed), from 9-10 a.m., at Ruby Cohen Woodlands. No class April 13; also, no dogs allowed at the April 6 class. For ages 18 and older. Class minimum is 4, and maximum is 8. Fee: \$150/resident, \$155/non-resident.

**Summer Day Camp Registration: Camp registration is underway.** The summer day camp, for kids entering grades K-7 in the fall, will run June 24-Aug. 16, Monday through Fri-

day, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. The weekly themes and field trips will be announced in mid-February. Cost per week is \$170/child. Aftercare is available from 3- p.m., for an additional \$45 each week. Cost includes all activities and field trips but does not include food. All snacks and lunches must be sent with your camper.

**Counselor-in-Training (C.I.T.) Leadership Program:** For ages 14 and up. Session 1: June 24-July 12 (no camp July 4 or 5); Session 2: July 15-Aug. 2. Hours are: Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. Fee: \$125. Upon successful completion of the program you can volunteer as a **Junior Counselor** at day camp from July 15-Aug. 16. You'll attend camp for free.

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

## 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 25:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/Anne, Waffle Day Breakfast; 10 a.m., Pet Therapy, Stitch & Fix, Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

**Tuesday, March 26:** 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, In the Know; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC meeting (via Zoom).

**Wednesday, March 27:** 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; 10:30 a.m., Brigid's Cross Craft; 1:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming; 2 p.m., Sewing Circle.

**Thursday, March 28:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Benefits Counseling; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

**Friday, March 29:** Senior center closed for Good Friday.

**Financial Savings for Seniors:** Tuesday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. The center's senior benefits counselor will go over senior programs that can save you money. This is a free program.

**Medicare Boot Camp:** Thursday, April 11, 5-7 p.m. A counselor from Senior Resources will share Medicare information you need to know. This is a free program.

**Senior Golf League – Preseason Meeting:** Tuesday, April 16, 2 p.m. This is an informational meeting to discuss the 2024 golf league season at the Chantclair Golf Course in Colchester. This is a co-ed league, and new mem-

bers are welcome.

**Flower Power Groovy Luncheon:** Wednesday, April 17, 11 a.m. Wear your '60s/'70s-inspired florals and be entertained by the soulful sounds of Tomaca as she brings us back in time. Her performance will be followed by roast turkey dinner complete with gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, rolls and butter. A carrot cake will be served for dessert. Cost is \$9 per person. Space is limited.

**Air Dry Clay Jewelry Class:** Tuesdays, April 23 and 30, 10 a.m.-noon. CSC member Gabriella DuCharme will show how to use and create with air-dry clay. This is a two-day class; you must be able to attend both days. Space is limited. The cost of this program is \$10/person and includes all the supplies and use of clay tools.

**Live Your Best Life Now:** Wednesday, April 24, 10:30 a.m. Join Middlesex Health Care at Home for a discussion on healthy aging. This is a free program and open to all.

**Volunteer Appreciation Event Luncheon:** Friday, April 26, 10:30 a.m. This will be a Mexican fiesta-themed luncheon for those who volunteer at the senior center 25 hours or more annually. Invitations have been individually sent; RSVP by Friday, April 19.

**Photos Needed:** As part of its tribute to mothers for Mother's Day and for its May luncheon, the senior center is looking for photos of your mother, that special someone in your life who was like a mother, or you as a mother with your children. Photos can be sent electronically to Jodi at [cscprograms@colchesterct.gov](mailto:cscprograms@colchesterct.gov) or you can bring them into the senior center, where they can be scanned and returned. This is open to all members.

## Dean's List

Luke Reynolds of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford.



Maureen Donoghue Morin and Sheri Spaulding of Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue will be among the teams serving up drinks at the Celebrity Bartender Night at Fresca Tequila Bar & Grill next Wednesday, March 27.

## Celebrity Bartender Night

Fresca Tequila Bar & Grill is hosting a Celebrity Bartender Night on Wednesday, March 27, to benefit four different charities.

Four local “celebrity” teams will create a signature cocktail for the event and will pour them and invite friends and family to come support them. There are two one-hour sessions (6-7 p.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m.) and all of the sales from their signature drinks and tip jar will be

counted to determine the winner, and all of those profits go to their charity.

The participating charities will be the Colchester Hayward Fire Department, Special Olympics, Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue and the Smilow Cancer Hospital for research.

Check out the event on Facebook/Frescatequilabar for more information.



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### 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 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and a member of the Federated Garden Club of Connecticut and the National Garden Clubs of America.

### 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 concludes Ca-sinobonus 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.

### Shredding Old Tax and Personal Records

Residents and businesses of Colchester and area towns can safely shred their financial and personal records Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Colchester Town Hall parking lot.

Boy Scout Troop 72 will have certified shredding company "File Shred" in place to accept and safely shred your financial records. You can watch the items being put into the shredder and destroyed. Old personal documents, tax information and medical records etc. will be accepted.

Costs are \$5 for a bag the size of a plastic grocery bag and \$10 for boxes the size of a case of

copy paper or case of beer. A bulk price can be negotiated for larger quantities of records. There is no need to take off paper clips or stapled.

Additionally, the troop will accept recyclable cans and bottles on the day of the shredding event.

Funds raised will be used to help Troop 72 maintain its equipment purchases, camping scholarships, enhance its monthly camping program, defray program costs, cost of summer camps and support the high adventure trips. Contact Al Letendre at letendrej@sbcglobal.net for more information.

### 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 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.

# Chipotle Coming to Colchester

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) this month approved a special permit and site plan that will bring Chipotle to the downtown hub.

The PZC signed-off on the plan for Galaxy Development, LLC to house Chipotle Mexican Grill, including a pick-up window, and two additional tenant spaces.

The new development will be located at 131 Linwood Ave., which is currently vacant.

A construction schedule has not been finalized, according to First Selectman Bernie Dennler III.

In a post on Facebook, Dennler stated that a traffic study was conducted that examined six nearby intersections, which determined that the Level of Service wouldn't be affected.

When asked online whether the potential impact on neighboring businesses was considered, Dennler responded that it "is not a factor [PZC] can consider when determining

whether an applicant is compliant when seeking a permit."

