

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Portland Flooding Reaches Houses, Threatens More

By London Brazal

Jobs Pond in Portland is known as a "bottomless pond" enjoyed by many residents who call it home and kids who use it during summer camp. While dramatic changes in the water levels are not uncommon, residents lately have faced a difficult challenge, as homes have started to flood with recent storms.

The large amount of rain in the last few months has put the people living near the pond in fear.

According to resident Janet Vamos, the water has risen 15 feet vertically since the fall and rose a foot alone following a downpour on March 23. Vamos and her family could be considered lucky for now, as they have only about two inches of standing water in their basement with two sump pumps running constantly. She said, however, she is concerned for her neighbors with three or more feet of water creeping further into their houses.

"Our neighbors will have to leave their homes once the water reaches their main level - which it will, shortly," said Vamos. "Several other folks have had to cut power, water, and heat to their homes due to the extreme flooding in their basements."

Veronica Ketch has lived on the pond for 60 years and is the president of the Jobs Pond Waterfront Corporation, the local homeowners' association. She oversees all business for the corporation - administrative, financial, structural and maintenance. Ketch told the Rivereast that the temporary goal is to work with the town and state regarding the urgency of their situation and, hopefully, implement a solution for flooding while looking at long-term solutions as well.

"We welcome offers of suggestions and/or resources for a solution (temporary and long-term) along with being supportive, not subjective, to what the residents of Jobs Pond are deal-



Portland residents have started to be displaced as heavy amounts of rain have flooded Jobs Pond. While docks and boats have started to go under, many people have several feet of standing water in their basements, knocking out heat and other utilities. Across the pond, Camp Ingersoll's lifeguard pavilions are almost completely under water.

ing with," Ketch said in an email. "Residents' homes are flooding, sump pumps are running 24/7, with little relief, and we've yet to be done with the rainy season."

While it's not uncommon for Jobs Pond to see fluctuation in its water levels, the pond is fed by underwater springs and is not generally

impacted by rain or drought. What adds to the anxiety of the flooding is the heavy amounts of precipitation affecting the watershed area as well. Runoff from two primary sources flows into the pond, overwhelming it with excess water. Historically, levels have reached the current point but tend to decrease during the winter;

however, with the levels remaining high, more precipitation is inevitable as spring moves on.

First Selectman Ryan Curley said he and state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) toured the area on Monday evening and visited with many of the neighbors.

"We are continuing to work with state agencies to see what can be done," Curley said.

"This natural phenomena is causing safety concerns for dozens of residents," Carpino said. "As the water level continues to rise, public safety must be prioritized. I've toured the area to better understand the magnitude and we are working collectively at the state level to explore our options."

State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) was invited but could not attend due to a scheduling conflict. However, his office has been helping as well, according to Curley.

YMCA Camp Ingersoll is located at Jobs Pond and, with summer approaching, is about to start its busy season. However, camp director Benjamin Silliman said the organization has so far been able to keep its programs running.

"The rising water undoubtedly impacts our camp program, but fortunately, it requires [only] adjustments and no real programmatic changes at this point," he said.

Silliman also said the YMCA has "been messaging with some of the neighbors as well, letting them know that we want to be in the continuing discussion of ways we can help support them."

In 1984, residents of Jobs Pond faced a similar issue. Curley said the pond was pumped out, but it was an enormous undertaking and proved to be controversial in town. Members of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program and the Soil Conservation Service proposed to pump the pond into the Connecticut River,

See Portland Flooding, page 7

Colchester Gets Its First Cannabis Shop

By Michael Sinkewicz

For the first time since the sale of recreational marijuana became legal in Connecticut in 2023, a retail cannabis store is opening its doors in Colchester.

The Harvest Corner, located at 493 Westchester Rd., is holding its grand opening today, April 5, ushering in a product that up until now hasn't been available locally.

The name of the new business intentionally forms the acronym THC - the psychoactive compound found in marijuana and the compound that's often used to manage and treat nausea and other symptoms. And store management says everything at the new establishment was painstakingly developed and researched to guarantee consumer and state approval.

The Harvest Corner management intends to make the store a reputable service in the community.

"We're just a package store for cannabis," said Bill Buscetto, the store's managing partner.

Anyone over the age of 21 will be able to purchase up to 14 grams of cannabis per transaction, both in-person or online via the store's website, theharvestcornerct.com. The operation is strictly adult-use, not medicinal, and offers an extensive catalog of pre-rolls (joints), gummies and vaporizers, as well as pipes and bongs.

The Harvest Corner will be open seven days a week: Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Last week, as Buscetto put the final touches on his 4,000 square-foot facility, he offered the Rivereast a glimpse behind the curtain to showcase exactly what Colchester can expect with its newest business.

"We've tried to go the extra mile," he said.

"We didn't try to spare any expense. If we're going to do it, we got to do it right. I'm not cutting any corners."

'High-Class and Reputable'

Buscetto, 51, is just one member of a roughly 10-person investment group that originally spearheaded the idea at the end of 2021. One of his friends pitched the concept, but Buscetto - a New London native who now lives in Old Lyme - was somewhat skeptical because his main background was in youth sports; he's taught a baseball camp for over 30 years.

"I'm not a cannabis user," he conveyed. "I looked at it as a business opportunity. I didn't know much about the industry."

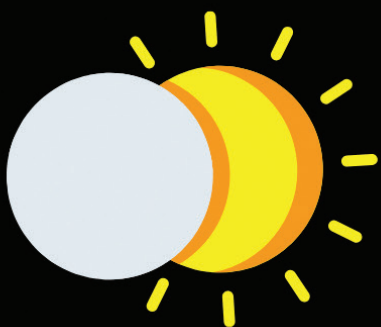
After talking to both doctors and friends, his outlook began to evolve.

"People are using it for anxiety, for pain, for See Colchester Cannabis Shop, page 11

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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.

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

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.

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

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

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RE4-5-24

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Congratulations to the UConn men and women!!

Both the men's and women's basketball teams are playing in their respective Final Fours this weekend – the women on Friday and the men on Saturday. That is just very cool – particularly for the women who, frankly, weren't expected to get this far.

Can this be a repeat of 2014's "Two-Conn," when both teams won national championship? One can only hope!

Go Huskies!

This sounds pretty grool.

The Young People's Center for Creative Arts (YPCCA) in East Hampton has announced what its summer musical is going to be this year: *Mean Girls*.

It's particularly timely, as the movie adaptation of the hit Broadway musical hit theaters earlier this year, and is currently streaming on Paramount+. I saw the movie adaptation when it hit theaters in January. I was, and still am, a big fan of the original 2004 Tina Fey-penned movie, and I thought it translated to a musical very nicely. The songs were clever and catchy, and the performances were solid.

With Fey again writing the script for this movie (just as she wrote the book for the original Broadway adaptation), there were plenty of laugh-out-loud moments. Yes, several of the jokes were recycled from the original film, but hey, if it ain't broke, why fix it?

My biggest complaint is I wish there were a few more songs in the movie. After all, it is a musical. I've read, however, that several of the Broadway original's songs were excised from the movie, so I have to imagine they'd be featured in the YPCCA production.

YPCCA will perform *Mean Girls* July 18-21 at East Hampton High School. And if you're

a parent of a teen in grades 6-12, there's still plenty of time for them to sign up and audition!

The camp will run daily, Monday through Friday, from June 27-July 23, at EHHS. **Auditions for *Mean Girls* are held one week before camp begins.**

Mornings at the camp will be devoted to workshops in skills that include acting, show choir, dance, stage make-up, voice, and stage combat. Afternoons at camp are spent in rehearsals for *Mean Girls*.

While auditions are necessary for lead roles in the musical, they're not mandatory to take part in YPCCA camp. Students who don't audition will still be featured in the ensemble.

Is your teen not interested in acting? There will be plenty of opportunities to learn behind-the-scenes skills involved in theater work and many campers work as stage and set crew.

Registration and more information on the camp is available by visiting www.ypcca.org. And if you register by May 1, tuition will be \$625 for the four weeks. Scholarships are also available for students with financial need. Email info@ypcca.org for more information.

Reporters of mine who have attended YPCCA shows in the past have always had a good time. Teens come from not just East Hampton but all over the area to take part in camp, and the end result is always a high-quality production.

So I have little doubt that, this summer, YPCCA will definitely be able to make fetch happen.

Lastly, happy anniversary to the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps – a very nice initiative that provided millions of Americans with much-needed work during the Great De-

Editor's Desk continued on page 7



CERT Supports Andover 5K... Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough provided traffic control on Easter morning at the "Hopping Hodges 5K Run" in Andover. In addition to providing support services for fire departments in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough, CERT members also provide traffic safety control for events such as local road races.

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Invest in the American People

To the Editor:

"Researchers estimate that if the top 1% of Americans paid the full amount of taxes they owed, it would raise \$175 billion a year. That's just unpaid taxes. Not new or higher taxes. How about we make them pay their fair share and use the money to invest in the American people?" -- Robert Reich, Berkeley professor, former U.S. secretary of labor

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Marlborough Taxes

To the Editor:

Ok.... so the proposed Marlborough tax increase has been "slashed" from 9.24% to only 8.92%.

That means that the tax increase on my home will only go up by \$522 instead of \$540. That's a huge relief!

Of course, many in town will see a much larger tax increase, depending on the assessment on their homes. And those increases will have varying impacts on people, depending on their individual situations. I truly feel concerned for those on fixed incomes or who are already struggling to get by in this economy.

But seriously, it will be up to you to decide if you want to support this budget when you go to vote at the referendum on May 7, or if you decide to send it back. Please stay informed and involved.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

Bridge Over Troubled Hebron

To the Editor:

This is not about the bridge. On March 26, a majority of the members of Hebron's Planning and Zoning Commission voted to approve the use of a modern fiberglass pedestrian bridge partially located in the Hebron Green National Register Historic District. This came despite requests to explore alternatives from members of the public, as well as the chair of the Historic Properties Commission who submitted a letter stating, "The HPC would prefer wood over fiberglass." But again, this is not about the bridge.

This is about Hebron's town officials and their response to the concerns of residents and its own committees. Interestingly, our town charter does not include a definition of a public hearing. Fortunately, the United States Code of Federal Regulations includes one for federal projects:

§ 327.3 Definitions.

"(a) Public hearing means a public proceeding conducted for the purpose of acquiring information or evidence which will be considered in evaluating a proposed DA permit action, or Federal project, and which affords the public an opportunity to present their views, opinions, and information on such permit actions or Federal projects."

However, at the March 26 public hearing, when given multiple opportunities by the PZC to consider input from the public and explore options for a more historically sensitive solution, town staff flatly rejected the ideas. This

Bulletin Board

There's been a lot in the news lately about artificial intelligence, popularly referred to as AI. It's actually reached the point that our national politicians have decided to address the issue. I guess this is supposed to be reassuring.

Yes, friends. I'm skeptical.

Not to stray too far off topic, but am I the only one who finds it amusing that Congress has taken it upon itself to grapple with the ramifications of AI? Call me jaded, but it seems to me, based on events of the last few years, that if there's a problem involving intelligence in this country, Congress is probably the last place you'd want to go for a rational assessment.

So, just what is artificial intelligence anyway?

There was a time when I would have defined "artificial intelligence" as ignorant people who actually think they know what they're talking about. Like all too many of our congressmen, for instance. A subcategory might be folks like myself who simply pretend we know what we're talking about. We actually know we're phonies, but we don't care.

(In my defense, I feel I should get a little forbearance for being able to admit it. And, of course, I'm not in a position to pass legislation forcing the public to abide by my foolish demands, though I will admit I find the idea of forced compliance with my every whim more than a little appealing on a whole host of levels.)

Some of you may have personally come into contact with another form of artificial intelligence while sitting around with your friends in college (or, these days, the 6th grade) smoking marijuana and delving into the arcane workings of the universe. Ah, the number and variety of astonishingly ridiculous revelations that have emerged from such gatherings over the years! If only we could remember them.

Now, of course, AI refers primarily to machines (for lack of a better word) that can do our thinking for us. Considering that 90 percent of our popular television shows these days seem to feature people with missing teeth who wander around in swamps shooting alligators, and bachelors and bachelorettes who think it's a good idea to marry somebody they've known since yesterday afternoon without first demanding a venereal disease test ... well, I can't help but wonder if maybe we'd be better off if machines did all of our thinking for us, but I'm too damn proud to ask Siri.

My own battle with AI (aside from the occasional need for assistance at those automatic checkout stations at places like Home Depot) revolves around my laptop computer. I should note here, if it's not already painfully obvious, that I am not a techie. I use my laptop mostly as a typewriter and to browse the internet in search of universal truths (not much luck with the latter, at least so far). So my demands and needs are pretty modest.

Unfortunately, it seems that the brain that resides in my laptop (or the remote godhead that rules it from afar) feels that it knows what I want better than I do. So it's constantly auto-correcting things that are already perfectly fine in my opinion; erasing lines of text for no discernible reason; harassing me with pop-up boxes offering services and assistance I have no interest in; freezing my activities while it provides updates I don't want or need; randomly moving the cursor to various parts of the document while I am typing; scaring the crap out of me by abruptly breaking in to read documents aloud; and just generally interfering with what I want to do.

Just as an example, just now, as I was typing these thoughts, the computer erased three lines of particularly brilliant observations for no particular reason. Now you may view that as a public service, but I find it damned annoying.

I am told by experts in this field (my children) that there is no malice involved in my ongoing struggles (at least on the computer's end of it). In fact, they assure me, the computer is merely trying to be helpful.

I am reminded of a cartoon I once saw of an eager Boy Scout dragging an old lady across a four-lane highway—a good deed she is frantically but futilely struggling to resist.

I seem to remember thinking it was funny.

Jim Hallas

Riverast Hours of Operation

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unfortunate situation could have been avoided if the town had followed its own guidelines. Hebron's "Guidelines for Community Site and Architectural Design," page 12, clearly states, "Chapter 1: Integration - It shall be recognized that each property contributes to the future of Hebron, regardless of size, scale and use, and shall be planned through a collaborative process with staff, land use commissions and the public." Hopefully, this bridge over troubled water can offer a learning experience to town officials and residents alike.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulumieri - Amston

Tuna Casserole

To the Editor:
One evening a harried mother called her family inside to get their input on what to have for dinner. Each family member would have their say but, tuna casserole was on the menu. Two wanted cheeseburgers, one wanted big salads, another mashed potatoes and peas, while Dad wanted steak with fresh caramelized onions. Mother looked perturbed. Her face went yellow and her mouth twitched. She snapped defiantly at her family that they were having tuna casserole. Additionally, it had been planned for two weeks now, albeit never really mentioned.

The group was stunned by her news and reaction. Finally the eldest child spoke. "If the deal was already done, why did you ask for our opinions? And secondly, after allowing us to speak, why are you so angry that nobody asked for tuna casserole? We have all these nice greens in the garden, including potatoes yet you choose tuna casserole for supper?"

The group turned on their heels and headed back outside, but they did not resume their game. Each wandered off alone, licking their wounds, trying not to turn against their mother, or let their resentments, to the situation, turn into malice.

Five friends, from three states, mentioned their own disappointing public hearings on projects where town officials were annoyed by public opinion. The ink was dry and the meetings seemed merely to pay lip service to public input, thus leaving residents no say in any avoidable project shortcomings.

On a lighter note have you noticed the outstanding stonework being done on Church Street, in Amston? Rain or shine these guys are out there showing us the artistry, and beauty, of working with local materials. Masons, like these, along with local timber framers, could, probably, have created a more appropriate foot-bridge for Hebron's Historic District. #save17
Jean Tulumieri - Amston

Easter Bunny Event Thanks

To the Editor:
Members of the East Hampton High School Project Graduation committee would like to express their most sincere thanks and appreciation to Paul's & Sandy's Too, Hardware and Garden Center, 93 East High St. in East Hampton, for their generous donation and for hosting the Pictures With The Easter Bunny event March 24. Special thanks also goes to Linda Demick who volunteered as the guest of honor. Her son teaches at EHHS. The free event drew dozens of families, children and even pets for some very memorable pictures. All donations went to help EHHS Project Graduation. It was a fantastic, fun and very successful experience for all. The Easter Bunny would like to stop in at Paul's & Sandy's Too again next year! EHHS Project Graduation plans and hosts an exciting, substance-free, all-night graduation party for East Hampton High School graduates to celebrate their accomplishment each year. To donate, visit ehhsprojectgraduation.com.

Again, huge thanks to Paul's & Sandy's Too and to Linda Demick for their kindness, hard work and help in hosting the Easter Bunny event.

Thank You,
Mary Milewski, Volunteer
EHHS Project Graduation

How Gullible

To the Editor:
So far, I have not heard it noted that the former president's stock trading on the NASDAQ is a blatant scam to circumvent election fundraising laws. But it is. The Federal Election Commission regulates campaign finance law, including setting campaign contribution limits for individuals and groups. But candidates can spend their own personal funds on their campaign without limits. Offering his company's stock to the public is a clever but transparent way around these contribution rules! It dupes the foolish into paying Trump's bills for him. Once again, he is playing the system to his advantage, regardless of its effect on anyone else.

One Truth Social user urged conservatives to "get behind the DJT stock and send it over \$100 per share" to "drive the liberals insane!" Another declared: "Get yourself a piece of #DJT stock

if you're a true MAGA supporter." However, a professor and expert on initial public offerings of stock at the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business said, "I think there is a possibility of, sooner or later, the stock price falling by 95%." Another financial expert said, "Like any meme stock or fad, as long as there's a greater fool to buy you out for what you paid for it, then you can continue to prosper."

Trump will prosper on the backs of the fools who believe him. Trump will sell his shares, possibly making many millions of dollars to pay his legal debts and fund his campaign. His duped supporters will have made these illicit campaign contributions and then end up holding the bag when the music stops. Such are the people who believe that Trump cares about them.