Dennler told the *Rivereast* this week that "balance can be a good thing" when it comes to dining options. He conveyed that Colchester has always had a mix of commercial establishments and small businesses.

Moran's, a local Mexican restaurant also located on Linwood Avenue, appeared to be the place residents were immediately concerned about, according to Dennler. But he asserted Moran's and Chipotle — an international brand with thousands of locations — offer "fundamentally different things."

"Personally, I wouldn't give up a sit-down meal to go through a drive-thru," he said, adding that people will likely be able to support both establishments.

Dennler noted that it's a promising sign for the community that developers are interested in coming to Colchester.

### 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.

### ARPA Funding Available for Residents

The town recently launched a new process for residents to apply for financial assistance in a program funded through the town's allocation of funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The Board of Selectmen has committed up to \$100,000 of ARPA funds to support resident households who are living at or below 300% of the federal poverty level and struggling with expenses.

Any household still trying to recover from the impacts of the pandemic can apply for funds to assist with the following:

Rental/mortgage assistance; utilities; home repairs that address health and/or safety hazards; car repairs for transportation to work, school or job training; heating; and other categories that may include: medical co-pays, eyeglasses, work uniforms, training programs, and other unforeseen expenses.

Residents are asked to fill out an application for financial assistance available at Colchester-CT.Gov/ARPAHelp and provide required supporting documentation.

For more information, call Colchester Youth and Social Services at 860-537-7255.

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The Colchester Business Association (CBA) recently presented a check for \$4,000 for the town's fuel and food banks. From left are CBA Secretary Jack Faski, CBA President Jennifer Marozzi, CBA Auction chair Ash Bashir, and First Selectman Bernie Dennler.

### Funds for Food & Fuel

The Colchester Business Association (CBA) recently presented a check for \$4,000 to be divided evenly between the Town of Colchester fuel bank and food bank.

The funds were raised in December during the CBA's Holiday Auction.

"Thank you to the members of the Colchester business community who graciously donated so many items for the auction, and to all those

who attended and bid so generously," said Ash Bashir, CBA auction chair. "We are so humbled by your support and are so grateful to be able to give back to the community that supports our businesses."

Also during the check presentation, First Selectman Bernie Dennler gave a "State of the Town" address to the group.

### 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.

### Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream. For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus, Inc." – at 860-398-9119 or visit [christian-lifechapel.org](http://christian-lifechapel.org).

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

**Women's Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

**Community Bible Study and Prayer:** Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

**Donuts with Don:** Fridays at 10 a.m. This is an open discussion on how God fits into your life.

### Colchester Budget Survey

The Board of Finance invites all residents to fill out the annual budget survey. The survey is located at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/ColchesterCTBudget2024](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ColchesterCTBudget2024).

### Ukrainian Church Making Pierogies

St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church will sell 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.

### 'Spring in Bloom' Market Coming

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

If you would like a table at the fair to sell your goods, reach out to Renee Misbach at [rouillette01@snet.net](mailto:rouillette01@snet.net) for more information. The market will be Sunday, May 4, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

### Early Voting Starts Soon

Early voting for the upcoming Democratic and Republican presidential preference primaries is about to begin, and the Colchester registrars of voters have passed along information about the process.

To participate in early voting, 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; Wednes-

day, 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.

### WJMS Honor Roll

William J. Johnston Middle School has announced its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2023-24 school year.

#### High Honors

Grade 6: Fabiola Berard, Brady Bigelow, Gabriella Bishop, Emilie Boutote, Paul Brodeur, Jacqueline Busby, Molly Buscetto, Nina Caplet, Olivia Carrington, Evangeline Carroll, Adriana Colonghi, Tristan Cote, Lauren Coty, Bailey Cowell, Breena Cowell, Chase Crane, Jenna Crowell, Cali Cruz, Sophia Dean, Lauren Dittmann, Lucas Dubreuil, Lily Eppler, Evan Faber, Noah Hall, Taylor Hardy, Caroline Hathaway, Alexander Healy, Benjamin Healy, Ruby Jeffries, Lily Koji, Hunter Kovach, Jackson Lenk, Reagan Manganello, Troy Martin, Lilah Martz, Grace McAlpine, Bo McIver, Melanie Meneses-Guzman, Ryder Michaud, Camille Mickens, Jaxson Miller, Hannah Nitkowski, Piper Owens, Lauryn Pac, Cameron Pedroso, Harper Perry, Madison Raulukaitis, Lyra Riley, Amelia Roberts, Sophia Russell, Jenna Schoen-Rene, Payton Sheldon, Gavin Siena, Ethan Summerlin, Lunaya Urban, Makenzie VanCamp, Emma Verruso, Jake Ward, Jack Wissler.

Grade 7: Charlotte Bunting, Donovan Caruso-Wozniak, Logan Cleary, Luke Corrado, Alexander Courtmanche, Jemma Currier, Gabrielle D'Atri, Eric Deacon, Zack Ginand, Nova Gostkiewicz, Kendall Grant, Olivia Helms, Allyson Hollis, Savannah Hunscher, Emma Hunt, Aydell Imasuen, Iliana Kansagara, Nadia Korzhoff, Carleigh Maher, Jameson Mauro, Christopher McGlynn, Samantha Nadeau, Maggie Parekh, Julia Rago, Delaney Scholl, Milania Shilosky, Ava Sykes, Isabel Weiner, Kaylie Wong.

Grade 8: Benjamin Adams, Alex Badrick, Brayden Buyniski, Carmen Champagne, Grace Clarkin, Isabel Faber, Allison Field, Abigail Floyd, Teresa Formica, Emily Fougereuse, Jack Grimm, Reid Gross, Damiana Hunt, Sufyan Kasli, Ashtyn King, Joshua Lund, Dalila Malz, Emma Pensa, Gabriella Raucio, Isabella Rivera Kloss, David Rumph, Adrina Ruzsala, Audrey Siborg, Jacob Teal, Brandon Verruso, Lila Wilson.

#### Honors

Grade 6: Chelsea Albettski, Dean Armon, Violet Ayotte, Connor Baker, Jayden Bennett, Maki Bowens, Jacob Bradow, Victor Camp, Austin Carney, Ronald Castrillon, Chloe Civardi, Billy Colon, Alexa Crescentini, Hannah Culver, Oliver Denham, Carter Dautre, Jacob Durfee, Paige Fenton, Michael Festa, Braelyn Garmer, Trevor Garvie, Dylan Gerkey, Declan Gorreck, Caitlyn Griffin, Skylar Jones, Stella Kauffman, Carlton Kristoff, Kaylee Krol, Aubrey Krummel, Kelsey Lachendro, Ryan Lombardo, Emily Lund, Zachary Marshall, Behr McCormick, Axel Monaco, Chloe Monarca, Peyton Moynihan, Owen Murphy, Parker Nelson, John O'Brien, Kylee

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### 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).

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## 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 [youth-services@colchesterct.gov](mailto:youth-services@colchesterct.gov).

**Colchester Boys Council:** This group for fifth-grade boys meets Mondays from 3:15-4:30 p.m., and is led by CYSS prevention coordinator Marquis Lawson. Boys will 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.

## 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.

## Soccer Club Annual Meeting

The Colchester Soccer Club will hold its annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27, at 7 p.m., at the William J. Johnston Middle School Black Box Theatre.

All members are welcome to attend. Nominations for positions on the board will take place.

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

### ★ Marlborough Tax Hike cont. from page 1

In addition, Porter stated that while "almost everyone" pays their taxes, the town always assumes a 99% collection rate that typically isn't achievable. While it represents a fraction of the overall income, it still adds up to more than \$400,000, according to Porter.

Regarding the expenses included in the budget proposal, the town manager explained that all three entities incorporated in the spending plan need to attract quality employees, which requires cost of living adjustments that adhere to inflation. But, those rates haven't been increasing in lockstep with the Consumer Price Index.

The budget proposal includes funding to replace a culvert on South Buckboard Road. The total project costs \$1.2 million and the town received a state grant to cover half the amount. Porter stated that the town also plans on lining a culvert on Johnson Road, which will cost \$525,000 and extend that culvert's lifespan by at least 40 years.

For the past three years, Porter stated that the town used pandemic funding along with its own reserves to decrease taxes.

"We understood that our constituents were confronting uncertain economic conditions and higher-than-average inflation," he stated. "We wanted to be sensitive to the needs of our community. Now, with those pandemic-era funds ending, we are asking our residents to approve a tax increase to allow the Board of Education, RHAM, and the town to continue providing high quality services and allow the town to invest in much-needed infrastructure improvements."

Porter added more historical context, conveying that during the 2019-20 fiscal year, the mill rate was 37.25, and it then went on to decrease in subsequent years. But, he continued, if the rate was adjusted with the Consumer Price Index, it would've reached 44.63 — a figure that is far above the proposed rate this year.

### Board Support?

Porter made a similar pitch to the BOF last week, which "seemed reasonable," according to board chairman Michael Nastri. With aging infrastructure — including some culverts that nearly date back to the second world war — it was the best course of action to move forward with the projects.

When asked if the 9.24% tax bill increase was concerning, Nastri expressed that his board "feels strongly that we need to support both the school and town budgets."

The Board of Selectmen, he continued, endorsed the town's capital proposal, and the school board — along with district administrators — crafted a "good budget" as well.

Last month, Marlborough Elementary School announced that it had hired two new principals, as both its current leaders are scheduled to retire at the end of the school year.

There have been some calls throughout the community for the district to shift to just one

principal, which some claimed would be fiscally responsible.

However, Superintendent of Schools Holly Hageman has asserted that it was "never considered" a viable option.

"It's simply not a one-principal job," she previously told the Rivereast.

Nastri stated that he agreed with the chief of schools.

"We're not school administrators," he said. "We don't know how to run a school."

Nastri added that he has "strong confidence" in Hageman's judgment and that her proposal to have the new hires be co-principals — as opposed to having one be an assistant — would have a "negligible" impact on the budget.

"From what we've observed, you can't run a school with one [principal]," he said.

### New Book Club?

Porter proposed a new initiative: to have members of the boards of selectmen, finance and education read *The Magic of Dialogue: Transforming Conflict into Cooperation* — a 2001 book by Daniel Yankelovich.

Then, if the boards agree, they'd all participate in a retreat to discuss how to engage in better budget process moving forward.

Porter said the idea behind the potential "book club" is to have elected officials "move past some of the arguing and infighting" that's previously taken place.

"We're trying to start the process of changing the culture of collaboration in Marlborough," he said during the phone call.

After reading the book, which would most likely happen sometime during April, perhaps individuals would bring fresh ideas as the current budget season wraps up. More likely, though, the book would advise officials for upcoming budget cycles.

Some of the takeaways from book, Porter explained, include choosing words carefully and asking thoughtful questions.

"It hopefully turns conflict into understanding," Porter said.

Nastri said that he was "open to the idea" and that he agrees that there's "room for improvement" on the boards.

"I think we'll be in favor of it," he said. "We want to get better communication between all the boards."

It's a unique idea, Nastri continued, and it's wise to listen to Porter, who was hired last summer following a community-approved charter revision and extensive search process.

"He's the right person to propose it," Nastri asserted. "He's on the outside, yet he's right in the middle."

Local officials were used to working with an elected first selectman, and Nastri stated that a retreat could be helpful with adjusting to a different system of government.

"We need to learn how to operate in this new structure," he said.

## Vendors Wanted

The Colchester Dog Park Committee is looking for vendors that sell dog-related items for its 10th annual "Spring Bark for the Park," which will be held on the Town Green Sunday, May 19, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, June 2.

The event will feature a Lucky Duck Egg Hunt for the dogs, May Baskets, a blessing

of the dogs, and other canine entertainment. Vendor slots are available at \$40 per booth. There is no charge for nonprofit organizations.

If interested in a vendor slot, email [tagno-bark@gmail.com](mailto:tagno-bark@gmail.com) by Friday, May 3. Spring Bark for the Park is sponsored by the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department.

## Trip to Newport Playhouse

The Colchester Senior Center, located at 95 Norwich Ave., will offer a trip to the Newport Playhouse to see *The Foresome* on Thursday, May 16, at 9:30 a.m.