John Barnowski - Colchester

Cabaret Thank You

To the Editor:
Thank you to all who attended and supported the East Hampton High School Music Boosters "A Very Gatsby Cabaret" fundraiser at EHHS on March 27. The Boosters support the EHHS Music Dept., and the annual Cabaret is the group's largest fundraiser. Attendees enjoyed dinner and both vocal and musical performances by talented student musicians. The event gives students the chance to shine individually or in small groups in a way that is not always possible at the concerts held during the year. Raffle prizes donated by many local businesses and families were given out throughout the evening. The EHHS Music Boosters would like to thank the following for their generous donations which helped make the evening such a success:

Belltown Therapeutic Massage and Wellness, Black Walnut Bakery, Cara Mia Skincare Studio, Congregational Church of East Hampton UCC, Creative Nails, Dairy Queen, Dexter's Tunes, Tales and Ales, The Hamptons Pet Supplies, Fields Family, Jim E Jive Hot Sauce - The Taylor Family, Kickback n Bowl, Laboy Family, Lakeside Bar and Grill, Little Fish Gallery and Gifts, Loco Perro, Middlesex Music Academy, Nafis Family, Paul's and Sandy's Too, Pizzeria Da Vinci, Spooner Family, Stop and Shop, Tang Asia Bistro, Ten Summit Yoga and Earth Based Wellness, Town Tavern, Two Brothers Cafe,

Walt Jedziniak Photography, YPCCA.

On behalf of the EHHS Music Dept, thank you to everyone who performed, attended, volunteered, made food, and donated time and prizes!

Sincerely,
Nancy Nafis
EHHS Music Boosters

Stop Killing Our Whales!

To the Editor:
In the past few years there has been a large increase in the number of dead whales washing up on our beaches here on the east coast. Two hundred fourteen dead whales have washed ashore in the past seven years. Who knows how many have washed out to sea? Most have been humpback whales and some have been the endangered right whales. Numerous numbers of dead birds have also been seen around these offshore wind mills.

If you do a search on the cause of these deaths you'll be told that the cause is from boats and fishing gear. Where do you think these search engines get this information from? They get their information from the government. So it must be true. If you're gullible then you can accept that answer. Those that are not gullible believe it's from all these "nice" offshore wind farms. From talking with a person that has worked in electrical power lines for numerous years, he told me that the testing procedures to determine the composition of the ocean floor and what these power lines discharge under water are the main reason for these dead whales.

Who can we blame? Maybe our elected officials? It makes me wonder how an elected politician that has an annual salary a little less than \$200,000 increases their net worth by 2 to 3 million dollars every year. Maybe they own some sort of manufacturing business?

Frank Blume - Colchester

Check Your Own Facts

To the Editor:
What is it with conservative writers? Why are they so allergic to checking the facts before submitting their letters? Last week it was C. Anne Johnson. This week it's Colin McNamara. Please folks, check your own damned facts. I'm getting tired of doing it for you!

Mr. McNamara claims that the CDC released
See Letters, page 6

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

an entirely redacted, 148-page report on the relationship of a COVID vaccine and myocarditis. Snopes says, "False." Yes, there was an entirely redacted document, but it was not such a report. Instead, it was a collection of inter- and intra-agency communications exempt from Freedom of Information requests.

He claims that the COVID vaccine inserts are entirely blank. AP News says, "False." Instead, for the duration of the vaccine's emergency use authorization, with information changing quickly, the inserts simply pointed to the up-to-date information online.

And he claims that Pfizer petitioned the court to keep their COVID vaccine trial data secret for 75 years. Again, false. Snopes explains that the FDA (not Pfizer) responded to a Freedom of Information Act request with their standard schedule of releasing 500 pages per month. But because the request was so broad – over 300,000 pages – it would take decades to complete. A judge ruled that they must go much faster, completing in eight months.

It only took me a few minutes to look these things up, read the articles, and understand that Mr. McNamara was putting his faith in untrustworthy sources. Why couldn't he check this on his own? Why couldn't Ms. Johnson? Why can't so many regular conservative writers? If you don't want to look idiotic, check your own damned facts before publishing them!

(References: letters.sauyet.com/#2024-04-05/)

Sincerely,

Scott Sauyet – Andover

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

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Clinton on Immigrants

To the Editor:
 “All Americans, not only in the states most heavily affected but in every place in this country, are rightly disturbed by the large numbers of illegal aliens entering our country. The jobs they hold might otherwise be held by citizens or legal immigrants. The public services they use pose burdens on our tax payers. That’s why our administration has moved aggressively to secure our borders more by hiring a record number of new border guards, by deporting twice as many criminal aliens as ever before, by cracking down on illegal hiring, by barring welfare benefits to illegal aliens, and the budget I will present to you will try to do more to speed the deportation of illegal aliens who are arrested for crimes and better identify illegal aliens in the workplace, as recommended by the commission headed by former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. We are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws. It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit the kind of abuse of immigration laws that we have seen in recent years and we must do more to stop it.”
 -- William Jefferson Clinton, State of the Union Speech, 1995.

What a xenophobe and racist. But how about that libido?

And, as an aside, March 31, 2024, was not only Easter and Transgender Visibility Day, it was also AI Gore Day. That’s the day I go outside and start all of my gas powered landscaping equipment (tractor, chainsaws, brush cutters, brush mower, lawn mower, log splitters, wood chipper, leaf blower, and garden tiller) for no reason whatsoever. It’s like being the conductor of a hydrocarbon symphony...

I hope everyone enjoyed their colored eggs on Sunday. Oops, sorry. I meant “eggs of color”...

Keep Workin’ It,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

Thanks, Colchester Garden Club

To the Editor:
 The Colchester Garden Club provided a valuable service by holding a presentation by Dr. Gale Ridge, expert on invasive jumping worms from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, March 25 at Colchester’s Cragin Memorial Library. Dr. Ridge works to raise public awareness about how we can avoid spreading these worms as this is currently the main means of control.

The worms are now in the form of tiny eggs in cocoons, the size of poppy seeds. Thus, they are unknowingly spread in dirt, mulch, potted plants, and compost. Once hatched, jumping worms eat all organic matter in topsoil, preventing plants from sprouting or growing. (Some cocoons take years before hatching.) Check the online Experiment Station’s Fact Sheets on Jumping Worms in CT for prevention tips and updates.

Our forests’ ecosystems are the most harmed by jumping worms. I learned at the presentation to make sure the soles of my hiking shoes are clean before walking into woods and to have a plastic bag to put shoes in after hiking (and also another clean pair of shoes). Let hiking shoes dry indoors and brush off all dirt into trash, or wash bottom of shoes in sink. Not to use any worms as bait when fishing in remote areas (jumping worms are sometimes with regular bait worms) and never dump any unused bait worms in water or on land.

If one knows their vegetable garden contains jumping worms, roto-tilling between mid-May to early June will kill juvenile worms before they multiply. Finally, some encouraging news. Dr. Josef Gorres in Vermont is experimenting with a fungus that, mixed with millet as the bait, would be destructive to jumping worms. Hats off to Drs. Gorres and Ridge, the Colchester Garden Club, and to You, too, for your efforts to help save nature!

Sincerely,
Ann Zitkus – Hebron

Supports RFK Jr.

To the Editor:
 It’s 2024 and the presidential election is looming. Many people believe Biden and Trump are the only options. You can’t really blame most as everyone is busy with the day-to-days of life, family, kids, school, bills, etc. Add to that the mainstream media pushing the narrative that these are only the two candidates we have.

Most people feel that neither Biden nor Trump is a good candidate, with good reason. Biden’s approval ratings are in the mid-high 30s, while Trump’s approval ratings are in the low 40s. And Trump is, well, Trump. Like many I can’t bring myself to vote for him no matter how many of his policies I may agree with. Biden shows clear signs of cognitive decline; that objectivity can’t be argued with.

Kennedy spent 40 years as a highly successful environmental lawyer. During that time, he was fighting some of the most powerful companies who have polluted so much of this great country. RFK Jr’s dedicated and hard work was pivotal in the clean-up of the Hudson River.

Kennedy is also willing to speak the unpopular truth. That big business with their millions of dollars funneled to political campaigns and media advertising, controls politics and the media. How many times have you heard “Brought to you by Pfizer”?

Kennedy is often portrayed as being anti-vax or anti-gay or whatever the mainstream narrative chooses. Usually this is done by clipping a sentence from what Kennedy says and spinning it as unfavorably as possible. The topics that Kennedy is speaking out on are highly nuanced, and not something that can be summed up with carefully chosen two sentences in the way the media chooses to do.

I think it’s time people learn about the real RFK Jr. and not just how the mainstream media chooses to portray him as.

Doug Kapell – East Hampton

International TDOV

To the Editor:
 March 31st is Anesthesia Tech Day. Cesar Chavez Day. Dance Marathon Day. Eiffel Tower Day. International Hug A Medievalist Day. International Transgender Day Of Visibility. National “She’s Funny That Way” Day. National Bunsen Burner Day. National Clams On The Half Shell Day. National Crayon Day. National Prom Day. National Tater Day. Terri’s Day. World Backup Day. There are 233 March National Days to celebrate during the year’s third month.

Easter is celebrated the first Sunday following the first full moon that happens on or after the spring equinox. This formula created by the Council of Nicaea, who determined that almost every Easter between 1600 and 2900 will fall on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter occurs on March 31 nine times between the years 1900 and 2100.

International Trans Day of Visibility (TDOV) was created in 2009 by trans advocate Rachel Crandall. Crandall, the head of Transgender Michigan, created TDOV in response to the overwhelming majority of media stories about transgender people being focused on violence. She hoped to create a day where people could celebrate the lives of transgender people, while still acknowledging that due to discrimination, not every trans person can or wants to be visible.

President Biden issues a proclamation for TDOV 2024 and this year TDOV and Easter happen on the same day. It’s happened before (not Biden’s fault) and will happen again (won’t be Biden’s fault). Could someone please explain to me what the problem is? Is there anything else that you’re being told “you need to be mad” about? That you “need” to “blame” on someone?

“Speak for those without a voice...their right to be treated with dignity, their right to equality of opportunity, their right to be educated.”
 Malala Yousafzai.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Manning – Andover

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

★ Portland Flooding cont. from page 1

three feet lower than the lowest basement. Selectmen at the time, however, were concerned about providing the manpower and any damage that could be caused by pumping out the pond. A special town meeting was held in September of that year, and by tight 67-55 vote, residents approved lowering the water level.

Ketch mentioned that it could be a huge help to have a similar plan and make it an immediate

priority.

“We can see disaster approaching and we are trying to be proactive and prevent that, but again, we need help from our community,” said Vamos. “I remember my dad telling me once, ‘Neighbors help neighbors.’ I am taking that to heart and asking for help for my neighborhood.”

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

pression.
 On April 5, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, a public works program. It was part of FDR’s wonderful New Deal, and targeted single men, ages 18-25 years old, and World War I veterans who had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression. The program provided unskilled manual labor in environmental conservation and the development of natural resources in rural lands.

According to CCC historian Marty Podskoch of East Hampton, the program employed 3,463,766 men who worked a 40-hour week for \$30 a month. The government sent \$25 a month home to their parents, leaving the men \$5 in spending money. It doesn’t sound like much money, and, even when adjusted for inflation, it’s not very much money. (\$30 a month in 1933 translates to \$716 now.) But at a time when no one was able to find work, it was very welcome.

The camps were run by the U.S. Army, which provided enrollees with food, clothing, shelter, and medical care.

CCC camps were located in all 48 states; Alaska and Hawaii were still U.S. territories back then, but there were camps there too, as well as in fellow territories Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix). There unfortunately were separate camps for white enrollees and Black enrollees (it was still the 1930s, after all), as well as separate camps for unemployed veterans who served in World War I, and for Native Americans who worked on tribal lands.

In Connecticut there were 21 CCC camps that were set up in these towns – including ones in Cobalt, East Hampton and Portland. The Army Government Dock in New London was the supply depot for all the Connecticut camps.

The CCC enrollees built trails, roads, parks, campsites and dams, stocked fish, built and maintained fire tower observers’ cabins and telephone lines, fought fires, and planted millions of trees.

With World War II underway, the CCC wrapped up in 1942. But, during its nine years of existence, CCC enrollees throughout the country were credited with renewing the nation’s decimated forests by planting an estimated three billion trees, according to Podskoch. Podskoch added the men also built hundreds of state and national parks, with cabins, artificial lakes and water supply systems. In fact, he noted, much of the infrastructure in the U.S. National Park Service was created using CCC labor.

Podskoch said CCC enrollees built more than 3,000 fire towers, constructed 46,854 bridges and 125,000 miles of roads, built 13,100 miles of foot trails, stocked 972 million fish, and improved 40 million acres of farmland. And if that’s not enough, the education program taught approximately 110,000 illiterate enrollees to read and write.

In short, it was a great program, created by a great president. Happy 91st birthday, CCC.

See you next week.



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The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords will hold its spring concert on Saturday, May 4, at 7 p.m., at Portland High School.

Vocal Chords Spring Concert

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) will hold its spring concert, "Sharing Our Love of Music," on Saturday, May 4, at 7 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St., Portland.

All are invited to this evening of music as MHVC's 90-voice chorus and 10-piece orchestra perform a variety of songs. Music director Samuel Tucker has arranged an eclectic program that highlights the talents of this chorus. Musical pieces include patriotic arrangements "The Battle Hymn" and "An American Trilogy," old favorites "When the Saints go Marching In," "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and "Singing

in the Rain," and newer pieces like "A Million Dreams" and a medley from The Temptations. Alan Dougherty is accompanist.

Proceeds from the concert are returned to the community in the form of scholarships presented to graduating Middlesex County high school seniors pursuing a career in music or nursing. Thus far, MHVC has awarded \$84,500, not including the scholarships that we will present at this spring concert.

Tickets are \$25. Call 860-347-2787 or 860-342-3120 for tickets or visit www.vocalchords20.org. People are also invited to follow MHVC on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Italian Night at Zion

Italian Night is back at Zion Lutheran Church and the public is invited. The dinner will be held Sunday, April 21, with a social hour from 4-5 p.m. and dinner served immediately following.

The menu includes ziti, homemade sauce and meatballs, sausage, garlic bread, salad, and dessert. Gluten-free options are available; requests for gluten free options should be made at the time of ticket purchase.

Live music will be provided by Jonny Rox.

Spring Rec Soccer Registration

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

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

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

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

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

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

PVFD Pancake Breakfast

Portland Volunteer Fire Department invites everyone to an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast Sunday, April 7, from 7-11 a.m., at Engine Company No. 1, 7 located at Middlesex Ave., right behind the Post Office.

The breakfast will feature sausage, all-you-can-eat pancakes (chocolate chip, regular and blueberry), and assorted beverages. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

PVFD will also have ceramic pancake coffee

cups for sale, featuring the PVFD logo and a cartoon character squirting syrup on a stack of 'cakes. The mugs are \$20, and each time you return to one of the monthly breakfasts with the "clean" cup, PVFD will subtract one dollar from your breakfast total.

For more information or to be placed on an email notification list (there is also a sign-up list at the door), call Wayne Mergel at 860-759-6921.

Stonewall Speakers

The Town of Portland's Committee on Solidarity and Portland Library will present a Stonewall Speakers Panel on Saturday, April 20, from 1-2 p.m., at Portland Library.

The Stonewall Speakers, a program of the Connecticut Stonewall Foundation, Inc., is an all-volunteer speaker's bureau of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, pansexual and queer people, and their allies. The speakers seek to help eliminate hate and promote understanding. Speakers combine personal life stories

with a question and answer session. Visit www.stonewallspeakers.org for more information.

Registration is not required, but is encouraged. This event is sponsored by donors to the Portland Committee on Solidarity. The committee welcomes anyone who is interested to attend their meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. For more information, email the Committee on Solidarity at portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com.

Preschool Screening

Connecticut public schools are responsible for identifying children who are eligible to receive special education services. Valley View School in Portland will conduct a preschool screening Friday, April 19, for children ages 3-4. The screening is designed to answer any questions or concerns about a child's development as well as identifying children who may be eligible for the preschool selection process.

During the screening, your child will meet with members from our preschool team and participate in a variety of activities. These activities assess different developmental areas includ-

ing cognition, communication, fine and gross motor skills and social interaction. During this time, the parent/caregiver will meet with another member of the team to discuss your child's adaptive and personal social skills.

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

Scholarship Offered by Portland Garden Clubs

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

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

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

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

Brownstone Quorum Annual Meeting

The Brownstone Quorum will host its Annual Meeting Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m., in the Portland Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. Officers will be elected, and awards will be presented.

Following the meeting, Alain Munkittrick will present "Historic Places & Open Spaces." The talk is being co-sponsored with the Portland Historical Society.

"Historic Places & Open Spaces," will draw from places in the Connecticut River valley, many of which appeared in Munkittrick's recently published book, *Historic Houses of the Connecticut River Valley* (Arcadia Publishing, 2023).

Munkittrick will focus on how the evolution of amalgamated family farmsteads and great landed estates to parklands and preserves have contributed to the nature of the valley. Open spaces and undeveloped landscapes enhance much of the river's 400-mile length.

Register for the program in person at Portland Waverly (Senior) Center or by phone at 860-342-6760. For more information, contact Brownstone Quorum member Tom Bransfield at 860-538-3607 or email Bqriverfront@gmail.com.

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Lions Club Scholarship Applications

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

Applications will be accepted from students of all academic levels as well as learning challenges. Portland students can obtain an application form from the Portland High School guidance office or by emailing PortlandLionsScholarship@gmail.com.

All applications must be received by April 15 for consideration.

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Exchange Club Food Drive

The Exchange Club of Portland will hold its annual food drive Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Adams Hometown Market, to benefit Portland Food Bank.

The Exchange will be asking for donations of \$5, \$10, \$20 or any other donation amount. All donations collect will be given to the Portland Food Bank.

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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 20 and 27 (note the changes in dates). 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 the it 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 PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com.

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 YouTube 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: Held each Sunday at 10 a.m., in the sanctuary. The worship services will be led by Intentional Interim Minister the Rev. Dr. Barry McCarthy. Coffee hour follows the services and is a time of fellowship for all. All are invited to participate in the worship service and coffee hour.

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.

Game Night: Saturday, April 20, 6-8 p.m.

There will be fellowship and snacks for all age groups. Assorted games will be available to play but you are welcome to bring your favorite game to share. All are welcome.

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. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

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.; Cooking for One w/ Marilyn, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. - \$5 program fee. **Tuesday:** NY Botanical Garden Trip, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. - \$5.00 transportation fee and \$31 cost of admission; 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); Walking Club, 10:30 a.m., meet at Depot Hill Road in Cobalt (Air Line Trail); Hearing Clinic, 11 a.m.; Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 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; Syncoize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Wii

Exercise, 2 p.m. **Thursday:** Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; Nutritional Cooking Class with UConn, 10 a.m.; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Light aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Family History with Ken Doney, 10 a.m.

Special Events: Wellness Fair: Wednesday, April 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Join local organizations and service providers for an informative forum to learn more about wellness opportunities.

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.

Volunteer Drivers Sought for Meals-on-Wheels: Meals would be delivered to the homebound Monday-Friday. The delivery usually takes about an hour. For full details, call Holly at 860-342-6761.

Dean's List

Portland residents Amelia Ciarleglio and Julia Nadolski made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

They are each members of the Class of 2027.



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. Deadline for applications is April 15.

Town-Wide Tag Sale Coming

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

Visit www.portlandhistsoc.org and click on the link (the big yellow banner) to register; just follow the instructions online. Registration sheets are also available in the barrel on the front steps of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History located at 492 Main St. Completed paper registrations along with payment should be mailed to the society at P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480. The fee to register is \$25 and all registrations must be received by Sunday, April 28. Portland residents who sign up will be assigned a spot on the society's of-

ficial Tag Sale Map issued for that day listing the sale locations and types of items featured at each one. Each registered tag sale will be marked with a numbered pole sign corresponding to sale locations on the map.

Volunteers continue to contact local businesses and organizations who in the past have supported the society by purchasing an advertising spot on the tag sale map. Past sponsors have received an email with information about this year's map. These sponsorships defray the cost of printing the large Tag Sale Map. Questions can be sent to PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com.

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is the main fundraiser for the historical society.

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 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.

Draw-a-Bird Day: Monday, April 8, all day. Thanks to the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and A Pocketful of Posies, the first 18 artists who hand in a drawing for the display will get to take home a free nesting ball to hang outside; limit of one per household.

Youth Programs: Egg-cellent Adventures: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. April 18 and 25, for grades K-2. Space is limited.

Read to a Therapy Dog: Saturdays, April 6 and May 4, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Each month, the library will host a therapy animal, and kids ages 6-12 can make an appointment for a 15-minute session to read to an animal buddy.

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

Family PJ Storytime: Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. Throw on some pajamas 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., for grades 2-5. Drop in and play games including *Mario Kart 8 Deluxe*. No registration required.

Teen Programs: LGBTQ+ Dungeons and Dragons Session: Wednesday, April 17, 6 p.m., for ages 13-19. Put the character you created this past Wednesday to the test, and work together to succeed on the new 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 ingredients. All ingredients are nut-free but may contain dairy, eggs or gluten. Space is limited.

Adult Programs: Ukulele Classes: Tuesdays, April 9-30, 5:15 p.m. These are 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 writing time, with the final 30 minutes set aside to chat about your project with fellow writers.

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

Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficials: Wednesday, April 24, 6 p.m., with John Root, naturalist and educator.

Book Clubs: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, April 16, 1 p.m. *Get Shorty* by Elmore Leonard will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, May 2, 6:30 p.m. *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng will be discussed. **Talk About Books:** Tuesday, May 7, 1 p.m. *The Museum of Ordinary People* by Mike Gayle will be discussed.

Seeds Wanted: Seed donations for the spring and summer gardening seasons, and is also looking for help to sort and repack donations for distribution on Saturday, April 27, at 12:30 p.m.

Portland's 'One Seed, One Community' Project: Stop by to check out seeds and growing instructions for one of three "levels" of gardener: Solo Gardener, Grow a Row, and Bed of Beans. Seeds for the 2024 project are provided through a donation from Fire Ring Farm of Portland. Sign up for emails to learn how to grow nutritious food and save seeds.

Free Tax Prep at Senior Center

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

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

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

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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.

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

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

Historical Society to Hold Membership Meeting

The Portland Historical Society will hold a meeting for membership to discuss proposed bylaw changes on Tuesday, April 23.

The bylaws were last updated in 2009. Members and the public can read the revised Bylaws as well as the present bylaws before the meeting by going to www.portlandhistsoc.com and clicking on "Publications" in the left-hand column. Choose "Proposed Revised Bylaws" to review the document completed by a Bylaws subcommittee comprised of the following society members: Trustee George Gilbert, chair; Lynn

Fountain, member; Susan Bransfield, President; Christine Sullivan, Trustee; and Julie Macksoud, ex officio.

It is anticipated that a meeting to vote on adopting the new bylaws will be held on Tuesday, May 28.

The Portland Historical Society is a nonprofit organization founded 50 years ago to collect, preserve and share the history of Portland. Membership is open to all, with membership forms available on the website to be downloaded, completed and mailed in with payment.

St. Mary Church News

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

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

Weekday Mass: Monday and Tuesday at 8

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

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

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

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

Second-Hand Prose Bookshop

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

The bookshop, sponsored by the Friends of the Portland Library, has fiction, romance, teen, and children's used books as well as puzzles and DVDs available at the Portland Library during regular library hours. There is also a variety of cookbooks, gardening books and children's graphic novels. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. Puzzles are \$2 and DVDs are 50 cents each disc unless marked otherwise.

Also available are audiobooks on CD and bundles of magazines that have been removed from the library collection. The audio books are 50 cents and the magazine bundles are priced as marked.

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the library's Museum Pass Program, children and adult programs, and the library's DVD collection.

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

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 or call 860-342-6757. Advanced registration is required unless noted.

Slamma-Jamma Basketball Camp: Camp is held Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Portland High School gym. The Spring Break session is April 8-12. The first summer session is June 24-June 28; the second summer session is July 15-29; the third summer session is Aug. 5-9.

Junior Golf Workshop (Grades 6-8): Saturdays, April 20-May 11, 3-4 p.m., at Portland West Golf Course.

Junior Golf Workshop (Grades K-8) Session 2: Tuesdays, June 4-25, at Portland West. The grades K-2 class meets 4-5 p.m.; grades 3-5 class meets 5:15-6:15 p.m.; and grades 6-8 class meets class 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Yin Yoga at Riverfront Park: Tuesdays, May 28-June 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Organic Community Garden: All are welcome to grow their favorite vegetable, flower or herb. The garden is located in Bransfield Park on Rose Hill Road. Gardeners can purchase a 10x10 plot for the summer for a fee of \$30.

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

Hemlock Grange Game Night

Hemlock Grange will have a Game Night Social membership drive on Friday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m., at the Grange Hall, 17 Sage Hollow Rd.

All are invited to an evening of socializing, playing various table games, a teacup raffle and refreshments. Attendees will also learn about the Grange, a community service oriented organization with its roots based in agriculture.

Honor Society Inductee

Emily Horn of Portland was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, a collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Horn was initiated at Sacred Heart University.

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

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): Tuesday and Wednesday, May 21 and 22, 5-9 p.m., at Portland Library. The successful completion of this beginner boating class will give you the knowledge and a completion certificate needed to obtain a boater's license/certification in Connecticut.

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.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a free Household Hazardous Waste collection event Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Clinton Public Works Garage, 17 Nod Rd., Clinton.

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton & Portland. No commercial or business waste allowed.

Visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste/ to learn more.

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.

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 con-

tinuing 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, or visit zionlutheranportland.org. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

Kenny Fletcher Car Show

The Kenny Fletcher Car Show at Valli will return for its 12th car show this year on Saturday, April 27, from 3-7 p.m., at Valli Construction, 22 Sand Hill Rd.; rain date is May 4. The show is in memory of local veteran Kenny Fletcher who passed away from pancreatic cancer on April 19, 2011.

Show car entry fee is \$10, cash only, at the gate. Admission for spectators is free, though donations are appreciated. There will be trophies for first, second and third place, and dash plaques will be given to the first 200 cars. There

will be music, and food, water and soda will be available for purchase – and are also cash only.

Proceeds from the car show go to Portland Food Bank, Portland Zion Lutheran Church, Middlesex Hospital Hospice, PHS Class of 2024 Project Graduation, Middlesex Cancer Center, and Portland VFW Post 6121.

No pets, please. For more information, call Michael Bellobuono at 860-707-4231, or Michael Brown at 860-982-3227, or search on Facebook for Kenny Fletcher Memorial Cruise Night.

Brush Pickup to Start

The Portland Public Works Department will conduct a brush pickup beginning Monday, April 22. All brush must be at the curb no later than April 21.

The Highway Department uses a clamshell bucket attached to its loader, to load piles of brush that are too large for workers to load by hand. Brush pickup takes approximately one month and starts downtown and works to rural areas.

Those leaving out brush are asked to leave enough room for the equipment to operate. Place your brush at least five feet away from

your garbage container and other potential obstacles such as mailboxes, fences, walls, water meters, telephone connection boxes and parked vehicles. Avoid placing brush under low-hanging tree limbs or power lines. Brush will not be collected if it is inaccessible.

People can stack their piles of brush end to end or on top of one another (not tangled). All brush needs to be cut to appropriate lengths (six to eight feet) and limbs must be no larger than four inches in diameter. Place only true brush at the curb. Lumber, construction material and/or leaves will not be picked up if placed at curbside.

National Day of Prayer

Since 2015, Saint Mary Church, Portland and Council 7 Knights of Columbus have hosted a National Day of Prayer community service, an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, encouraging people of all faiths to come together in prayer. Along with prayer and song, the service features a guest speaker passionate about working to overcome serious social issues faced by the community, state and nation.

All are welcome to attend this year's service, which will be held at Saint Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., on Thursday, May 2, at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be Council 7 Knights of

Columbus Grand Knight Val Burzynski, who will talk about the Knights' global commitment to bring hope and healing to the people of Ukraine. The Knights' Ukraine Solidarity Fund continues to provide food and medical supplies, generators for churches, and rosaries to promote prayer. The fund also provides school supplies and mental health services for veterans, orphans and widows.

A free-will collection will be taken during the service to benefit the Ukraine Solidarity Fund.

Following the service, there will be time for fellowship in the church hall.

Grange in Tag Sale

Hemlock Grange in Portland is participating in Portland Historical Society's town-wide tag sale on Saturday, May 11. Individuals may join the tag sale and have a space in the parking lot. Individuals need to provide their own table.

The Grange will also accept donations. The Grange will accept most items including small workable appliances. No furniture or clothes will be accepted.

For more information, call Betty Jane at 860-267-7512. Leave your name and number and your call will be returned.

Dean's List

Sadie Schmitz of Portland made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Tufts University in Medford, Mass. Schmitz is a member of the Class of 2026.

Dean's List

Rory Platt of Portland made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, Mass.

Dean's List

Portland residents Christina Aresco, Joshua Doncet and Sierra Koss made the fall 2023 Dean's List at the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford.

Dean's List

Portland residents Harrison Deane and Ryan Green made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Curry College in Milton, Mass.

Dean's List

Portland residents Heather McDougall and Kelly Talerico made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

McDougall is an accounting and business management major and daughter of Luiza and Robert McDougall. Talerico is a nursing major and daughter of Dawn and Richard Talerico,

Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School is holding Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-25 school year.

Parents/guardians whose children will be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2024, should contact Valley View School at pgross@portlandct.us to indicate if you will be registering your child for kindergarten. Please provide your child's full name, date of birth, phone number and address.

Further information regarding kindergarten registration will be provided once you contact the school.

Dean's List

Portland residents Leah Masal and Nathan Santos made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.

Dean's List

Olivia Smith of Portland made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Emerson College in Boston.

Smith is majoring in media arts production and is a member of the Class of 2024.

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- Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.

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ad
COUNCIL



The new cannabis shop The Harvest Corner has its grand opening today. From left are managing partner Bill Buscetto and full-time managers – and owners through the Connecticut Social Equity Program – Isaak Lazarou and Jim Romano.

★ Colchester Cannabis Shop cont. from page 1 sleep,” Buscetto expressed. “The more I looked into it, I said this is something I can get behind.” His general doctrine: “It’s no different than coming home and having a glass of wine or a beer.”

The group partnered with Still River Wellness, out of Torrington, who has a hybrid facility (medial and recreational use). The Harvest Corner is an equity joint venture with them and under their license.

Per state statute, the new company was required to have what are known as “social equity partners.” Buscetto was able to bring in two of his lifelong friends, Isaak Lazarou and Jim Romano, to fulfill that stipulation, and they will serve as day-to-day managers.

Prior to opening, the business needed approval from the state’s Social Equity Council, which was developed to ensure that new cannabis retailers are giving back to their communities. Buscetto said that each year, his program will donate tens of thousands of dollars to a variety of entities, separate from its allotment of taxes.

The hardest step, he continued, was getting approval from the Department of Consumer Protection, which had the final say on whether all the requirements were sufficiently met. All the proper local zoning conditions were also satisfied, something Buscetto said was a smooth process.

“The Town of Colchester has been great to work with,” he asserted.

Despite the newfound legality of cannabis in Connecticut, Buscetto said he realized some residents still might be opposed to the market coming to their town. However, he reassured the community that this fresh endeavor was being handled carefully.

“We want to be high-class and reputable,” he said. “We want people to come in and feel safe and feel welcomed.”

He added that customers will experience a “family atmosphere” and will immediately conclude that it’s a “classy establishment.”

“For me, I didn’t take it lightly,” Buscetto said. “I would never put my reputation on something that I thought was in any way, shape or form wouldn’t be totally above board.”

Still he acknowledged that the store and the product “is not for everyone.”

Attention to Detail

Comparing the Harvest Corner site to Fort Knox, the famously fortified gold base, would only be a slight exaggeration.

From the vault, to the entrance, to the main showroom — it’s all monitored.

“Everything is on camera at all times,” Buscetto confirmed.

There are no appointments required, but everyone entering the establishment will have their license scanned to verify its authenticity. And if you’re perceived to be under the influence of any substance, you will not be allowed in the business.

While paraphernalia can be displayed out in the open, cannabis itself cannot be visible to the public. There is a locked shelf in the main area of the store, which helps facilitate online orders, but the majority of the inventory is safely secured in the back of house.

As Buscetto meticulously explained how the operation works, detailing the strict protocols for the delivery process, it was evident that everything was developed with security in mind. Even a standard customer order requires multiple layers of verification. After the item is bought, the request enters a digital system that prints it out in the back room where a vault technician puts the order together. Then the final package is double-checked by another employee.

The attention to detail will carry over to staffing and customer service. Buscetto said that 15 people have been hired to run the store and the training process has been comprehensive. He invoked the philosophies of successful sports coaches who demanded excellence – particularly University of Alabama legend Nick Saban, who often said, “You don’t practice things until you get it right; you practice it until you can’t get it wrong.”

One of the staff members was brought in from Still River Wellness and he’ll work on the “bud bar,” which is an interactive part of the store geared towards individuals who don’t know exactly what they’re looking for, or what would meet their specific needs. Staff will be able to offer insight and expertise so that customers walk out with exactly what they want.

Similar to a restaurant, there are virtual menus displaying different products and the day’s specials or discounts. For those who already know what they want, a standard transaction will take around 3 to 5 minutes, while online pickups should only take a minute once you enter the store.

Because not every bank takes cannabis-related revenue, many marijuana retailers largely remain cash businesses, and at The Harvest Corner there is an ATM on site. Debit cards are also accepted, but not credit cards.

For more information on the store, call 860-420-3292 or visit theharvestcornerct.com.

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Sunday, April 7 will feature both the Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir. Church pastor the Rev. Valerie Seaver will lead the service. Her sermon title is “We Walk in the Light.” Holy Communion will be served, and is open to all, including children, with parental guidance. The bread served is gluten-free. After worship, all are invited to Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge for light refreshments.

Faith Formation (Bible Study) is led by Seaver and meets Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. upstairs in the Thienes Lounge.

Outreach: The church collects non-perish-

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

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

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

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

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

Parks and Rec Upcoming Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit marlboroughct.recdesk.com and click on “programs,” stop by the office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., or call 860-295-6203.

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

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

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

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

Skyhawks: Thursdays, April 18-May 23, at MES. Mini-Hawk, for ages 5-7, meets 4-5 p.m., and Multi-Sport, for ages 8-12, meets 5:15-6:15 p.m. Fee: \$89/residents, \$94/non-residents.

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

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

Parents Night Out: Friday, 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.

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.

Skyhawks Tots: Tuesdays, May 14-June 11, at MES. Age 2 meets 5-5:45 p.m., and ages 2-5 meets 6-6:45 p.m. Fee: \$89/residents, \$94/non-residents.

Restorative Yoga & Gong Sound Bath: Thursday, April 25, 6-7 p.m., at MSC. Perform yoga – focused on extended holds, deep breathing and calming the body – while listening to the sounds of gongs and Tibetan bowls. Registration fee: \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

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

Zumba: Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$50/resident, \$55/non-resident. Drop-in fee is \$10.

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

Drop-In Basketball: Sundays, 8-10 a.m. at MES. Fee is \$5 per week.

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Marlborough Sings! meets tonight, April 5, and the first Friday of every month, from 7-9 p.m., at Marlborough Congregation Church.

Monthly Sing Brings Community Together

On the first Friday of the month, an enthusiastic group has been meeting to sing together. And tonight, April 5, is their next sing-along.

"Marlborough Sings!" is not formal singing in a choir, and being able to carry a tune is not required. The monthly sings are hosted by Seat of our Pants member Carolyn Brodginiski. All are welcome.

The group sings out of a songbook featuring many genres, including Broadway, folk/Americana, oldies, rock and country, with songs about

love, the seasons and faith, as well as a collection of holiday songs. Chords are included on each song for anyone who would like to bring a guitar or other instrument to help accompany the group.