In the play, four old school chums get together for a friendly round of golf during their fifteenth college reunion. Old rivalries, romances and bragging rights are won and lost in 18 holes. Enjoy a homemade lunch buffet before the show

and a cabaret after the show.

Cost is \$152/person. Register by coming into the senior center before April 16. 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.

## Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

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

Children will listen to books read by kindergarten teachers, while parents learn about the registration process, the kindergarten curriculum, readiness expectations, the school day,

school policies and transportation. A question-and-answer period will be available at each session.

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

## 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.

## Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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

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

# We are pleased to announce Cory Arnold, APRN is joining our staff in the spring.

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**Rivereast Goes to Rome...** Patty and Karissa Kloo with Daryl, Heather, Blake and Wade Aresco of East Hampton recently took a nine-day trip to Rome and Venice. They're shown here in front of the Vatican.

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

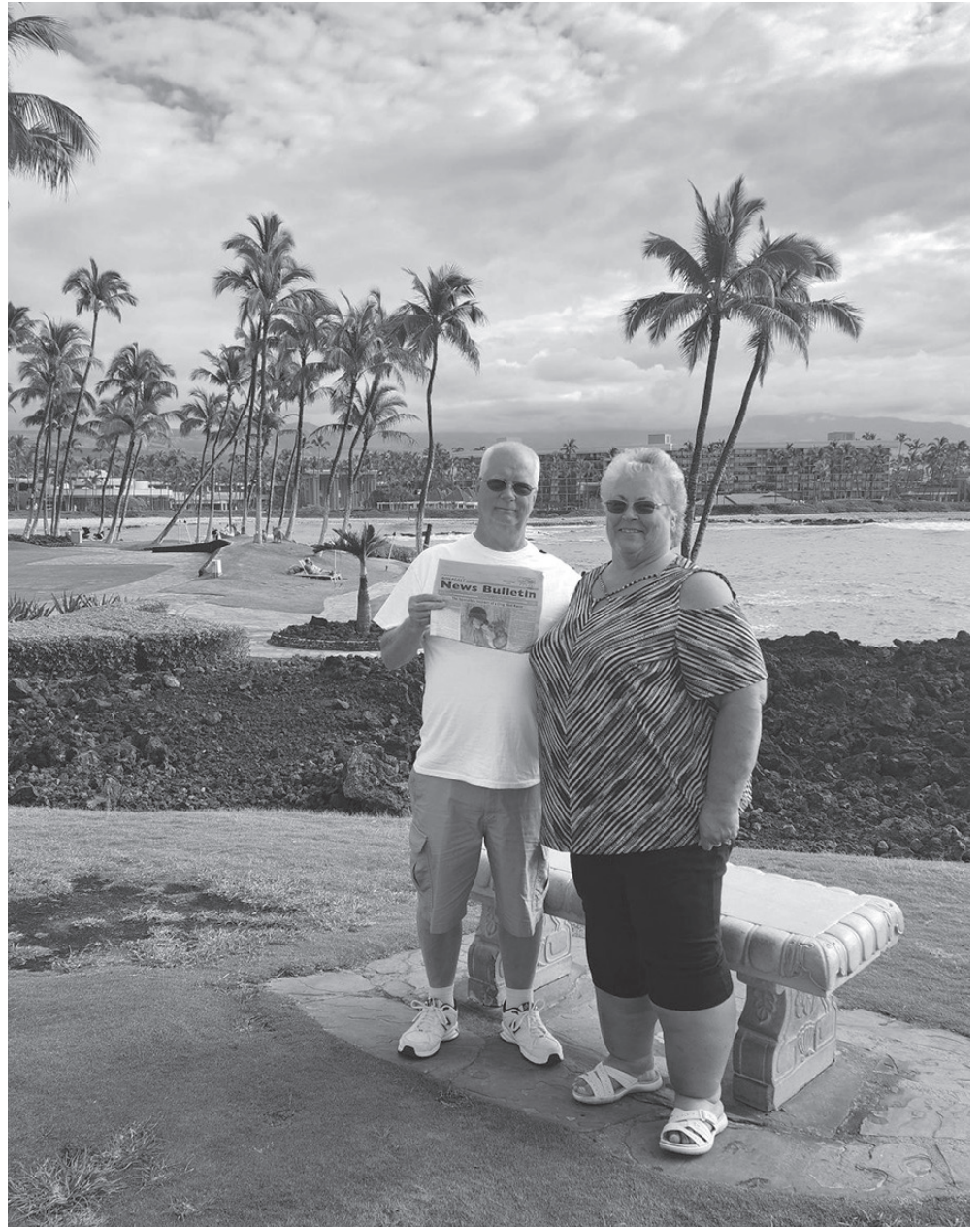
Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring the *Rivereast* along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo and your address to [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).



**Seeing Spain...** The Hardy family of Colchester recently returned from a trip to Andorra with the Norwich ski club, and flew out of Barcelona, Spain. The famous cathedral Sagrada Familia is in the background.



**Visiting the Mosque...** The very well-traveled *Rivereast* recently ventured to the United Arab Emirates with East Hampton residents Margaret and Dave Wilcox. Here they are visiting the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi.



**Hello Hawaii...** Gary and Rosemarie Smith of East Hampton took the *Rivereast News Bulletin* on their vacation to the big island in Kona, Hawaii.

# Where in the World?

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

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

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

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## Obituaries

## Portland

## Salvatore A. Bongiorno Jr.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our father, Salvatore A. Bongiorno Jr. of Portland. He peacefully passed away Monday, March 18, at the age of 95, with his family at his side. He was born Aug. 4, 1928, in Middletown, one of 12 children of the late Salvatore and Filomena (De Paolo) Bongiorno.



He leaves behind his children, Salvatore "Paul" Bongiorno of Portland, Bill and wife (MaryAnn) Bongiorno of Madison, Susan (Bongiorno) Frizen of Portland; grandson, Joseph Lastrina III; great-granddaughter, Emma Lastrina; brother, Angelo Bongiorno of Middletown; 14 nieces and nephews along with their families; Beth (Allen) Katz of Weston, Fla., and Heidi Geiges of Madison, Ind.

He was predeceased by his parents, Salvatore and Filomena (De Paolo) Bongiorno of Ferry Street; his siblings, Frank (Anna) Bongiorno, Philip (Josephine) Bongiorno, Joseph (Ruth) Bongiorno, Sebastiano Bongiorno, Sebastian "Mike" (Rose) Bongiorno, Yolanda Bongiorno, Emanuela Bongiorno, Marie Bongiorno, Emanuela "Nellie" (Paul) Blancato, and Vincenza "Jennie" (Salvatore) Thomas; sister-in law, Ann (Lisitano) Bongiorno. In addition, grandson Andrew Frizen, nephew Michael Bongiorno, and longtime companion Myrna Geiges.

Salvatore's parents arrived in America from Melilli, Sicily, Italy in 1906. He was born and lived on Ferry Street, attended Middletown schools and graduated from Middletown High School in 1948. In 1950 he was drafted into the U.S. Army. His tour in the Army brought him to Germany, France and Italy during peace time. He drove generals and dignitaries around the region, visiting all the famous landmarks.

After returning from Europe, he began his career as a carpenter and married Doris Randall; together they had three children. In 1966, the family moved to the home he built in Portland where he lived for the remainder of his life. He was a member of St. Sebastian's Church as well as the Church of St. Mary in Portland. He was a member of the Middletown Knights of Columbus Forest City Council No. 3, Middletown Elks Lodge 771, CT Carpenters Union Local, American Legion Post 0075, and served on the Democratic Town Committee of Portland.

Salvatore was blessed with living a long and productive life. In his younger days he played golf, pool and other sports. He cherished his family and friends spending weekends with his siblings and in-laws playing cards. With his longtime companion Myrna he saw all the latest movies, Broadway shows and concerts. After retiring they traveled throughout the country and spent winters in Florida. But most of all he loved spending time at home with his family.

A funeral liturgy officiated by the Rev. John Antonelle and the Rev. James Thaikootahil will be held Monday, March 25, at noon, at Saint Sebastian Church, 155 Washington St., Middletown. Friends may call at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, prior to the service from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Burial will be held at Saint Sebastian Cemetery following the funeral Mass.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Saint Sebastian Church.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit [www.biegafuneralhome.com](http://www.biegafuneralhome.com).

## Glastonbury

## Lucy Tisdale

Lucy (Schultz) Tisdale, 72, of Glastonbury and Reddick, Fla., passed away Thursday, March 7. She was the daughter of the late Robert and Lois (Mulcahy) Schultz. She leaves behind her husband, best friend and soul-mate of 42 years, Jeff; four siblings; and her extended Tisdale family.



A true lifelong passion for horses led her to a career of showing and judging horse shows throughout the northeast. Friends and colleagues have admired her knowledge of hunters and jumpers. Also, Lucy enjoyed driving her dragster. She and Jeff spent numerous weekends together competing at CT Dragway and Lebanon Valley Dragway in New York, where they made many friends who became a second family to her.

Per Lucy's request, all services are private.

## Hebron

## Judi Babin

Born Judith Lynn Davis, she was raised in Somerset, Mass. She became an expert roller skater at the rink that her parents operated in Portsmouth Rhode Island. She taught, competed and judged skating and The Ice Capades tried to recruit her; but she declined, preferring to study medical technology on what is now UMass at Dartmouth. She ceased her internship when she was 6 months' pregnant and became a stay-at-home mother of Nicole and Peter.

When they became full time students, she earned a BS in animal science from UConn, which was applied at the Babin Family Farm in Hebron where they raised every kind of farm animal and fowl. She castrated hogs, slept with sheep and goats when they were birthing, warmed newborn animals in the kitchen oven in January, and trucked horses to shows where Nicole performed. She worked with a vet in Glastonbury. Then, she studied for a nursing degree at UConn and specialized in psychiatric nursing at Elmcrest Hospital where she quickly rose to head nurse and assistant director.

After some years of separation, she joined her husband, Len, in South Africa where she worked in neurosurgery and admitted the first Ebola patient in that country. The patient survived, but a colleague nurse was infected and died. She enjoyed the weekend safaris, sleeping under the stars in the bush with no fences from the roaring lions and trumpeting elephants. She hiked the Fish River Canyon in Namibia and cursed the baboons that stole her lunch. She was tracked by lions and charged by a rhinoceros and a few times by elephants.

Moving to Uzbekistan, then Bangladesh, she was a runner with the Hash House Harriers. She volunteered with a United Nations Group to support an orphanage for disabled children in Dhaka, and would come home crying at times due to the tragic conditions of several children and lack of facilities. While living in South Asia, she fell in love with the Himalayas where she trekked several routes, rafted for days down the Seti River, safaried on Elephant backs, and rode in a four-wheel drive over the Friendship Highway to Lhasa, Tibet. Living so far from home made it practical to meet the children during Spring Breaks at a halfway point and doing spring skiing in the Swiss, Austrian, French and Italian Alps.

Returning to the USA, she was a psychiatric nurse again, specializing with children at the

Joshua Center in Montville. On retirement, she found the time to serve on the board of the Hebron Interfaith Human Services food bank, was treasurer of the Senior Friends of Hebron, and served on almost every office and committee of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. And, she continued her animal husbandry talents with Nicole supervising the Goat Barn at the Hebron Harvest Fair.

During an interview with her hospice social worker recently, she said "I've been to so many places and done so many things that others can only dream of. It's been a wonderful life. I have no regrets."

She leaves her husband, Leonard; daughter, Nicolle Carey; son, Peter; granddaughters, Brianna and Allison Carey; great-granddaughter, Victoria Osborne; a brother, Charles Davis; and sisters, Penelope Poulin and Candace Estrella. She was predeceased by a sister, Deborah Davis. She was 80 years old.

A memorial service will be held with light lunch to follow on Thursday, April 4, at 11 a.m., in St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 60 Church St. in Hebron.

## Amston

## Bryan Hull Lewis

Bryan Hull Lewis, 74, of Amston, passed away at Hartford Hospital Monday, March 11, after a prolonged illness. Born in Hartford Feb. 20, 1950, Bryan was the beloved son of the late Earl Ray Lewis Jr. and Elisabeth Lewis.