Marlborough Sings! is a free event and meets the first Friday of the month from 7-9 p.m. in the upstairs lounge at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St. For more information, contact the church office at 860-295-9050 or office@marlconchurch.org.

From the Town Manager's Desk

I am grateful that Marlborough residents are keen to understand this year's proposed budget. The four boards responsible for producing the budget – the Board of Finance, the Board of Selectmen, the Marlborough Board of Education, and the Region 8 Board of Education – prepared an open letter to our community describing the budget to help taxpayers make an informed decision. I encourage everyone to read the letter and attend the Public Hearing on April 15 at 7 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria.

Many residents understandably want to know the impact the proposed increase would have their individual property tax bill. To estimate your taxes, please do the following: 1. Use the Town of Marlborough GIS Map (<https://marlbo.info/gis>) to look up the assessed value of your property. You can either zoom in and click on your property on the map or click the Search button in the top right corner of the page and type in your address.

When you find your property, you will see a header on the property record called Valuation. The first number in that section – Total Valuation – is the number you will use.

Do not use Zillow or similar websites. Those sites might help estimate the market value of your home. The assessed value usually is significantly less than the market value.

2. Divide the Total Valuation by 1,000.

3. Multiply that number by 3.10 (the proposed increase in the mill rate) to estimate the proposed increase in the tax on your property. You can also multiply it by 37.83 (the proposed new mill rate) to estimate the proposed real estate tax on your property.

David Porter
Marlborough Town Manager

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.

Scholarships Available

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department women's auxiliary is now accepting scholarship applications from any graduating senior who resides in Marlborough.

The applications are available online through the RHAM guidance department. Applications are due by Wednesday, May 1. Mail all completed applications to MVFD Women's Auxiliary, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Monday, April 8: Free bread and bakery goods from Stop & Shop; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Registered Dietitian Lorri Lennon, 11:30 a.m.; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: stuffed cabbage with tomato sauce, whole baby potatoes, vegetable medley/garlic knot, fresh fruit. Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; Setback, 3-4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9: 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.; Lake Advisory, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. – "All Sew Day"; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. National Enjoy a Cookie Day! Menu: 100% fruit juice punch, orange marmalade glazed roast pork loin, cornbread stuffing, spinach, wheat bread, cookie; Setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-6 p.m.; Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 11: Tai Chi, 1-2 p.m.; Parkinson Exercise, 3-4 p.m., WPCA, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 12: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-noon; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals on Wheels, noon; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

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, or through the guidance department of the East Hampton, RHAM, Mercy, Xavier and Vinal high schools.

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Call for Artists and Artisans

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

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

third. Membership dues must be up to date.

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

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

More information, including a prospectus and entry forms for the artists, will soon be available at www.marlborougharts.org.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

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

American Legion Setback Tournament

American Legion Post 197 will hold a Setback Round-Robin Tournament Friday, April 19, at the post, 128 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough. Registration starts at 6 p.m., and the games start promptly at 6:30.

There is a \$10 entry fee per person. There will be prizes, raffles, Caesar salad and Dorito taco salad. Contact Tracy (860-878-9672) or Sharon (860-805-6917) with any questions.

Lions Pancake Breakfast

The Marlborough Lions Club will hold its annual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, April 21. The breakfast is being planned for both dine-in and take-out and will be held at the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club on Planeta Road in Marlborough, which is located off of West Road just east of Exit 12 from Route 2.

The Lions will be open for dine-in or take-out orders from 7:45-11:45 a.m. The Lions will be serving heaping portions of various varieties of pancakes along with sausage, ham, fruit coffee, and juice.

The Lions Club supports programs that address such issues as blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness, and also supports many local charities such as the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks and vision

screening for children in grades pre-K to 6 at Marlborough's elementary school.

Tickets will be available for sale in advance of the event or can be purchased at the door on the day of the breakfast. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and \$7 for children 12 and under.

The success of this event is also dependent upon local businesses, which support the Lions in the form of \$25 sponsorships. Lions Club members will contact local businesses in advance of the breakfast and any business interested in providing a sponsorship is encouraged to contact the Lions.

For further information, to provide a sponsorship or to purchase tickets, call Lions President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Lions Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

Lions 'Round the Lake 5K

The Marlborough Lions will hold their 40th annual 'Round the Lake 5K Road Race on Sunday, May 26. The race will utilize electronic timing with computerized race results. The race starts promptly at 10:30 a.m. The race is a registered 5K per CT USATF Certification CT 18052JHP.

The entry fee is \$30 and runners must be registered by the day prior to the race. Shirts will be guaranteed for those who pre-register by May 17 with additional shirts provided to runners as available. There is also a \$60 package price for groups of immediate family members participating in the race. Same day registrations need to be signed in by 10 a.m. Runners will start near the entrance to Blish Park on Park Road and will proceed on a course, which circles Lake Terramuggus.

The Lions Club supports programs which address various issues including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness in addition to supporting local organizations such as the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks and performing annual vision screening for Marlborough's Elementary School students.

The Marlborough Lions said they also wish to thank the many local businesses, which have provided race sponsorships of \$100, \$250 and

\$500 over the years. If any additional businesses wish to provide sponsorships, contact one of the Lions Club members listed below. The business sponsor's information will be printed on the shirts handed out to runners.

To register or for additional information, call Lions President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Lions Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116. Lloyd can also be emailed at MarlboroughCTLions@gmail.com. Registration forms are also available at various locations. You can register online at itsyourrace.com; search for Marlborough Lions.

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, or contact the Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or marlboroughartscenter@gmail.com.

Town Offices Relocated

Through May 15, Marlborough Town Hall offices have been temporarily relocated within Town Hall during an HVAC project.

Residents looking to access the offices are asked to use the back entrance of Town Hall. Signs will be posted within Town Hall to guide residents.

For more information, call 860-295-6204.

An Open Letter to Marlborough Taxpayers

The Town of Marlborough Budget, which comes to referendum on May 7, is three separate budgets combined under one title. The local Board of Education's budget (operations and capital improvements) was formulated by the Superintendent and approved by the BOE. The RHAM budget (operations and capital improvements) was formulated by the Superintendent of RHAM and approved by the RHAM BOE. The Town budget (operations and capital improvements) was formulated by the Town Manager and approved by the BOS. None of these three boards have any control over the other two budgets. They are separate entities unto themselves.

Once approved by the respective boards, the Board of Selectmen and Marlborough Board of Education budgets are presented to the Board of Finance. They review those two budgets, ask questions, get clarification, and decide if the budgets move forward to the public hearing or need to be adjusted. The RHAM budget was adopted by the Regional School District 8 Board of Education after a Public Budget Hearing held on April 1. At the Public Hearing (April 15) there is a presentation made by the Town Manager on behalf of all three entities which shows the three budgets and provides an opportunity for the public to ask questions and make comments. The BOF finalizes the overall budget which will be voted on during an all-day referendum May 7.

Many taxpayers understandably will focus on the bottom line, an 8.92% increase with a projected mill rate increase of 3.10 mills. It is important to put this increase into historical context. During each of the past three budget cycles, we used approximately \$1.85 million in temporary pandemic-era funding and reserves to offset our own increasing costs AND to lower taxes. When the prices of everything else increased, we charged LESS for our many services – education, public safety, public health, roads, recreation, parks, library, etc. When using the 2020-2021 mill rate as the baseline, the increase this year would equate to 4.30%. Take a moment and think about what you buy – groceries, electricity, fuel oil/propane, clothing, insurance, cable/internet, and much more. According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for the northeast region – a broad measure of inflation – increased by 17.0% over the same time. On average, the goods and services we all purchase have increased far more than the proposed tax increase.

Professional staff and elected board members have been very good stewards of your tax dollars. In this letter we will describe the Town of Marlborough's Budget – including the Board of Selectmen, the Marlborough Board of Education, and the RHAM Board of Education – to help our taxpayers make an informed decision.

Town of Marlborough (By BOS)

Revenue

This year the net taxable property in Marlborough decreased. Middlesex Hospital applied for and received an exemption for its buildings reducing the net assessed value by \$1,772,950 which equates to a tax loss of \$67,070. That loss was partially but not completely offset by six new homes. The net assessed value of motor vehicles also decreased by \$2,758,138 which equates to a tax loss of \$89,529. Marlborough residents are responding to high prices nationally of new and used vehicles by keeping their current vehicles longer. Finally, we project that the funds Marlborough receives from the state will decrease by \$135,700. As temporary pandemic funds wind down, this is expected and appropriate.

It's also important to understand that while most people pay their taxes on time, a few residents and businesses are delinquent. On

average residents and business owners fail to pay about \$450,000 across all types of taxes – real estate, motor vehicle, and personal property. Although past due real estate taxes are recovered, with interest, when a property changes hands or, in rare circumstances, sold in foreclosure, motor vehicle taxes are recovered when the delinquent taxpayer needs to renew their vehicle's registration. Delinquent taxes result in slightly higher taxes for everyone else.

Residents may wonder about additions to our tax base. The Big Y Plaza, including Marlborough Tavern and the Verizon/Quest building, was added to the grand list in 2018 and carries an assessed value of \$8,642,530. The Gulf gas station near exit 12 was added in 2021 and carries an assessed value of \$840,000. The addition of these properties helped offset costs in the past and continues to do so today.

Town Operations

The Board of Selectmen is proposing a 1.44% increase in the operation budget. The Town Manager and department heads scrutinized the town operating budget currently in place while preparing the FY25 budget proposal. When appropriate, line-item expenses were reduced. This portion of the budget includes investments to retain a capable and hardworking staff. Like our residents, the town faces higher costs due to inflation. Electricity, tools and equipment, supplies such as road salt and sand, and nearly everything else used to provide high quality services to Marlborough residents are much more expensive than they were even a couple of years ago.

The town introduced several cost-saving and environmentally friendly innovations. The boiler in the public works garage can accept traditional heating oil or waste oil residents bring to the transfer station. We heated the garage all winter using only waste oil! We are installing high efficiency heat pumps and additional insulation to town hall, a long overdue project. With that we anticipate a reduction in the cost to heat and cool the building.

Town Capital

The Board of Selectmen is proposing a robust capital improvement program aligned with the five-year culvert replacement and renewal plan. Many of our culverts were installed shortly after World War II and are at great risk of failure, especially during the intense storms which seem to occur more and more frequently. Following the five-year plan ensures that no one year is burdened with too many large projects. Thankfully, state grants such as Town Aid Roads (TAR) and Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP) help offset the costs. The town constantly and actively seeks grants for which we are eligible. Moreover, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance prepared for these projects over the past years. The total anticipated cost of all the capital projects this year is more than \$2,800,000, but the tax levy to the residents is \$764,577. The balance is being funded by grants and reserves created and funded to pay for these significant and much-needed projects.

This year the BOS is proposing the replacement of a culvert crossing South Buckboard Road and a project to line a culvert crossing Johnson Road. The South Buckboard culvert is projected to cost \$1.2 million with HALF of the cost (\$600,000) being offset from a grant from the State/Local Bridge Program. The Johnson Road culvert is comprised of two 100' long pipes. By lining the pipes rather than replacing them, the town will extend their life by 40 – 50 years at a cost of \$525,000, far LESS than the \$1,800,000 it would cost to replace them.

For more information about the town's portion of the budget please go to the town's website at <https://marlbo.info/budget> or find printed

copies at the Town Manager's office, Town Clerk's office, and the Richmond Memorial Library.

Marlborough Board of Education (by BOE)

The Board of Education's 2.72% budget increase, its lowest in four years and one of the lowest increases in the state, contains the funding needed to achieve aspirational goals for students detailed in the MES Strategic Continuous Improvement Plan. It includes the ongoing investments in a talented and dedicated staff, a full-time School Resource Officer, and the return of expert facilities oversight. The administrative staff, with two building administrators-a structure which has been in place for 43 years-and a half-time Superintendent, represents what is necessary to lead an excellent school now and into the future as enrollment is projected (by NESDEC) to increase by 94 students (17%) over the next ten years.

Recovering from the impactful pandemic crisis, MES has demonstrated an excellent return on investment-relatively low per pupil expenditure yet strong outcomes-as evidenced by its model K-3 Reading program, students exceeding state assessment index scores in literacy, math, and science, and award-winning choral, instrumental, and visual arts programs, immersive Spanish instruction, and outstanding physical and health education. In addition, the early intervention approach, beginning in preschool, allows staff to meet students' learning and behavioral needs.

Detailed information about the Board of Education budget is available at the school district website www.marlborough.k12.ct.us budget tab. For information about the school district's roadmap for student success, the Strategic Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP) is located under the Curriculum and Instruction tab.

RHAM Board of Education (by Region 8 BOE)

The Region 8 Board of Education's adopted budget for 2024-2025 is a 2.1% increase over the current year. The budget is an investment in RHAM students, staff, and the entire community and helps lead to improved student outcomes in all areas. The district is widely recognized for its strong and varied academic offerings, robust fine and performing arts programs, and competitive athletic teams. The 2024-2025 budget will help ensure that all students are provided with the support they need to be successful.

The operating budget includes the addition of several new courses at RHAM High School including Zoology, UConn Early College Experience Computer Science, Introduction to Financial Literacy, Adapted Health, and Guitar I and II. The operating budget also includes staffing changes that lead to an overall reduction. The capital budget has been decreased and will enable the district to continue to address issues related to the maintenance of the buildings and replace aging furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

Detailed information about the Region 8 budget is available at the district website www.rhamschools.org under the Board of Education tab.

The Town will hold Public Hearings on the overall Town budget including Town, Marlborough Board of Education, and RHAM Board of Education on April 15 and May 6, both at 7:00 pm in the MES cafeteria. Voting on the budget via referendum takes place on May 7 in the MES Community Room, 6:00 am - 8:00 pm.

Board of Finance

Board of Selectmen

Board of Education

Region 8 Board of Education

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PZC Report Issued About Conservation Easements

By London Brazal

East Hampton has several areas of historic outdoor land from the Air Line Trail to Salmon River State Forest Park and Hurd State Park to the Meshomasic State Forest.

To preserve land and protect its conservation values, the town also has conversation easements, a voluntary, legal agreement limiting land use. Conservation easements serve as a strategy for safeguarding land, often presenting a more cost-effective option for land trusts and public agencies. By maintaining land under private ownership, conservation easements ensure ongoing economic benefits for the surrounding area, according to the National Conservation Easement Database.

Numerous properties within the town are bound by conservation easements, imposing restrictions on private property owners regarding changes to the landscape or construction of structures on these grounds. Typically, these areas are either environmentally fragile themselves or situated adjacent to sensitive zones or prominent features such as the Connecticut River. These easements have been granted to the town over time, often as part of property division and development processes. It's important to note that these easements differ from situations where the town gains outright ownership designated for buffering purposes, a scenario

that also occurs frequently.

Discussion from vice chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) Ray Zatorski and the Town Council occurred at last week's council meeting on Tuesday. The conversation was prompted by a current PZC application, leading the council to explore the broader issues surrounding these easements. Zatorski said there is a continuing issue on High Point Drive. He said the individuals involved have consistently stated the presence of evidence indicating a preexisting building, which they claim would enable them to grandfather in a structure near the river. However, no such proof has been presented thus far and further investigation is warranted. The pathway to the river existed before the owners acquired the property. Regarding the stairs, evidence is lacking, despite their repeated requests.

"They've been continually asking for continuances on this and since there is no time limit, we are going to give them the opportunity to do that," commented Zatorski. "I know people would like this to be resolved faster but I'm not on somebody else's timetable and neither is any other commission. We always try to make a decision based on what's lawful within our regulations and what is good for both the property owner and the town of East Hampton which

includes our environment."

Planning and Zoning is always asking for conservation easements to try and protect the environment from all the developments presented to the commission. If given the chance to provide further input, the PZC aims to align new conservation easements with existing ones nearby. This strategy is based on knowledge gained from various courses attended over the years. The goal is to connect as many conservation easements as possible, including state and town-owned open spaces, to establish wildlife corridors that help keep wildlife within wooded areas and away from roads. As an example, Zatorski described a series of conservation easements along Wopowog Road backed up to the state property. There are a couple of resident bobcats but for the most part, they stay off the roads. PZC tries to give them a path and has managed to succeed in a lot of properties.

One question brought up in the discussion was how the commission ensures these easements retain their integrity. Zatorski answered saying it is a continuing issue. Conservation easements are mapped and accessible through

the town. "If you're doing some work nearby and there's something that town staff sees, they will report it back to us," described Zatorski, "If we see it, we will report it." Many times, neighbors may bring it up to the PZC as well. Now, the commission is starting to require permanent signage on an existing structure.

Rowland Rux, a member of the PZC, described a time when the old Sports on 66 was built and had an issue with the conservation area in the back. "It was brought into question whether it was properly maintained and I believe it was not," explained Rux. "We as a commission asked that it would be maintained and it was."

The commission rarely has to bring people to court for disregarding the rules but people have complained and done things they shouldn't have, commissioners said.

"We always give as much latitude within the statutes and the regulations," said Zatorski. "We give the property owner, who's also a taxpayer of, and a citizen of East Hampton, the ability to present their side of the issue."

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.

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.

Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship

Applications for The Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship are due today, April 5.

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.

Applicant must be an East Hampton

resident 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 emailing kbarber582@gmail.com.

Resident Presents Project

English majors at Eastern Connecticut State University were honored at the close of the fall 2023 semester during English Night, an annual celebration in which awards and presentations were given and students were inducted into the Sigma Tau Delta honor society.

English and history and social science major Kristina Lintz of East Hampton presented her independent project, "Industrialization, Class, and Social Reform in mid-Victorian Literature."

Lintz is a member of the Class of 2025.

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East Hampton Chooses Kindness

By London Brazal

With a mission to improve health and wellbeing, strengthen communities and support those in need, Lions Club International is launching Choose Kindness Week in East Hampton.