After graduating from Hall High School in West Hartford, he earned his bachelor's degree from Clarkson University in business and industrial design. He served for many years in the printing industry as a print estimator for several companies, including Van Way & Webb Co., Allied Printing, and Thames Printing. He was a talented and conscientious estimator - known for his expertise and skill in his productions for clients - and even taught print estimation briefly at the University of Hartford.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Bryan was a true family man. The quintessential husband, father and grandfather, he dedicated his life to supporting and encouraging those closest to him. Bryan's thoughtful, soft-spoken nature endeared him to so many who were lucky enough to know him. He read voraciously, enjoyed a great game of chess or a challenging crossword puzzle, and found great peace working on his cars. He loved to cook and was renowned for his legendary bread-baking abilities. In retirement, he eagerly developed a knack for fixing old clocks, particularly cuckoo clocks.

Bryan's pride in life was always with his family and he cherished the quiet moments spent with his wife, Anne, and all the wonderful memories shared with his sons, Tom and Paul. He was a kindhearted, generous soul who will always be remembered and eternally loved.

Bryan is survived by his loving wife, Anne B. Lewis; his two sons, Thompson "Tom" Lewis and his wife, Caitlyn, and Paul Lewis and his wife, Kathy; his brother, Earl "Skip" Lewis III and his wife, Barbara; his cherished grandchildren, William, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Kelly, and Gabrielle; and many dear friends. Bryan's family would also like to thank the Hartford Hospital ICU team that fought so hard to save Bryan and the hospice staff for their tender care of him in his final days.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, at the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron. A private burial ceremony will take place at the church's Garden of Remembrance. To celebrate Bryan's life, guests are kindly asked to wear the color blue to the memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his honor may

be made to the Gilead Congregational Church or the American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-91 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester is in care of the arrangements. To share a memory or condolence message with Bryan's family, please visit [www.auroramccarthy.com](http://www.auroramccarthy.com).

## Marlborough

## Robert A. States Sr.

Robert A. States Sr., 91, of Marlborough, died peacefully Thursday, March 14, with his loving companion Birgitta O'Brien by his side. He was 91 years old. He was born in Boston on March 19, 1932. His parents, Earl H. States and Rosita A. States instilled in him a passion for learning and education.



He graduated from Boston University in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a radio operator in the 1343rd Engineer Combat Battalion in Korea for two years. After being discharged from the Army, he attended Bentley School of Accounting and Finance and received a degree in accounting and later received his Juris Doctor degree at Western New England College School of Law in 1968.

Bob had an exemplary career with the Internal Revenue Service in Connecticut and was recruited by Aetna Life & Casualty to lead their tax department. He rose through the executive ranks to become the first African American officer of the company as director of income taxes and corporate accounting. When he retired in 1993, he established his own tax practice, fulfilling a lifelong dream of owning his own business. He was also active in the community, serving as a chair of the Economic Development Commission in East Hampton, and on the board of the YMCA in Middletown. He also taught accounting at Middlesex Community College for many years.

Bob will be remembered for his love of life and his intense intellectual curiosity. An avid reader and global traveler, he was a lifelong learner. His hobbies included amateur radio, flying, technology and sports including golf and skiing. He instilled his love of learning in all his children and grandchildren.

Robert States was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Eva D. States; his parents, Earl H. States and Rosita A. States; and his brother Ronald A. States and his wife Dorothy States. He is survived by his three children, Lauren C. States (Kenneth J. Creary), Dr. Lisa J. States (Kevin Hamel) and Robert A. States, Jr. (Nereissa States); his five grandchildren: Rachel M. Creary, Steven Hamel, Eva Hamel, Niya States and Nathan States.

Bob was a treasured presence in the lives of the O'Brien family: Birgitta O'Brien, Christina O'Brien and Nancy Bean, Ingela O'Brien and daughter Sydney Pagano, Britta Lower-Pierce and Heather Lower Pierce, and Kali Lower and partner Michael McCauley.

His kindness, generosity and wisdom will forever be remembered by all who knew him. Though gone from our sight, his memory will continue to live on in our hearts.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., Marlborough, on Saturday, March 23, at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the memorial donations may be made to:

The Marlborough Congregational Church, [mcc.marlconchurch.org/donate](http://mcc.marlconchurch.org/donate);

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund, [www.tmcf.org/online-gift](http://www.tmcf.org/online-gift); or

The American Heart Association, [www.heart.org/?form=FUNELYZZFBW](http://www.heart.org/?form=FUNELYZZFBW).

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

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COUNCIL



Obituaries

Portland

Francis J. O'Brien

Francis J. O'Brien, a beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Saturday, March 16, at the age of 85. Born April 9, 1938, in Queens, N.Y., Fran was raised by his Uncle Charlie and Aunt Lucy Livingston.



In seventh grade, Fran met the love of his life, Charlene Raynor. They dated throughout middle school, high school and college, and they were married Aug. 29, 1959, in Freeport, Long Island.

Fran graduated from Clarkson Memorial College of Technology in Potsdam, N.Y., pursued a short-lived career in engineering, and ultimately transformed his love of people and talking into a successful career as an Allstate insurance agent for 39 years. Fran and Charlene raised their four children in Portland, and developed friendships that would last a lifetime.

Fran was a charismatic storyteller with contagious expressions, making him the life of the many house parties he hosted. Fran also loved sports; he was a high school track star, coached Little League baseball, was an avid golfer and a die-hard fan of the New York Yankees and New York Giants.

Fran's four children and 11 grandchildren were the joy and center of his life. Growing up, he proudly attended almost all of their sporting events and extra-curricular activities, and he was always on the sidelines to document the event with his telephoto camera lens and video camera.

Fran loved photography and traveling, planning spectacular trips, visiting Hilton Head, S.C., England, Ireland, Italy, Germany, and Scotland, and was especially proud to have played at Saint Andrews Golf Course. Perhaps his favorite adventures were the many summers spent in Mabou Harbour, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, where he and Charlene designed and built a house and spent many hours listening to fiddle music, enjoying Irish culture, dancing, and being with friends at the Red Shoe.

Fran is survived by his loving wife, Charlene; daughter Terri O'Brien (and Dave Domogala), daughter Sandy Miniati (spouse Peter Miniati), daughter Julie Coiro (spouse Charlie Coiro), and son Charlie O'Brien (spouse Laura O'Brien); and his grandchildren, Meghan Occhialini (spouse Anthony Occhialini), Derek Domogala, Michael Miniati (spouse Jenny Miniati), Sarah Coiro, Claire Domogala, Kelly Domogala (spouse Anas Fadli), Maggie Miniati, Jack Miniati, Emma O'Brien, Abby O'Brien, and Paige O'Brien. Fran attended the baby shower for his first great grandchild in February 2024 and was anxiously awaiting the arrival of the next generation of his family.

Fran was also predeceased by his mother, Helen Paganini, his father, John O'Brien, and siblings Jack O'Brien, Art O'Brien, and Helen Paganini.

Fran will be remembered by many dear friends, whom he had a chance to speak with on his last day of life, while surrounded by family. Thank you to the great staff at RI Hospital for their extreme accommodation and caring throughout his last days.

Fran will be deeply missed by all who knew him. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the National Kidney Foundation (Kidney.org).

Visiting hours will be held from 9-10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 22, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland (portlandmemorialfuneralhome.com). An 11 a.m. funeral service will be held at the First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., Portland. Burial will be in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland, followed by a celebration of Fran's life at the Quarry Ridge Golf Course, 9 Rose Hill Rd., Portland.

Marlborough

William Beyerly

William "Bill" Beyerly, 81, of Marlborough passed away peacefully Thursday, March 14, after a brief illness. He was born Aug. 25, 1942, to the late Wade and Alice Beyerly and was also predeceased by his older brother, Jack.



He grew up in Ohio and graduated from Chillicothe High School class of 1960. He attended The Ohio State University, graduating with a BS degree in aeronautical engineering, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with an MS in mechanical engineering. After college, he moved to Connecticut and was employed for over 41 years at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, where he was involved in the design, development, validation and introduction into service of jet engines for commercial and military aircraft and stationary power generation. He retired at the end of 2006, holding the position of discipline manager for Systems Performance Analysis.

He met his beloved wife Carol (Kacin) when she was a college summer engineering assistant at Pratt & Whitney, declaring "that's the girl I'm going to marry" when he spotted her across the office for the first time. They married in 1969 and remained together for more than 54 years, raising three wonderful children.

In addition to his wife, Bill leaves behind his three children and their families, Mark and his wife Sandy of Natick, Mass.; Amy and her husband Jeff Gabriele of Arlington, Mass.; and Kevin and his wife Jackie of Ellington. He was the loving Grampy to his five grandchildren, Emma, Noah and Alex Beyerly; and Claire and Owen Gabriele.

Outside of work and family, Bill was active in the Boy Scouts in Marlborough for 25 years, including 13 as Scoutmaster. In that time, he mentored over 40 young men in reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. He never missed an opportunity to camp, hike, canoe, or do anything outside with the Scouts, no matter what the weather.

Bill was an avid golfer and managed the JT8 Golf League at Blackledge Country Club, he was an enthusiastic supporter of UConn basketball and football, and a lifelong Ohio State Buckeyes fan. Always quietly giving of himself to others, he donated more than 8 gallons of blood in his lifetime.

He enjoyed his annual summer vacations in Ocean City, N.J., with his family, long walks outside, tailgating before football games, working outside in the yard, telling stories, eating good food, a glass of bourbon, and baking his famous cinnamon rolls. But most of all, he cherished the time spent with his family.

Bill will be remembered as being patient, humble, practical, and calm; for always having a plan; for his kindness and generosity to friends, family, and the community; for the positive impact he had on all those around him; and for his love and commitment to his wife and family. He was truly a content man who lived a happy and active life.

Calling hours will be held Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m.-noon, at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, with a memorial service immediately following at noon at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bill's memory can be made to the American Red Cross or the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Sincere thanks to the nurses and staff of 7 South at Middlesex Hospital for the care and compassion they provided during his brief hospitalization.

For more information, or to leave condolences, visit www.mulryanfh.com.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 IN-PERSON / VIRTUAL HEARING ANDOVER, HEBRON, MARLBOROUGH MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024 - 6:30 PM RHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

Google Meet joining info Video call link: https://meet.google.com/rgp-buha-yis Or dial: (US) +1 224-441-7927 PIN: 362 506 245# More phone numbers: https://tel.meet/rgp-buha-yis?pin=6704090609247

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BOTH VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON (RHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER) ON MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024, AT 6:30 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING: 1. "TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024-2025." 2. "TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2024-2025." DATED AT HEBRON, CONNECTICUT, March 19, 2024 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 HEATHER SUMMERER, CHAIRPERSON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF MARLBOROUGH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE CAUCUS TO SELECT DELEGATES TO THE REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION FOR 2024

To all legal Marlborough voters registered as members of the Republican Party, notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Rules of Republican Party and of the State of Connecticut, a caucus will be held Wednesday, March 27 at 6 P.M. in the Library of Elmer Thienes Elementary School, School Drive in Marlborough. Its purpose will be to select delegates to attend a Convention on May 16, 2024 to select a candidate for the Connecticut House of Representatives to represent Connecticut's 55th district. Check-in begins at 5:30. Contact Barbara Murray at jamurray076@gmail.com or at (860)543-2050. Barbara C. Murray MRTC Secretary

1TB 3/22

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

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

3TB 3/22, 4/5, 4/26

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

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

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Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 13th day of March 2024. Frank Zitkus, Chair

2TB 3/15, 3/22

MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its regular meeting on March 7, 2024, took the following actions:

- MOTION CONTINUED: APPLICATION #Z-03-24 - 314 Jones Hollow Rd (Applicant) Kirstein DellaRocco (Property Owner) Construction of Accessory Building is set for Public Hearing on April 4, 2024 APPLICATION #Z-04-24 - 86 E Hampton Rd (Applicant) Farm on Carter Hill (Property Owner) 2024 Public Events set for Public Hearing on April 4, 2024 APPLICATION APPROVED: APPLICATION #Z-01-24 - 138 Flood Rd (Applicant) Matthew Chojnicki (Property Owner) Construction of accessory building with conditions. APPLICATION #Z-02-24 - 25 South Main St (Applicant) Austin HGB, LLC Bill Gjonbalaj (Property Owner) 96 Apartments on South Main St and Johnson Rd with conditions. ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 3/22

TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At its Regular Meeting of March 13, 2024, the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision(s):

- W2023-3093 - 10 West Rd; Cheryl Beaulieu - Applicant/Owner; Assessor's ID 03-09-019-000; Proposed filling or relocation of wetlands for future development. - APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS. W2024-3094 - 101 Pine Brook Rd; Richard Stevenson - Applicant/Owner; Assessor's ID 4W-09-003-000; Proposed restoration and enhancement of man-made pond with excavation, dredging, and site grading. - APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS. Dated March 13, 2024

Conservation Commission Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 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

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024 6:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following: Application 592 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 46 Keighley Pond Road, Middle Haddam, to install arena lighting for applicant Theodore Hintz, Jr. Application 593 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 1 Knowles Road, Middle Haddam to refurbish an existing shed into a one car garage using the original shed footprint for applicant Ritchie Goldstein. Application 594 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 72 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam to install railings for applicant Cathy Ann Clark. The foregoing applications are available for public review at the East Hampton Town Hall. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

1TB 3/22

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 Auditorium at the Portland High School located at 95 High Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at 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 20th day of March 2024 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 3/22, 3/29

TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on March 19, 2024, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:

- W2024-3095 - 8 Ventura Dr; Justin Williams - Applicant/Owner; Assessor's ID 03-05-023-001; Proposed single family home with excavation, filling, and erosion & sediment controls within Upland Review Area. - APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS.

Dated March 19, 2024 Conservation Commission Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 3/22

LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING BOARD OF SELECTMEN Town of Portland, CT

Pursuant to Section 503(j) of the Portland Town Charter, a public hearing will be held by the Board of Selectmen on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 6:50 P.M. in the Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, CT to provide residents the opportunity to comment both orally and in writing on the proposed 2024 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program available to interested non-profit organizations in Portland. Dated this 21st day of March 2024 Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

1TB 3/22

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON- WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY ATTENTION SEWER USERS

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in East Hampton that the second installment of the sewer use payment is due and payable on April 1, 2024. The last day on which to pay without penalty is May 1, 2024. Property owners will not receive a second sewer use bill for the installment due on April 1, 2024. The October bill was a three-part form which includes the April installment.

Payments received May 2, 2024 and later, including payments postmarked May 2, and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before May 1, 2024 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue. As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.

Please make checks payable to: Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online at www.mytaxbill.net/easthampton Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online. Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am - 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am - 12:30 pm. Respectively Submitted, Scott Clayton Public Utilities Administrator

3TB 3/22, 4/12, 4/26

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CIT3-21-24

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The Town of East Hampton is seeking a candidate to fill the full-time position of Recreation Program Leader. The Program Leader will develop, promote, initiate, supervise, and facilitate a wide variety of age-appropriate recreation programs. This is a 35-hour, revenue generated position. The position requires a flexible schedule to include day, evening, and weekend hours. Four years' experience in recreation, athletics, or closely related field. College training in recreation management or similar major may be substituted for general experience. Conducting and supervising recreation programs and prior public recreation experience is preferred. \$20.00 to \$25.00 per hour. Benefit package offered. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and an employment application by April 5, 2024, or until filled, to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to [lseymour@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:lseymour@easthamptonct.gov). EOE/AA/M-F. An employment application and job description may be found at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov).

1TB 3/22

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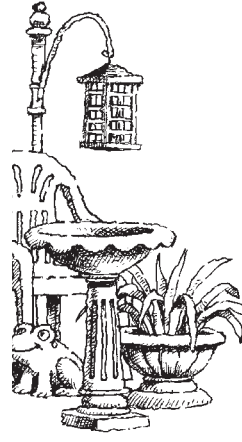
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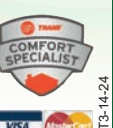
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**BRAZILIAN CLEANING SERVICE:** Responsible, Brazilian woman seeking house cleaning clients. Very professional and punctual. Also good with pets. Call Ana Paula 860-212-4586.

**DO YOU NEED YOUR HOUSE CLEANED?** I have good prices and references. Free estimates. Please call Priscila at 860-680-0777.

**HOUSE CLEANING:** Need some help to get your home clean? I'd be happy to help. I have 10+ years of experience, I offer reliable service, reasonable rates and I do an amazing job. References upon request. Please call or text for free estimates. ARIANE'S CLEANING, 860-331-5309.



**WOOD FLOORS:** Questions whether your wood floors really need sanding? Have existing surface finish deep cleaned, revitalized, with a durable acrylic/urethane floor finish. The best alternative to the mess, expense of sanding. Carpets safely dry cleaned. Experienced, references, insured. William Agostinelli 860-704-8486 Calls Only

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# FOR SALE

**2011 HYUNDAI SUNOTA:** 2.4, auto, 4dr, Red. 186K, (less on motor). Runs excellent. Zero rust. Minor body damage left side. Just passed Emissions. Carfax available. Use my lift to inspect. \$4,200. Negotiable. Portland. 860-214-0796.

**2014 JAYCO 18FT CAMPER:** sleeps two. AC, heat, waterpump, solar panels, stove, microwave, sink, toilet, shower, spare tires and rims. 860-833-2445.

**HAY FOR SALE:** Square bales, Alfalfa mix, 2nd crop. Call 860-267-2194.

**QUALITY SEASONED HARDWOOD:** Fireplace length. \$260 per CORD. Delivered within Glastonbury. Small delivery fee for surrounding areas. Call 860-659-1438.

**2012 HONDA ACCORDE XL:** loaded, 98K miles, white exterior, tan interior. Asking \$9,995. Call 860-263-7944.



**END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT:** Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. **THE GLASTONBURY CITIZEN.** 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE:** cut, split, delivered locally \$290/CORD. Can custom cut to size. Multiple cord discount. Discounted outdoor firepit wood available. Call/text 860-202-8950.

## TAG SALES

**ESTATE SALE:** In-house, March 23rd. Barn items, tools, all household items, CD Player, CDs/Tapes, furniture, bedding, clocks, baby monitor, old books, appliances, pictures - Stockbridge print. 29 Mountain Road, Glastonbury. 9am-4pm. Winter Storm date March 30th.



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