Mary Krogh, a member of the East Hampton Lions Club, is very active within the organization, especially in the charitable arm, the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Since its establishment in 1968, LCIF has granted over 19,000 awards and has created and rolled out programs. With her local, state and national work, Krogh was asked to consider sharing a pilot program that LCIF wanted to roll out. The program, Choosing Kindness, originally had Krogh find one classroom that would like to host an initiative on promoting kindness. Lions International did not designate specific tasks, instead, they wanted the school to create activities and make a proposal.

After talking with Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith and meeting with some of the school principals, the Lions decided to not stop at one classroom or even an entire school. They presented the idea to LCIF to have all four schools participate and fund the programs that the stu-

dents come up with that promote kindness. Following that, they didn't want to stop at one day, Krogh and Smith wanted a full week for the initiative. "Needless to say it increased the [LCIF] budget a little bit but that's okay," said Krogh.

During the week of kindness, the executives from LCIF would come and see some of the programs. However, they will be in Washington, D.C., during the school week so Smith and Krogh extended the program one more day. On April 22, the LCIF executives plan to visit all four schools while the students and staff showcase what they have done. "The schools were ecstatic; the teachers came up with programs that were totally unbelievable," Krogh added.

As Krogh and Smith continued planning, Smith didn't want to limit the program to the schools so he came up with the idea to reach out to residents and make it a town-wide event. "We don't expect people to spend a lot of money, we just want them to do something for their neighbors and to really enhance [the program]," explained Krogh.

At the March 25 Board of Education meeting, Smith described that a lot of town organizations

are jumping on board and that the Lions Club secured some funding for speakers, T-shirts and banners. Signs were also ordered to be put throughout town. "We're grateful for that," he said. "I think it's going to be a remarkable week and I hope you see kindness all over the place in East Hampton."

Krogh reached out to some of the local businesses and organizations adding that Paul's and Sandy's is going to participate by giving away free "seeds of kindness." During the same week, the Friends of the Lake has their annual lake clean-up and encourages people to be involved. Carl Guild plans to participate with his agents and walk around certain areas of town to pick up trash. During that week, Hope Church wants to put together goodie bags for emergency service volunteers. Citizen's Bank is going to be writing letters to residents of the town and

sending messages saying "We're here, we care." The public library is also engaging with the program by having 100 acts of kindness so that people can come in and pick one of those cards. Other organizations planning to participate include the police department, Parks and Recreation, the Rotary and more.

"We're looking to have everyone consider getting involved and having it be a movement," said Krogh. "We want to have this town show that we really, truly care." Furthermore, she thinks the week will bring a lot of enthusiasm to the town.

Individuals who wish to participate in Choosing Kindness Week can contact library director Christine Cachuela or stop into the library. Businesses and organizations may contact Krogh at 860-977-5760. Choosing Kindness Week will be celebrated from April 15 to 22.

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

Sunday School: Sunday School classes are in session.

Lenten Fundraising Drive Continues: 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. To donate, write a check with Missions in the memo line.

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

CCC Day to be Celebrated

Civilian Conservation Corps Day will be celebrated nationwide on Friday, April 5 – and the Chatham Historical Society and East Hampton Parks and Recreation have an event planned to mark the occasion.

A History Walk of the CCC projects will be held at the Salmon River State Park and Comstock Bridge on Saturday, April 6, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Author and historian Marty Podskoch will lead the walk. Meet at the Salmon River State Park parking area. The

tour is sponsored by The Chatham Historical Society and East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department.

Directions: From East Hampton Stop & Shop go down Main Street through downtown and travel approx one mi. to Route 16. Turn left on Rt.16 and go approximately three miles. Turn right at the park entrance/Gulf Road, and meet at parking area. Dress appropriately. Also, no dogs are allowed at this event. For more information, call 860-267-2442.

YPCCA to Perform *Mean Girls*

The Young People's Center for Creative Arts is now accepting registrations for its summer theater camp for students in grades 6-12. YPCCA will run daily Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. and meets at East Hampton High School from June 27-July 23.

This year, YPCCA will perform the musical *Mean Girls*. Adapted from Fey's hit 2004 film, *Mean Girls* was nominated for 12 Tony awards, and was itself turned into a movie earlier this year. Performances of *Mean Girls* will take place July 18-21 at East Hampton High School. Auditions for the show are held one week before camp begins.

Mornings at the camp will be devoted to workshops in skills that include acting, show choir, dance, stage make-up, voice, and stage combat. Afternoons at camp are spent in re-

hearsals for *Mean Girls*.

All students at YPCCA perform onstage by participating in the show and "The Event," a cabaret evening of performances rehearsed in the morning workshops and presented free of charge to the public during the third week of camp. Auditions are not mandatory and those students who do not audition will be featured in the ensemble. There are also ample opportunities to learn behind-the-scenes skills involved in theater work and many campers work as stage and set crew.

Registration and more information on the camp is available by visiting www.yppcca.org. Register by May 1 and tuition is \$625 for the four weeks. Scholarships are also available for students with financial need. Email info@ypcca.org for more information.



Protecting the Lake... Cheryl Lobo, member of the East Hampton Conservation & Lake Commission and its Lake Smart Program, showing Tracy Gardiner the ways to take water from her roof to be captured in a rain garden or dry well. Gardiner and her husband Alan recently purchased a home on Raymond Road and part of their property contains wet lands that eventually flows into Lake Pocotopaug. They wanted to know how they could protect the lake from harmful water run off. Any resident on the lake or in the watershed who would like their property to be evaluated, should contact the East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department at 860-267-7300 for a free evaluation. Photo by Marty Podskoch.

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. The visit will include a Tea Luncheon and a guided tour of the garden and 45-room mansion. 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.

Seeds of Hope 5K

The Congregational Church of East Hampton mission group Seeds of Hope will hold its annual 5K/10K/Fun Walk Saturday, April 27. Pre-register at firstmile-fitness.com; there will be a free T-shirt if you register by April 21. You can also register in person the day of the race starting at 7:30 a.m. Pick up your number and T-shirt beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the church, 59 Main St.

The race will begin at 9 a.m. at the entrance to the Air Line Trail located at Cranberry Bog on Smith Street. Transportation will be provided to

and from the trail head. All participants must park at the church. Awards will follow the race at the church.

All proceeds from the race will help to support local and global charities and to defray out-of-pocket costs for Seeds of Hope members when they are able to make their next mission trip.

For more information or to register, go to firstmile-fitness.com or contact Lisa at 860-918-1170.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

Monday Movie Madness: Monday, April 8, 6 p.m. Bring blankets and get comfy for a screening of the 1993 film *The Sandlot*. Pizza will be served. Movies at the library are sponsored by the East Hampton Prevention Partnership.

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

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

Learn to Play the Ukelele! Tuesday, April 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m., for grades 2-8 and their caregivers. Learn to play the ukelele with musician Julie Stepanek. No previous experience required and

ukeleles provided. Register each participating individual to ensure there are enough ukeleles for everyone.

Nintendo Switch Game Play: Grades 1-5: Saturday, April 13, 2-3 p.m. Kids can come play *Carnival Games* (rated E 10+). All skill levels welcome.

Teen Programs: 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.

Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons One-Shot: Wednesday, April 10, 4:30-6 p.m., for grades 5-7. No previous playing experience or past participation required; this is a new standalone game in a new world. The library will provide basic, fifth-edition characters; all supplies included.

Teen Movie Matinee: Friday, April 12, 2 p.m., for ages 13 and up. Popcorn will be served. Movies are sponsored by the East Hampton Prevention Partnership.

Adult Programs: LibrarYoga with Amie Meacham: Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. Meacham, a Yoga 200 certified instructor, will lead an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the Community Room. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

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School Board Appoints New Superintendent

The Board of Education on Tuesday selected a new schools superintendent – and it's a familiar face.

The board announced in a press release it has unanimously appointed Timothy M. Van Tassel. He'll start July 1, and will succeed retiring superintendent Paul K. Smith, who ends his 40-year career at the close of the school year.

The board held a special meeting Tuesday to make the appointment and officially welcome Van Tassel. He most recently has served as superintendent of Suffield Public Schools since 2019. Prior to that, he served in the same role in Hebron.

Van Tassel's appointment is a homecoming of sorts. He served as assistant superintendent in East Hampton from July 2013 to June 2015. Previously, he was a principal in Enfield for five years, both at the elementary and middle school levels. He began his educational career as a

Grade 5 classroom teacher in West Hartford.

"The Board of Education and community of East Hampton have so much to be proud of in the investment and commitment they have made in support of the East Hampton Public Schools," Van Tassel said. "I am thrilled and honored to be returning to this wonderful community and the close partnerships that had such tremendous influence on me both professionally and personally. The appreciation I have for the East Hampton Public Schools community in what it has enabled me to do throughout my career is what drew me to this very special position."

A graduate of Westfield State College with a bachelor's degree in regional planning, Van Tassel earned a master's degree in public administration from American International College in Springfield, Mass. He earned his second master's degree in elementary education from Cam-

bridge College in Massachusetts. In addition, he earned his sixth year certification, program in executive leadership, and doctor of education from the University of Connecticut.

Van Tassel's appointment concludes what the board called a competitive search for the position. East Hampton public schools has approximately 1,800 students among its two elementary schools, middle school, and high school.

"The East Hampton board has taken the search for our new superintendent very seriously," said board chair Nancy Kohler in the press release. "We listened carefully to our many stakeholders who participated in interviews, focus groups, and an online survey. We spread the net wide in our search for candidates and were grateful to have an outstanding pool of candidates to choose from. Dr. Timothy Van Tassel stood out as an exceptional candidate and fit for East Hampton."

The school board said it hired CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Search Services to guide the search. Consultants Mary Broderick and Jack Reynolds gathered perspectives from many stakeholders before writing the Leadership Profile that outlined the strengths and challenges of the district, as well as the expectations for the successful candidate.



Timothy Van Tassel

Gelding Clinic

The Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue is hosting the 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 administration 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.ct-draftrescue.org/geldingclinic2024. Questions can be sent to ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

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. through May 15, and cost is \$20; **Tai Chi:** Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m., through 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.

Senior Center Book Club Meeting: Tuesday,

April 9, 10:30 a.m. *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki will be discussed.

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. The celebration will feature refreshments, and music by the Four Fun Band.

Design & Create Class – Beaded Doll Ornaments: Thursday, April 11, 1:30 p.m.

Movie Day at the Senior Center: Friday, April 12, 1 p.m. *Elvis* with Austin Butler and Tom Hanks will be shown. The 2022 film is rated PG-13. Snacks provided.

Trips: April Lunch for Seniors: Monday, April 8, at Imperial Buffet in Berlin. Have Chinese-inspired food on your own. Bus will leave the center at 11 a.m. Bus transportation is a \$4 donation; pay for your own lunch at the restaurant.

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

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.

Coach Trip Offerings!: May 1: Daffodil Days with Tea at Blithewold, Narragansett, R.I.; July 17-19: Trip to Lancaster, Pa., to see Sight & Sound Theater's presentation of *Daniel*. July 17 to 19, Lancaster Pa. Fliers with details are available at the Senior Center.

Volunteer Shopping: The center has a program where a volunteer will shop for you. Call in your list to 860-267-4426 or email it to khemphill@easthamptonct.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.

Man Arrested in Stabbing

By London Brazal

A local man was arrested Monday night and charged with stabbing another man in a wooded area in town, East Hampton Police said.

At approximately 9:55 p.m. on Monday, members of the East Hampton Police Department responded to a reported stabbing in a wooded area to the rear of 36 East High St., near Subway and Atlantis.

Officers arriving at the scene discovered a 32-year-old man with multiple stab wounds across his body. The man positively identified his assailant as David Heriot, according to police. Police officers, aided by a K9 unit from the Connecticut State Police, conducted a search of the wooded area behind 36 East High St. They successfully located and apprehended Heriot, 39, of 8 West Ave. The K9 was also able to locate the knife used in the assault.

Heriot was arrested and charged with first-degree assault and first-degree reckless endangerment, police said.

Heriot and the alleged victim were both taken to area hospitals for evaluation. The alleged victim suffered non life-threatening injuries but remains in the hospital, police said in a Tuesday press release.

Heriot was unable to post his \$150,000 bond and appeared at Middletown Superior Court on Tuesday.



David Heriot

Police are continuing to investigate the incident, but they said Heriot knew the alleged victim, and "there is no threat to the public."

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Finance Board Left with More Questions Regarding Budget

By London Brazal

Budget deliberations are continuing, and the Board of Finance (BOF) was left with difficult decisions as members debated what could be cut during last week's special meeting.

After receiving the town manager's and schools superintendent's recommended budgets, the BOF hosted a series of public meetings and hearings to discuss and deliberate before sending their recommended budget to the Town Council. However, following comments about major items such as the increase for the East Hampton Ambulance Association and necessary capital improvement projects, the BOF appears to have unsure opinions about what will be passed.

At the special budget meeting on March 27, the BOF received notice of a few changes that could help lower the overall increase. Town Manager David Cox shared that Finance Director Jeff Jylkka and East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner have thoroughly assessed the Police Special Services Fund, specifically on the allocated funds for vehicles. Following an analysis of billing against expenses already incurred, they propose that the expense for police vehicle replacement in FY 2025 should be covered through a transfer from the Police Special Services Fund. This decision would release the funds currently held in the vehicle sinking fund, allowing them to be utilized for Department of Public Works (DPW) vehicle acquisitions, reducing the amount needed for a transfer of general taxes.

"That would be \$72,600 that could be reduced

ultimately off of the levy needed for the capital improvements plan," said Cox.

For the last few years, there has been a request to hire an additional officer because about 50% of the time, only two officers are working. Many finance board members expressed their support of an additional police officer in the budget, but mentioned how there may need to be a trade-out in the capital.

"I'm in favor of another officer. If we get the officer, we might have to take something else out of either capital or police budget," said BOF member Ted Turner.

One of the larger debates the finance board faces is how much should go into the capital improvement plan designated for fixing roads in town. Cox presented a line chart showing the anticipated impact of various potential funding in the next five fiscal years. On the chart, the increases of \$450,000 annually correlated with an overall deterioration in road conditions. Conversely, funding at \$1 million annually is linked with an overall improvement in road condition ratings.

However, both the \$850,000 annual and \$650,000 incremental amounts ultimately result in the same ending road condition after the five-year period. At a capital improvement committee meeting, Public Works Director Matt Walsh suggested the \$650,000 incremental plan.

"That's \$650,000 this coming year, a \$200,000 increase, and then a commitment on ourselves to add another \$100,000 over the next four years after that," said Cox. Ultimately, an incremental

approach would offer gradual increases rather than jumping to a higher allocated amount annually. The BOF has to decide if they put the money all in now, or add a little bit over time.

Another heavily discussed topic was the \$175,000 increase the East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA) has asked for. Much of that increase would go toward hiring a full-time chief as well as additional per-diem paid staff. Multiple board members said they were not ready to make a decision without more information.

One of the larger concerns was response times and how the funding helps that. Chief Donald Scranton said that funding positions have helped improve getting to calls faster and more efficiently. Turner said he has heard horror stories about other towns that do not have an ambulance and have to have EMS services from other towns. He said if the increased funding allows the EHAA to keep the response times steady, "I think our money is very well-spent."

BOF chairperson Bridget McLennan also addressed concerns about funding. "If we're going to dump in \$175,000 [per year] for the next five years, where are we going to be?" stated McLennan. "We don't have control at all. They're completely independent from the town, but the bigger concern is where we are going to be in five years. That's a lot of taxpayer money over a period of time."

Finance board member Richard Brown made mention of last year's budget process – where

the EHAA also requested an increase of around \$175,000, but did not receive it. According to Brown, the town agreed to pay off the balance of an ambulance. One of the conditions was that the town would have representation on the EHHA Board of Directors. Following the agreement, now-former town councilman Brandon Goff and now-former BOF member – and current Town Council member – Deb Cunningham acted as liaisons.

Brown also brought up that if the town were to start paying EHAA salaries, "are they to be considered town employees? What benefits, supervision, and representation may they be entitled to?"

Scranton noted that the EHAA's goal has always been to provide the best service to the residents of East Hampton. Like the Board of Education budget, the ambulance's budget has been losing state funding. Scranton explained that in the direction the state is going, EMS services are leaning toward one or two conglomerates. "They can do the bare minimum and you kind of don't have a choice," said Scranton.

According to the town's charter, the BOF's recommended budget must be presented to the Town Council no later than April 15. By the end of the meeting, the BOF members had some firm stances but ultimately will have to continue discussions while keeping the taxpayer's thoughts in mind. The next Board of Finance meeting will be held on April 15 at 7 p.m.



CCC Camp Stuart enrollees are shown working on their camp road and pathways in East Hampton. The camp was in existence from 1935-37. Photo by Chatham Historical Society.

CCC Day to be Celebrated

Civilian Conservation Corps Day will be celebrated nationwide on Friday, April 5 – and the Chatham Historical Society and East Hampton Parks and Recreation have an event planned to mark the occasion.

On April 5, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) with Executive Order 6101. The order set out the framework for how the CCC would be run and established a fund of \$10 million for the Corps. This innovative federally funded organization put millions of Americans to work during the Great Depression on projects with environmental benefits.

The CCC was a public works program that operated from 1933 to 1942 as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. It targeted single men, 18-25 years old, and WWI veterans in relief of families that had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression. The program provided unskilled manual labor in environmental conservation and the development of natural resources in rural lands.

The program employed 3,463,766 men who worked a 40-hour week for \$30 a month. The government sent \$25 a month home to their parents, leaving the men \$5 in spending money. The camps were run by the U. S. Army which provided enrollees with food, clothing, shelter, and medical care.

CCC camps were located in all 48 states and these territories: Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix). There were separate camps for white enrollees, Black enrollees, unemployed veterans who served in World War I, and Native Americans who worked on tribal lands.

In Connecticut there were 21 CCC camps that were set up in these towns, state parks and forests: West Cornwall, Housatonic Meadows; Niantic, Military Reservation; Hampton, Natchaug; Haddam, Cockaponset; Union, Nipmuck; New Fairfield, Squantz Pond; Cobalt, Meshomasic; Voluntown, Pachaug; Thomaston, Black Rock; East Hartland, Tunxis; West Goshen, Mohawk; Clinton, Cockaponset; Burrville, Paugnut; River-

ton, American Legion State Forest; East Hampton, Salmon River; Danbury, Wooster Mountain; Stafford Springs, Shenipsit; Portland, Meshomasic; Windsor/Poquonock, Experiment Station Land; Kent, Macedonia Brook, and Madison, Cockaponset.

The Army Government Dock in New London was the supply depot for all the Connecticut camps.

The CCC enrollees built trails, roads, parks, campsites and dams, stocked fish, built and maintained fire tower observers' cabins and telephone lines, fought fires, and planted millions of trees.

During its nine years of existence, CCC enrollees throughout the country were credited with renewing the nation's decimated forests by planting an estimated three billion trees. The men also built hundreds of state and national parks, with cabins, artificial lakes, and water supply systems. Much of the infrastructure in the U.S. National Park Service was created using CCC labor. Enrollees built more than 3,000 fire towers, constructed 46,854 bridges and 125,000 miles of roads, built 13,100 miles of foot trails, stocked 972 million fish, and improved 40 million acres of farmland. The education program taught approximately 110,000 illiterate enrollees to read and write.

To celebrate CCC Day and its 91st Anniversary, a History Walk of the CCC projects will be held at the Salmon River State Park and Comstock Bridge on Saturday, April 6, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Author and historian Marty Podskoch will lead the walk. Meet at the Salmon River State Park parking area. The tour is sponsored by The Chatham Historical Society and East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department.

Directions: From East Hampton Stop & Shop go down Main Street through downtown and travel approx one mi. to Route 16. Turn left on Rt.16 and go approximately three miles. Turn right at the park entrance/Gulf Road, and meet at parking area. Dress appropriately. Also, no dogs are allowed at this event. For more information, call 860-267-2442.

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 household items allowed. Friends of the Lake will only be collecting its plastic bags from around the perimeter of the lake. Full details are available at www.flpeh.org.

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

Donations Sought for Concert Series

Donations to the 2024 Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series are being accepted.

Donation levels include Maestro Sponsor - \$250, Soprano Sponsor - \$150, Alto Sponsor - \$75, Tenor Sponsor - \$50, Bass Sponsor - \$25, or any amount you wish to contribute. Donations help pay for the musical entertainment and publicity for the concerts, which will be held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Center School Ga-

zebo in the East Hampton Village Center during the summer of 2024.

Tax-deductible checks (Tax ID number is 06-1494507) should be made payable to The Joseph N. Goff House Inc., and mailed to: The Joseph N. Goff House, Inc., P.O. Box 337, East Hampton, CT 06424. Call 860-918-4400 for more information.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

Art Exhibit: April's exhibit features photographs by East Haddam resident Everett Hart, with a closing artist's reception on Friday, April 26, from 4-6 p.m.

Coffee Time at the Library: Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 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.

Fly Fishing with Rowan Lytle: Thursday, April 11, 7 p.m., featuring a talk on Big Striper Strategies.

Poetry Reading and Drumming Event: Friday, April 12, 3 p.m., with East Hampton Poet Laureate Stan Lindh, known professionally as "Sympetalous." All are invited to come hear original work by Lindh and share some work of your own or poems you enjoy by other poets.

Yoga: Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is a \$15 drop-in fee. To register, email tensummitst@gmail.com.

Family Yoga Series: Fridays at 9:30 a.m., for 45 minutes. Class runs for six weeks, from

Police News

3/27: Caleb Sonnichsen, 34, of 137 Ague Spring Rd., Haddam Neck, was issued a summons for speeding, East Hampton Police said.

4/1: Bonnie Sweet-Reilly, 61, of 41 Lake Blvd., was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny and two counts of third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

From March 25-31, officers responded to 12 medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes and seven alarms, and made 39 traffic stops, police said.

Local Artist Display

Local artist Geryl Yocher is exhibiting her work at Town Hall during April.

Yocher attended Central Connecticut State University, graduating from the Art Education Master's Program. She taught art in Portland Public Schools for eight years and at Wesleyan Pottery in the children's pottery program.

Yocher paints in oils, acrylics and watercolors; her medium of choice is watercolors.

Bar Association to Award Scholarships

The Middlesex County Bar Association will award a total of \$3,000 in funding for two scholarships of \$1,500 each. Applications are due today.

All high school seniors residing within Middlesex County are eligible. 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. The deadline to receive applications is April 5.

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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.

Spring Concert: The music worship event "Lifted Up Concert of Joy" will be held Sunday, May 5, at 9 a.m. The Vocal Choir and its musicians on keyboard, violin, guitars and drums will give a celebration of Jesus' love through contemporary music.

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

Children's Ministry: For children in grades

K-5, held in Fellowship Hall during the worship service. The theme is "Friends with God" and is taught through Bible stories where the characters are friends with God. A toddler nursery is also available. All are welcome.

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

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

Women's Fellowship: The next gathering will be Tuesday, April 16, from 1-3 p.m.

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.

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. 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.

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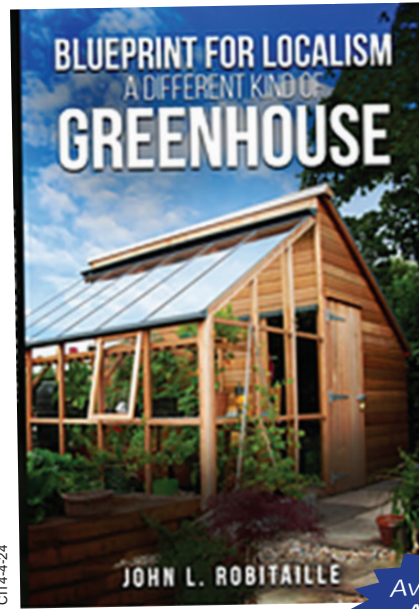
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FOUR FACTS ABOUT LONG COVID


1 DEFINITION
Long COVID is broadly defined as signs, symptoms, and conditions that continue or develop after acute COVID-19 infection.


2 PREVENTION
The best way to prevent Long COVID is to protect yourself and others from becoming infected. According to CDC, people who get a COVID-19 infection after vaccination are less likely to report Long COVID, compared to people who are unvaccinated.

3 SYMPTOMS
People with Long COVID can have a wide range of symptoms. Sometimes the symptoms can even go away and come back again. For some people, Long COVID can last weeks, months, or years after COVID-19 illness and can sometimes result in disability.

4 HIGHER RISK
Some people may be at higher risk for developing Long COVID including:

- People who have experienced more severe COVID-19 illness, especially those who were hospitalized or needed intensive care.
- People who had underlying health conditions prior to COVID-19.
- People who did not get a COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information, please visit the CDC: 


Para ver en español: 

Please contact info@chathamhealth.org with any questions!

CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT

This is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$51,788 with 100% funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of, not an endorsement, by CDC/HHS or the US Government.

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Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

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: 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 Friday, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. Cost per week is \$170/child. Aftercare is 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. There are separate camps for grades K-5 and grades 6-7.

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.



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- Eggplant Rollatini** Rolled eggplant stuffed with ricotta, prosciutto and roasted peppers
- Chicken Marsala** Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce
- Balkan Meatballs** Beef meatballs sautéed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce
- Stuffed Pork Chop** Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce
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Project Graduation Trivia Night Fundraiser

Bacon Academy Project Graduation invites all to a Trivia Night fundraiser Friday, April 26, at the Polish Club, 395 S. Main St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the game begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets include a pasta dinner hosted by BA First Day and a baked goods auction at 7 p.m. It will be a night of prizes, raffles and trivia facts. Tickets are \$30 per person, with tables seating up to 10. Registration and more information is available at baconacademyprojectgrad.org.

The mission of Bacon Academy Project Graduation is to enhance drug- and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all graduating Bacon seniors. All of the events Project Graduation host are entirely paid for through the fundraising efforts and contributions of Bacon Academy parents and students, and our local businesses and community members.

Memorial Day Participants Welcome

On Sunday, May 26, Colchester will hold its annual Memorial Day Parade, and local groups are encouraged to participate. Each contingent willing to march or bring a float can obtain an application online, at www.colchesterct.gov/memorial-day-parade-committee, or from the first selectman's office at Town Hall.

The parade committee said it expects to have several military units represented. They included the Army National Guard 1109th TASM-G, U S Navy, US Marine Reserve, US Coast Guard and the Air Force Reserve.

The theme of this year's parade will be the

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.

Battle of Anzio, and the Medal of Honor award presented to William Johnston who was awarded it as a result of his efforts in the World War II battle. Many other local WWII veterans were also part of this battle. There will also be a Grand Marshall and guest speaker who are yet to be nominated. Residents of Colchester can offer suggestions to the parade committee.

The Colchester Parade Committee will again award prizes for the best volunteer marching unit, best float meeting this years parade theme and most creative float.

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.

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.

Bacon Academy Golf Eyes Strong Spring

By Josh Howard

The numbers have continued to increase for the golf teams at Bacon Academy.

After working with a thin roster a year ago, head coaches Craig Kupper and Dave Mason have a group of 15 boys and six girls that are set to compete this spring.

Kupper said it's a blending of a few experienced golfers and some newcomers that have added to the depth of the programs.

On the boys' side, seniors Alex Gallardo and John Ceruti return after they finished as the top two Bobcats golfers at the Division II state championships a year ago. Gallardo placed 37th, shooting an 89, and Ceruti placed 54th after shooting a 94.

The seniors, along with sophomore Devon Kudrak, made up three of the five Bobcats that competed at the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championships a year ago when Bacon Academy placed seventh, finishing only nine strokes out of a top-three finish.

Kupper said the new golfers are pushing the returning golfers for spots in the lineup, saying the added competition is "a good thing."

On the girls' side, the Bobcats have four of the five golfers returning from the ECC group- ing last spring.

Senior Mia Belacamino shot a 55 to tie for 10th individually at the conference championships last spring. Senior Olivia Teller and junior Olivia Sobota each shot a 66, while sophomore Abby Stillwell shot a 68 at the ECC finals a year ago. Leyla Hall and Lily Koziol will round out the six girls that will be competing this spring.

Despite having only 21 total golfers on the team, Kupper said he believes the experience the returning golfers gained last week could pay dividends this spring.

"We definitely have some competition for playing time," added Kupper, who has seen some positive signs during practice rounds. "They are putting up pretty good numbers already and we are hoping for a nice season."

Both teams hold their home meets at Chantclair Golf Course in Colchester.

The boys are slated to open the regular season at home on Thursday, April 18 against Norwich Free Academy at 3 p.m. The girls start the regular season on the road, visiting Old Lyme Country Club to face East Lyme on Tuesday, April 16 before hosting Norwich Free Academy on Monday, April 22. Both matches tee off at 3 p.m.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Sunday School: Held during worship from September through June. Children in grades pre-

K through 8 are welcome. The nursery is located just off the sanctuary. Visit the church website for more information and to register for Sunday School.

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

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

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Town Moves Ahead with New EV Chargers

By Michael Sinkewicz

In a strict party-line vote, Colchester's Board of Finance (BOF) last week approved funding for a dual-port electric vehicle (EV) charger here at Town Hall.

During its latest meeting on March 27, the finance board voted 4-2 to transfer \$19,250 for the project from the town's equipment reserve account; the board's two Republicans, Tim Vaillancourt and John Thomas, voted against the funding.

The project was unanimously endorsed by the Board of Selectmen last summer. However, the finance board was more skeptical about moving forward.

Following the selectmen's approval, the town entered into a contract with Artis Energy Solutions for a ChargePoint CT4000 dual-port EV charger. The total cost is \$39,250, but the town is only on the hook for \$19,250, with Eversource's project cost-share incentive covering the remaining \$20,000.

But when the first town payment was due (\$9,625), the BOF balked on transferring the funding. There was broad consensus during the board's February meeting that more information was needed regarding the return on investment.

"I don't believe public funds should be used

for the convenience of the few people who have these vehicles," Vaillancourt said, adding that the project would be a "waste of taxpayer dollars."

Thomas agreed, conveying that it was unclear how the town would make money from the chargers. While residents would pay for the electricity, he asserted that the revenue likely wouldn't match the investment.

After pausing its scheduled vote on the topic, the board approved the funding at its latest meeting.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler III told the *Rivereast* that there would've been a cancellation fee if the board opted not to move ahead with the project. While he said there were issues with the way the process unfolded — among them being the BOF getting looped in too late — he feels the concept is worthwhile for Colchester, which doesn't have any EV chargers currently.

"Ultimately, this is a good investment and a step in the right direction," he said.

Because the town purchases its electricity at a cheaper rate than most households, Dennler conveyed that the town will be able to charge residents a more affordable rate while still generating its own revenue.

Members of the Board of Finance, including

Democrat Mike Hayes, previously criticized the proposed location of the chargers. Town Hall, he argued, was not the best spot to optimize local engagement. However, Planning Director Demian Sorrentino said Town Hall was the most cost-effective place to install the chargers; other locations would've resulted in a higher price tag.

Dennler didn't commit to additional EV charger installations in the future, indicating that the town should wait and see how the community embraces the initial site, calling the current project a "pilot program."

Sorrentino provided the town with additional information outlining the potential feasibility of the chargers, and whether enough revenue would be produced to make the project solvent.

He said there are 181 EVs registered in Colchester as December 2023 — a 60% increase from 2021. The town pays \$0.07 per kWh for

electricity at Town Hall, and could, Sorrentino speculated, set a fee for the chargers at \$0.42/kWh.

Sorrentino calculated that the town would on average net \$2.50 for every hour that each port is used, meaning that it would take 7,700 charging hours to recuperate the \$19,250 total investment. The town's warranty period is five years (1,826 days), which means there would need to be 4.2 charging hours per day over that period.

If the town didn't incentivize with a lower fee, Sorrentino conveyed that one of two municipal employees charging their vehicle at Town Hall during the workday would earn back nearly all of the investment over the warranty period.

Sorrentino provided data from Hebron, which has three EV charging sites. From January 2023 through March 12, 2024, Hebron generated a little over \$800 in revenue.

April Programs at Cragin

Cragin Memorial Library, located at 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following April programs and events. For more information or full program descriptions, call 860-537-5752 or visit www.craginlibrary.org.

Superhero Party: Monday, April 8, 2:30-3:15 p.m., for grades K-5. Registration required, by calling 860-537-7201.

Fairy Garden Crafting: Tuesday, April 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m., for all ages. Registration required, by calling 860-537-7201.

All-Ages Craft – Seed Bombs: Wednesday, April 10. Stop by the adult department to pick up a craft kit while supplies last.

Children's Craft – Take & Make: Wednesday, April 10, and Mondays, April 15, 22 and 29. Pick up your kit in the children's department. Themes are: 4/10: Farm Animal; 4/15: Construction; 4/22: Pets; 4/29: 3-D Flowers. Wednesday, April 10.

Family Movie Night: Wish: Wednesday, April 10, 5:30 p.m. Wear your PJs, bring a snack, and watch a movie.

Free Play: Tubes & Tunnels: Thursday, April 11, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ages 2-7 are invited for a sensory play experience with tubes, tunnels and pom-poms.

Life Insurance Educational Events: Thursday, April 11, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Learn about life insurance options with Mark Macrina, a local insurance agent. For ages 18 and up.

Medicare Educational Events: Thursday, April 11, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Macrina will talk about Medicare (enrollment, drug stages, penalties, etc.) and the differences between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage. This is an informational seminar; no individual health

discussed. For accommodations of persons with special needs, call 860-338-1466 TTY 711.

All-Ages Craft – Paper and Pipecleaner Lilies: Friday, April 12. Stop by the adult department to pick up a craft kit while supplies last.

Sensory Table Plus: Friday, April 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Ages 2-5 are invited to Cragin's usual sensory table with some aged sensory experiences.

STEAM Saturday: Popcorn: Saturday, April 13. Best suited grades K-5. Pick up your kit, watch a video, and experiment.

Teen Writing Club: Wednesday, April 17, 3-3:45 p.m., for ages 14-20.

Nerd Camp: Wednesday, April 17, 4:15-4:45 p.m., for grades 3-5. This month, swap stickers. Registration is required; call 860-537-7201.

Foodie Fun: Saturday, April 20. Grab your bag of goodies, watch the video online and create a seasonal treat. For kids and teens.

Watercolor Bookmarks: Saturday, April 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m. This all-ages craft is held in the lobby.

Cragin Book Club: Monday, April 22, 6 p.m. *How Lucky* by Will Leitch will be discussed.

Teen & Adult Craft – Felt Flower Bookmark: Wednesday, April 24. Stop by the adult department to pick up a craft kit while supplies last.

Children's Art Night: Watercolor Flowers: Wednesday, April 24, 6-7 p.m. This in-person craft night is held in the children's department.

Resin Art: Thursday, April 25, 6 p.m., for teens (grade 6 and up) and adults. Registration required; call 860-537-5752 or stop at the adult circulation desk.

Half-Day Gaming: Friday, April 26, 1-2 p.m. Grades 6-12 can stop by for snacks and games on their half day.

Snake Rock: Saturday, April 27, 10:30-11:30 a.m. In this all-ages program, paint a rock in the lobby to help make the snake grow.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual.

For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

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.

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.

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For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

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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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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 members are welcome.

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

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.

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.

Free CPR/AED Class

Colchester Fire & EMS will offer free CPR/AED and "Stop the Bleed" training to Colchester residents on Wednesday, May 8, from 2-4:30 p.m., at Company 1, located at 52 Old Hartford Rd.

Call 860-537-2512 or email firedepartment@colchesterct.gov to register.

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 or you can bring them into the senior center, where they can be scanned and returned. This is open to all members.

'Spring in Bloom' Market Coming

Colchester Federated Church's annual Spring in Bloom Market will take place Sunday, May 4, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be more than 40 local crafters, artisans, vendors and farmers.

Don't forget to swing by the Bake Sale and Upscale Tagsale, or try your luck at the Raffle Table. To be a vendor at the fair, email Renee Misbach at rouillette01@snet.net for more information.

BACA Fish Fry

The Connecticut chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) will hold a Fish Fry Saturday, May 18, from 1-6 p.m., at St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St., Colchester.

There will be catfish, French fries, hush puppies, coleslaw, onions, water, soda, and desserts. There will also be a cash bar. Music will be provided.

Donation is \$25/person. Kids age 10 and under will be admitted free. For more information, call Happy at 860-912-4038.



When the Colchester History Museum opens for the season on Sunday, it'll be your last chance to view the Hurricane of 1938 exhibit. The exhibit features 10 rare, enlarged images of the local damage caused by the intense hurricane.

History Museum to Open for Season

The Colchester History Museum will open for the season on Sunday, April 7, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

This spring will be the last chance to view the Hurricane of 1938 exhibit at the museum. The exhibit features 10 rare, enlarged images of the local damage caused by the intense hurricane. Experience the devastation of Elm trees on Colchester's Town Green after the storm. This exhibit will soon be replaced by a new installation, The ABCs of Colchester History.

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., will be open on Sundays through Dec. 8. The museum, adjacent to the Cragin Memorial Library, is free and offers both permanent and special exhibits highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history.

In addition to the one on the Hurricane of 1938, current exhibits include: the history of the Bulkeley family, including the story of the

Discovery and Excavation of the Gershom Bulkeley Tomb; a special exhibit, Emerging from the Shadows: Colchester's School for Colored Children, 1803-1840, which explores the nearly forgotten history of education of African and Native American students in the early 19th century; and Colchester's Roots in Agriculture: Then and Now, highlighting centuries of farming through original documents, imagery and objects. Additional exhibits tell the story of the Champion family, distinguished military leaders, and the history of the Hayward Rubber Company, the industry that brought both boom and bust to Colchester.

The Colchester History Museum is free and welcomes all, offering both guided and self-guided tours. For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-3240.






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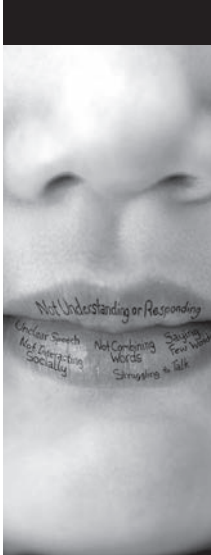
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Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream. For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church’s bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for “Racing with Jesus, Inc.” – at 860-398-9119 or visit 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.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Sunday Services: Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children’s Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit www.

facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

Senior Center Newport Harbor Cruise

Colchester Senior Center is offering a one-day Newport Harbor, R.I., cruise aboard the Coastal Queen on Thursday, June 27, departing Colchester at 9 a.m.

View Newport Harbor and the east passage of Narragansett Bay up close on this narrated tour of the historic sites that surround Newport Harbor and the Jamestown shoreline. Upon arrival you’ll have lunch at Johnny’s Restaurant at the Wyndham in Middletown, R.I. The menu is a choice of chicken, scrod, or pasta primavera.

There will be time on Bowen’s Wharf for shopping and browsing prior to the harbor cruise.

Cost is \$142 per person. Sign up before May 24. Register by coming into the senior center. Trips are available to Colchester Senior Center members and their adult guests over the age of 18. Senior center membership is free for Colchester residents age 55 and older. There is an annual fee of \$15 for seniors residing outside of Colchester.

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. For more information, contact CYSS at 860-537-7255 or 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

Polka Lesson and Dance

St. Joseph’s Polish Club, located at 395 South Main St., will offer a free polka lesson at 7 p.m. Friday, April 12.

Then on Sunday, April 14, the club will host another dinner dance featuring The Eastern Sound Orchestra from New Hampshire. Dinner will be served at 1 p.m.. Dancing will start at 2 p.m. and continue until 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person. To reserve a seat, call the club at 860-537-2550 during regular business hours: Monday-Friday, 4-10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, noon-10 p.m.

New RTC Officers

The Colchester Republican Town Committee has announced its newly elected officers.

John Thomas was elected chairman, Ursula Tschinkel was elected vice chairman, Christina Martin was elected secretary, and Brenden Healy was elected treasurer.

The committee welcomes all registered Republicans in town to come to its meetings, which are held in Town Hall on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Encore Boston Harbor Casino Trip

Colchester Senior Center will offer a trip to Encore Boston Harbor Resort Casino on Wednesday, June 5.

Cost is \$136 and includes a cncudes Casinobonus of \$20 in free slot play (subject to change), a deluxe motorcoach and, prior to the time at the casino, a family-style meal at Maggiano’s Little Italy Restaurant in Park Square.

Register by coming into the Colchester Senior Center, located at 95 Norwich Ave.

Trips are available to Colchester Senior Center members and their adult guests over the age of 18. Membership in the senior center is free for Colchester residents age 55 and older. There is an annual fee of \$15 for seniors residing outside of Colchester.

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.

Resident Joins Job Bank Board

The Hartford-based Seniors Job Bank (SJB) has announced the election of new Board of Directors member Shawn Pelletier of Colchester.

Pelletier was elected to the board at its annual meeting in March.

Established in 1974, SJB’s local, no-cost service for connecting job-seekers and employers has expanded to serving 29 towns in the Greater

Hartford area. SJB is dedicated to people over 50 looking for part-time, full-time and temporary work with businesses, municipalities, homeowners and other employers that have work to be done.

For more information, visit seniorsjobbankct.org/about, email info@seniorsjobbankct.org, or call 860-521-3612.

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.

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

Rookie of the Week

Colchester resident Anna LeGault, a freshman at the University of Saint Joseph, won the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Rookie of the Week for women’s lacrosse, for the week ending May 10.

A midfielder, LeGault had herself a week offensively for the Blue Jays. She collected a hat trick and dished out three assists in a non-conference victory over Mount Holyoke. LeGault followed up with another hat trick and collected five assists in a GNAC victory over Rivier. The first-year finished the week with 14 points (six goals, eight assists) while collecting six ground balls.

A 2023 graduate of Bacon Academy, LeGault also plays soccer at the university.

Dean’s List

Luisa Bueno of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean’s List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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

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

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 by Friday, May 3. Spring Bark for the Park is sponsored by the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department.

Dean’s List

Colchester residents Michael Barnett, Andrew Gatesman and Noah Auden made the fall 2023 Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y.

Barnett is in the computer science program, Gatesman is in the mechanical engineering program, and Auden is in the physics program.

Kindergarten Registration

Colchester Elementary School is holding kindergarten registration for the 2024-25 school year.

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

For more information, call 860-537-7628.

Trip to Sight & Sound Theater

The St. Andrew Ladies Guild in Colchester, is sponsoring a trip to Amish country in Pennsylvania May 29-31, to see *Daniel* at the Sight & Sound Theater.

The trip will include a dinner with an Amish family, a bus tour of the Amish community visiting local shops, and a stop in Philadelphia to visit a museum and the Liberty Bell. The trip is \$645 per person, double. \$779 for a single. The bus will leave from the St. Andrew Church parking lot.

For more information, contact Barbara Gozzo at barbogozzo@gmail.com or 860-208-4121.

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Pedestrian Bridge Moves Forward

By Michael Sinkewicz

Hebron's Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) gave the go-ahead on a long-awaited pedestrian bridge in the center of town, following a public hearing last week.

According to Town Planner Matthew R. Bordeaux, the project — which was designed by the town's in-house engineering company Nathan L. Jacobson — will now go out to bid after receiving a unanimous endorsement from the commission. Bordeaux said he's hopeful construction will begin in late summer/early fall, with the project being completed by the end of 2024.

In 2016, the project was identified in The Hebron Center Plan as an "important pedestrian connection," according to a memo provided to the commission by Bordeaux. Construction will be funded by a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant awarded in 2022, totaling nearly \$500,000.

Because the initiative is state funded, a project review request was sent to the State Historic Preservation Office, who responded in 2022 that the new bridge would not "impact the character defining features of the Hebron Center Historic District and there will be no adverse effect to historic properties."

"Although the area containing the proposed project location is considered archaeologically sensitive, it is unlikely that the proposed project would disturb significant archaeological resources because construction will be largely confined to previously disturbed areas as well as poorly drained soils not favorable to human habitation," wrote Jonathan Kinney, state historic preservation officer.

In a follow-up interview this week, Bordeaux conveyed that the town will reach out to the state archaeologist to see if further study is required — a condition imposed by the commission.

The bridge will be an approximately 600-foot pedestrian connection between the Douglas Library on the Hebron Green to the public parking lot on Pendleton Drive, according to the memo provided by Bordeaux. It will span over an unnamed brook and the route is predominately on town-owned property, except for small section across the entrance to Dunne's Gymnastics; the owner supports the project, according to the memo.

While most of the route will feature a five-foot-wide concrete sidewalk, the area between the bridge and driveway would be six feet wide. The project includes "historically appropriate lighting" and split-rail fencing by the wetland area, according to the memo.

In February, the Conservation Commission approved the Inland Wetlands Permit Petition relating to the project. The town's initiative required PZC approval for a special permit, due to the project's location in the Hebron Green Village District and location in the Main Street District.

"It's going to be a great project," Bordeaux said during the interview. "It seems like a winner to me."

In his memo to the PZC, Bordeaux said the application had been referred to the Hebron Historic Properties Commission (HHCP) in January because of the project's intended location in the Green District. He stated that he

didn't received a response from the HHCP.

However, minutes before the commission's meeting began, Bordeaux received an email from Mary Ann Foote, chairman of the HHCP.

She wrote that six-foot wide paths would encourage "younger people" to run through the route.

"Can the size of everything be decreased to discourage inappropriate behavior?"

And she made a separate point regarding the material on the bridge: "The HHCP prefers wood over fiberglass."

Reached by phone, Foote stated that her concerns had "nothing to do with historical properties." That particular site, she explained, "has already been compromised" in terms of archaeological integrity.

One of the issues, though, was that her commission "didn't like the materials" or the "appearance of the bridge." Specifically for the location, she said, it was "overkill."

Wood, she added, is perhaps more "historically appropriate."

Beyond the physical objections, Foote indicated that due to the scope and location of the project, the HHCP should be approached before the initiative gets this far along in the design phase. That way, she continued, the en-

gineer could incorporate the HHCP's feedback into the final layout.

Still, Foote said she believes the actual project itself is warranted and a worthwhile endeavor for the town to pursue.

"It's going to be great having a bridge connecting those two spots," she said.

While Bordeaux passed along Foote's email to the commission, he also said that he reached out to the HHCP ahead of public hearing but didn't receive a response. However, he attended a HHCP meeting in advance of the hearing, and he said he believed the members were satisfied with the project as proposed. But, he added, there was no official letter from the HHCP making a recommendation to the PZC.

According to Bordeaux, the fiberglass is durable, as well as easier to maintain and more cost-efficient than wood. He asserted that the project has been "in the works for years" and that he followed the correct process to advance the initiative forward.

"I am confident I did it in the way it was supposed to be done," he said.

Regarding any complaints of the project being "overkill," Bordeaux said the size and scale was chosen in order to minimize any adverse impacts on the local environment.

The Worship Center News & Notes

The Worship Center, a non-denominational Christian church, holds services and programs at 99 Marjorie Circle (unless noted). For more information and full program descriptions, visit theworshipcenterct.org and click on the 'events/calendar' link, or call 860-228-4442.

Worship: Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. and are also broadcast on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733.

Life Group: Meets the first and third Wednesday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Swensons' home in Columbia, for worship, prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Meets every other Sunday directly after the service; lunch is provided. Next meeting: April 7.

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship! Typically held the first Friday of each month from 6-9 p.m. at the church.

Virtual Prayer Night: Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. Contact the church office or website for a link and meeting ID.

One-to-One Confidential Christian Care: Provided by Stephen Ministry to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office. The church is currently running an in-depth training for people who feel called to serve others in this way. Contact the church office for more information.

HIHS: Hebron's food pantry is in critical need, and the church is helping to collect monetary, food, toiletries, and paper goods donations. Drop off at the church on Sunday mornings, or donate directly to 26 Pendleton Dr., Hebron, Tuesday/Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, noon-5 p.m. Contact HIHSCT.org to give, or hfoodpantry@gmail.com for more information.

Bucket of Blessings: The church's outreach team has been collecting snack-type food and monetary donations as a love offering for its local first responders. If you'd like to get involved, email jessicalbain@gmail.com.

Scouting for Food

Hebron Scouts BSA Troops 28, 1028 and Pack 28 are preparing for their annual Scouting for Food event benefiting Hebron Interfaith Human Services on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

This year's collection is being held in memory of former scoutmaster Mark Sabia, who positively impacted the lives of many scouts during his time with the troop.

The scouts said they would like to grow community participation in the food drive

this year. All are asked to donate unexpired, non-perishable food items and household products. The most needed items are pasta, canned meats (tuna, chicken, Spam), Campbell's Chunky Soup, Progresso Soup, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, tea and coffee

Scouts will be hosting drop-off boxes in their neighborhoods through April 26. Donations can be dropped off at Ted's IGA or Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) on the day of the event.

Church of The Holy Family News

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit holyfamilyhebron.org for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096. Church of the Holy Family is a member of the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd.

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: Church of the Holy Family collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Due to limited storage space, only the following items can be accepted: men's & women's socks; men's boxer briefs & women's "Boy Shorts" briefs (M,L,XL,2XL); 13-gallon trash bags; earbuds for

cell phones; laundry pods & dryer sheets; TP & paper towels; disinfectant wipes, Windex, Lysol spray, and bathroom & floor cleaners; men's & women's deodorant; men's razors; pump hand soap and body wash; \$15 Stop & Shop gift cards for gas; \$25 Walmart gift cards for client emergencies; and donations by check. Call to arrange the pick-up of gift cards and to obtain mailing instructions for cash donations. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Free CPR Classes

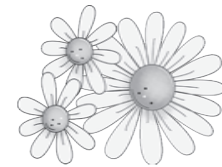
The Hebron Fire Department (44 Main St.) is offering free AHA Heartsaver CPR classes for those who live or work in Hebron. Adult, child and infant CPR, and choking emergencies, will be covered.

The classes will be offered once a month, from 6-9 p.m. on Wednesdays April 17, May 15 and June 19. Call Donna at 860-228-3022 ext. 162 to reserve a seat.

Classifieds

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Thursday noon-7PM; Saturday 8:00AM-noon;
Sunday & Monday - Closed

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LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON PARTY-SELECTED DELEGATES TO CONVENTIONS

Certified lists of Town of Hebron Democratic and Republican party-endorsed candidates for delegates to their respective party conventions, specified below, are on file in the office of the Hebron Town Clerk, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT #2
STATE SENATE DISTRICT #19
STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT #55
STATE PARTY DISTRICT #1

Dated at Hebron, CT
this 3rd day of April 2024
Francesca Villani,
Town Clerk, Hebron, CT

1TB 4/5

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A Virginia Christmas... The Lanzi and Flemke families of East Hampton visited Madeline Lanzi and her military friends in Norfolk, Va., the week after Thanksgiving. Jack Lanzi, Tom Flemke (who's wearing the Santa suit), and Tina and Matt Lanzi are all veterans. The rest were active military who came for dinner while visiting Madeline Lanzi, USN.

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.



Going to Greenland... The *Glastonbury Citizen* and the *Rivereast* both traveled to Greenland last August. Dave and Margaret Wilcox enjoyed zodiac cruising around icebergs, navigating fiords and trekking with the Seabourn Cruises expedition ship the *Venture*.



Monkey Business... Lori Foley and Shelly Cibula took a sisters vacation to Riviera Maya, Mexico. Their monkey visitors were eager to read the news from East Hampton.



Enjoying the Everglades... Colchester resident Kathy Lynch-Mussen and her husband Dan Mussen recently visited the Everglades – and brought their copy of the *Rivereast* along for the trip!

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

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LEGALS

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

Certified lists of party-selected candidates for the Republican Party in the Town of East Hampton for participation as DELEGATES to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in my office at 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTIONS
2nd Congressional District Convention
33rd State Senatorial District Convention
34th Assembly District Convention

Dated at East Hampton, Connecticut this 2nd day of April 2024.
Patricia Burnham, CCTC
Town Clerk of East Hampton

1TB 4/5

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF HEBRON
BOARD OF FINANCE
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Hebron Board of Finance will conduct a Public Hearing on their recommended budget on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. This Public Hearing will be held in the Douglas Library of Hebron Community Room, 22 Main Street, Hebron. Information regarding the Board of Finance's Proposed Budget will be available at <https://hebronct.com/budget-information/>. Residents are encouraged to attend this Public Hearing and express their opinions. Comments regarding the proposed budget can also be emailed to hebronbudget@hebronct.com.

Diane DeRosso, Chairman
Board of Finance

1TB 4/5

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

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission took the following action at their Regular Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:00pm on the following: **Petition 2024-06** – Petition of Frank Blakeslee to amend an approved Site Plan for the construction of a 580 square foot shed at The Worship Center, 99 Marjorie Circle, Residence-1 District. Application is filed pursuant to Section 7.C.6.4 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations. **Approved.**

The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting can be seen using the following link:
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/0c80c51ce1275ee17f34fa638434a984e01418d826149de2373092160c9caeff>

1TB 4/5

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH**

A certified list of party-selected candidates for the Democratic Party in the Town of Marlborough for participation as DELEGATES to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution.

**CONVENTIONS
STATE**
2ND DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL CONVENTION
55TH DISTRICT STATE REPRESENTATIVE CONVENTION
19TH DISTRICT STATE SENATE CONVENTION
DATED AT MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT THIS 1st DAY OF APRIL, 2024.

Lauren A. Griffin, Town Clerk
Town of Marlborough

1TB 4/5

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF PORTLAND**

A certified list of party-selected candidates for the Republican Party in the Town of Portland for participation as Delegates to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in my office at:
33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTIONS
State Convention
Congressional District 1
State Senate District 33
Assembly District 32

Attest: Michael V. Tierney
Town Clerk of Portland
Dated at Portland this 3rd day of April 2024

1TB 4/5

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF PORTLAND**

A certified list of party-selected candidates for the Democratic Party in the Town of Portland for participation as delegates to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in my office at:
33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTIONS
State Convention
Congressional District 1
State Senate District 33
Assembly District 32

Attest: Michael V. Tierney
Town Clerk of Portland
Dated at Portland this 1st day of April 2024

1TB 4/5

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Riverast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. *The Citizen* will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. *The Citizen* cannot guarantee specific placement.

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

Certified lists of party-selected candidates for the Democratic Party in the Town of East Hampton for participation as DELEGATES to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in my office at 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution:

CONVENTIONS
2nd Congressional District Convention
33rd State Senatorial District Convention
34th Assembly District Convention
2024 State Convention

Dated at East Hampton, Connecticut this 3rd day of April 2024.
Patricia Burnham, CCTC
Town Clerk of East Hampton

1TB 4/5

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER
PARTY SELECTED DELEGATES
TO CONVENTIONS**

Certified lists of Town of Andover Democrat and Republican party endorsed candidates for delegates to their respective party conventions, specified below, are on file in the office of the Andover Town Clerk – 17 School Road – Andover, Connecticut State Senate District #4

State Convention
State Representative District #55
Congressional District #2

Dated at Andover, Connecticut this 3rd day of April, 2024
Carol H. Lee
Town Clerk
Town of Andover

1TB 4/5

TOWN OF HEBRON SEWER USE LEGAL NOTICE

Sewer Use Bills are due and payable October 1, 2023. The billing rate is \$592 which may be paid in two equal installments, the first installment being due October 1, 2023 and the second installment being due April 1, 2024.

First Installment payments must be postmarked or received no later than November 1, 2023 to be considered on time with no additional charges. Second Installments must be postmarked or received no later than May 1, 2024. Payments that are unpaid as of November 2, 2023 and May 2, 2024, will be charged interest of 1.5% per month retroactive to the installment due date per State Statute 12-146.

To make payments by check, please make check payable to: Town of Hebron. Payments may be mailed to: Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. If desired, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a receipt. There is a drop-off box attached to the Town Office Building located next to the entrance on the lower level, south side. Additionally, there is a box inside the building located in the hallway between the Tax and Assessor's Office. Payments left in that box when the office is closed will be retrieved as soon as possible.

The Collector's office is located in the lower level of the Town Hall at 15 Gilead Street. Hours are Monday through Wednesday 8:00am to 4:00pm, Thursday 8:00am to 6:00pm, and Friday 8:00am to 1:00pm. Please note Monday – Thursday the office is closed for lunch from 12:30pm – 1:15pm.

Respectfully,
Adrian MacLean
Revenue Collector

3TB 3/29, 4/5, 4/26

**Public Notice
Town of East Hampton, Connecticut Inland
Wetlands & Watercourses Agency
Wetlands Agent Approval**

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a (c) (2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency of the Town of East Hampton for an activity within the Upland Review Area.

Number: IW-24-004
Applicant: Daniel and Barbara Casey
Location: 15 North Hollow
Activity: Construct a 12' x 10' deck in Upland Review Area.
Jeffrey M. Foran
Duly Authorized Agent
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

1TB 4/5

Housing Opportunity Committee

The Committee will examine housing opportunities including affordable housing to help guide future land use regulation development to provide a diverse housing stock. Anyone that has an interest in serving on the Ad Hoc Housing Opportunity Committee can apply to serve by Friday, April 19th. The application form is on the Town website marlboroughct.net under Boards & Commission tab. Submit the completed form to Building@marlboroughct.net.

2TB 4/5, 4/12

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

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on April 17, 2024, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s): **PZC 2024-003** of Anton Smith (Applicant) and Robia Kruse (Owner) – Zone Change to establish an Arterial Commercial (AC) District Overlay upon 5.5± acres of land located at 475 Parum Road (CT Route #354) (Assessor's ID 03-05/019-000). Zoning District: Rural Use (RU)

At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this application is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday). Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 4/5, 4/12

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Marlborough Board of Finance will hold a Public Hearing at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School Cafeteria, 25 School Drive, and virtually on Zoom, on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. for the following purpose:

- To present & discuss the Proposed Annual Town Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 to include Town Operations & Capital Budgets, Local Board of Education Operations & Capital Budgets, and RHAM Regional School Operations & Capital Budgets, and Town Debt Service Payments.
- To Present & Discuss the termination of Capital Non-Recurring Projects.

Zoom meeting.
Topic: Board of Finance Public Hearing
Time: Apr 15, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83359018802?pwd=pQIAjYQ8o3uvTKgmhJUocceG9a8PPF.1>
Meeting ID: 833 5901 8802
Passcode: PNB09M
Dial by your location
• +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
• +1 646 931 3860 US
Meeting ID: 833 5901 8802
Passcode: 138998
Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kpAUx-p2nz>

Copies of the various budgets are available for public viewing in the Office of the Town Clerk, Richmond Memorial Library, and on the Town Website at: https://cms2.revize.com/revize/marlborough/boards_and_commissions/2024-2025_budget_documents.php

Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut this 25th day of March 2024
Board of Finance
Michael Nastro, Chair

2TB 4/5, 4/12

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

A certified list of party-selected candidates for the Republican Party in the Town of Marlborough for participation as DELEGATES to the conventions of said Party specified below is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution.

**CONVENTIONS
STATE**
2ND DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL CONVENTION
55TH DISTRICT STATE REPRESENTATIVE CONVENTION
19TH DISTRICT STATE SENATE CONVENTION
DATED AT MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT THIS 1st DAY OF APRIL, 2024.

Lauren A. Griffin, Town Clerk
Town of Marlborough

1TB 4/5

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 (1½% 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 PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

- Petition 2024-05** – Petition of James R. Celio to amend the Hebron Zoning Regulations, Section 3.F.2.4, to permit single-family dwellings in the Commercial Technology District

Planning and Zoning Commission
Apr 9, 2024, 7:00–10:00 PM (America/New_York)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://meet.goto.com/468080581>
You can also dial in using your phone.
Access Code: 468-080-581
United States: +1 (312) 757-3121

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

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 26th day of March 2024.
Frank Zitkus, Chair

2TB 3/29, 4/5

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CITE-18-20

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CITE-18-20

Obituaries

Colchester

Janette Ardel-Hiltgen

Janette Marie Ardel-Hiltgen, 74, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at home on Easter Sunday, March 31, with her loving husband Chris by her side. Janette was born and raised in the Bronx, where she graduated from Evander Child's High School in 1967. She was the first person in her family to obtain a college degree when she graduated from Lehman College in NYC with a Bachelor of Arts in 1971.

After college, Janette found employment at Otis Elevator Company, and left the Bronx, moving to Bristol in 1977 when Otis relocated its headquarters from New York to Farmington. She was one of the first female computer programmer/analysts in the company, where she worked for 35 years, and met her future husband and soulmate, Chris, who joined the company in 1979.

To know Janette was to love her. Kind-hearted and even-tempered, she had a great sense of humor as well as an inner calm and strength which was rooted in her Catholic faith, attending church every Sunday. Janette was an avid Beatles fan, and saw them in concert at Shea Stadium in 1965 at age 16. She developed a love for dancing in college, joining a traveling dance troupe that performed traditional Hawaiian dances and remained active performing in that group several years after graduation. She loved playing mini-golf with Chris, Scrabble, and playing penny slots and Bingo at the casino. Janette loved to curl up with a good book, and often had 2-3 books going at the same time. She also loved the comic strip *Peanuts*, specifically Snoopy and Woodstock. They loved traveling, camping in the "dirty old forest" and spending time with family and friends.

One of her biggest passions in life came from her trips to Walt Disney World, where she and Chris would take trips nearly every year. This was a tradition that started on their honeymoon, and over the years she and Chris made 46 trips to WDW. They spent 38 years in love and enjoying each other's company, and mostly the simple things of everyday life.

Janette will be forever loved and remembered by her devoted husband Chris Hiltgen; niece, Karen Riley (Steffan); nephew, Adam Steffan and his wife Miku; grandnieces, Katherine and Caroline Riley; brother-in-law, Richard Hiltgen and wife Elizabeth Hiltgen; mother-in-law, Doris Hiltgen; and numerous other extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by her mother, Nancy (Anne) V. Riley; father, Harold J. Ardel; sister, Christine Steffan; and brother-in-law, Robert Steffan.

Visitation will be held today, Friday, April 5, from 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 67 W. Town St., Lebanon, CT 06249. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org).

SPILF



Portland

Constance Clemens

Constance (Brittingham) Clemens, 89, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., wife of the late Christopher W. Clemens, passed away Saturday, March 16, in Florida. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Raymond and Reberta (Carter) Brittingham.

Connie had lived in South Glastonbury before moving to Florida 10 years ago. She enjoyed going to the casino, animals, bowling, and swimming in Florida with her friends. Connie also loved making afghans for her family.

Connie is survived by two sons, James P. Newsom and his wife Barbara of Portland and K. Robert Newsom and his wife Paula of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; a daughter, Shelley Newsom of Beaver Dams, N.Y.; a sister, Margaret Bell of Barefoot Bay, Fla.; seven grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Along with her parents and husband, Connie was predeceased by her brother, Raymond Brittingham.

Funeral services will be held today, Friday, April 5, at 11 a.m., at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown. Burial will follow in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland. Family and friends may call on Friday morning before the service from 10-11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Connie's memory may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.



Colchester

Dorothy F. Fedus

Dorothy F. Fedus, 98, of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, March 26. Born Dec. 26, 1925, in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late John and Anna (Rak) Los.

Dorothy attended Newtown High School. She was a graduate of The College of Rochelle, Class of 1947. Dorothy earned her master's degree in 1950 from Teachers College, Columbia University and her 6th Year Degree from Central Connecticut State University.

Dorothy was a certified teacher in the city of New York, where she taught at Port Richmond High School and Bushwick High School. Dorothy also was employed as a stenographer for the Socony Mobil Oil Company as well as a secretary for the assistant treasurer and comptroller of Shell Chemical Corporation.

On July 20, 1960, Dorothy married Frank F. Fedus. Dorothy was chairman of the Bacon Academy Business Education Department, where she taught secretarial studies for 25 years... typing, shorthand and office procedures, beginning in the original 1803 Bacon Academy building in the center of Colchester and then at Bacon Academy's second location. During the summer of 1962 Dorothy was recognized by the commissioner of the Connecticut State Police for her typing and stenography help and expertise to tirelessly assist the department in the murder investigation of a fallen officer.

Dorothy is survived by her son, John Fedus and his wife Carrie, along with numerous nieces, nephews and extended family members.

In addition to her parents Dorothy was pre-



deceased by her husband, Frank F. Fedus; brothers, Albert Los, Stanley (Clarkie) Los; sisters, Mary Los, Kathryn Strojny, and Stephanie Szlanda.

Calling hours were held at Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Tuesday, April 2. A funeral Mass took place Wednesday, April 3, at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Colchester. Burial followed at Linwood Cemetery in Colchester.

To sign the online guestbook or share a memory of Dorothy, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Gerald Robert Salsbury

Gerald Robert Salsbury, 64, of Las Vegas, Nev., passed away peacefully at home Saturday, March 9, with his three nieces, Aimee, Kelli and Rochelle, by his bedside, who made his transition a time of love, peace and comfort.

He was born July 12, 1959, in Portland, son of the late Merrill and Carolyn (Cunningham) Salsbury. He graduated from Portland High School and continued his educational journey at Manchester Community College in the culinary program. After graduation he headed to Las Vegas, attended University of Las Vegas, and studied restaurant and hospitality management. His education led him to California where he spent his entire professional career working for Pacific Hotels and Vasona Management. He eventually retired to Las Vegas, where his west coast journey began.

He was known for his sense of humor, laughter, and compassion. He had many nicknames, Baby Brat, Uncle Jerry, Uncle Buck, Big Guy, Big Boss and Boss Man amongst other choice words that generated laughter and spilled over with love. He spent years on the golf courses, cruise ships, casinos, and local pubs. He was an avid sports buff, Red Sox and San Fran 49ers fan. He was a believer in life, humanity and helping all others. He contributed to many charities and volunteered his time. One of his favorite organizations was the Lions Club of Los Gatos. His zest for life was a testament to the man he was, the lovable gentle giant with a heart of gold.

He is survived by his sister, Marilyn (Brian) Phillips and her husband Brian of Middletown. He was predeceased by his brother, Merrill (Sonny) Salsbury.

He is also survived by his very close nieces and nephews, Kelli Gagne (Rob) of Lancaster, N.C., John Phillips (Tammy) of Middletown, Aimee Plourde (Shawn) of Middletown, Luke Phillips (his godson) of St. Pete's, Fla., Rochelle Purcell (James) of Middletown, Stacey Phillips of South Carolina, and several other loved nieces and nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews. And last but not least, a host of beloved friends including Kevin Janton (the mailman), a.k.a. "Cliff and Norm," Sherri Ramirez, Patti Hooper, Colleen Canning, Tina Lopez and many, many more.

A funeral service will take place today, Friday April 5, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary Church, Portland. Immediately following will be a burial at St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. A Celebration of Life will be held in Los Gatos, Calif., at the Los Gatos Lodge, on Friday, April 19, at 4 p.m.

He will be deeply missed by all who know him, but his memory will live on in our hearts forever.

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



Portland

Lori Ann Janowski

Lori Ann Janowski, 53, died Wednesday, March 20, surrounded by those who loved her the most, following a courageous year-long battle with cancer.

On Feb. 13, 1971, the world became a more colorful and happier place with the arrival of Lori Ann Janowski. To know Lori was to know great joy and pure happiness. She grew up in Middletown, the daughter of Joseph C. Janowski and the late Jan (Willmore) Janowski, and little sister to the late Joey Janowski ("Star Joey J," her nickname for him).

After graduating from Mercy High School, Lori went on to the University of Rhode Island, gathering many wonderful friends from her Alpha Chi Omega sisters. Lori continued her education at Northeastern University, earning a master's of student life and higher education. After college, Lori embarked on a career in higher education working at Sacred Heart University, Northeastern University, Simmons University, UCLA, and Trinity College (D.C.). She ultimately became assistant dean of student affairs at Hunter College in Manhattan, New York.

Lori loved her years living in Boston and her summers spent in Newport and Cape Cod. She finally landed a permanent residence in New York City. She enjoyed many close friendships with neighbors and members of the LIC Dog Park Crew. She was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox and UConn basketball. Lori loved to travel, enjoying and exploring California, Europe, Florida and Turks and Caicos, to name a few. Lori loved music, including U2, REM, and her Indigo Girls. Lori had a wicked sense of humor that she generously shared with the world.

Lori leaves behind her father, Joseph C. Janowski of Portland; her nephew, Ryan Janowski of New York City; and many extended family and friends who loved her dearly. She was predeceased by her mother, Jan Janowski; her brother, Joey Janowski; and her beloved dogs, Cody, Brody and Tron.

Friends and family may call Monday, April 8, from 9-10:30 a.m., at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. A Christian Funeral Mass will follow at St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland, at 11 a.m. Burial will be private at the discretion of the family.



Colchester

Roger Jay Palmer

Roger Jay Palmer, 71, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Saturday, Jan. 27, surrounded by loved ones, after a courageous year-long battle with cancer.

Born Aug. 27, 1952, in Norwich, he was a son of the late George and Catherine (Fields) Palmer. He was raised in Colchester, attending St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron, in his youth and was a 1971 graduate of Bacon Academy.

Roger was a hardworking and selfless man of strong conviction; he always putting others first. Over much of the past year as his health declined, he was able to continue working, operating Roger Palmer Foundations, with the support of true friends and colleagues.

A lifelong member of the Colchester Fish & Game Club, he spent countless hours over the decades, supporting their mission and membership, having served on the executive board and was permittee for many years.

In his passing, he rejoins his parents; sib-



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Obituaries cont.

lings, George, sister-in-law Sharon, Paul, Richard, Thomas and Sandra; nephew, Gary; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and Billy Scopino.

He leaves behind to mourn his loss and cherish his memory longtime partner, Debbie Goodwin; children, Brett and his wife Brit-tany, Brooke and her partner Ryan, and Sheri Ann; grandchildren, Landon, Brayden, Chase, Colton, Scarlett, Luke, Skylar, Jaden, Haily and Ali; true friends (some since childhood) and extended family and friends at Fish & Game.

He leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of those whom had the opportunity to meet, and will live on through them all.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out not only to those who rallied around him, but to the doctors, nurses and staff at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich; especially those on E-4; at the Infusion Center, and from Pulmonary Physi-cians of Norwich, for their genuine care and compassion.

Graveside services will be observed at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, at Linwood Cemetery, Route 16, Colchester; followed by a Celebration of Life at the Colchester Fish & Game Club, Old Amston Road, Colchester, through 4 p.m.

To honor Roger's memory, and, lieu of flow-ers, those who wish may make a contribution to the CT Humane Society (www.cthumane.org), American Cancer Society (www.donate.cancer.org); or simply commit a "random act of kind-ness."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETS

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



Blitzen, born on Christmas Eve, is smart, independent, and a compact and graceful kitten. He likes to watch the other kittens before deciding for himself what he wants to do. If it's for him he is all in. He would do best with other animals as he does not like to be left behind. He particularly likes his sister Comet, but he gets along with all his siblings and the two adult cats in his foster home.

Kobbi is a two-year-old, 47 pound Staffordshire Terrier. He has quickly made friends at POA (both furry and human!) Some of his favorite activities including going on walks where he loves to sniff, sniff, and sniff some more! Kobbi is eager to please his human friends and loves belly rubs too! He is lovable, sweet, and the perfect size companion.



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MOWER OPERATOR: Light Landscaping worker wanted. Call 860-537-2945.



Town of Marlborough Part Time Building Official
The Town of Marlborough has a position available for a part-time Building Official for up to 24 hours per week. The position will be under the supervision of the Director of Planning and Development and report to the Town Manager. The job duties will include field inspections, processing permits, answering inquiries from contractors and the public on technical issues of the Building Code. Job requires a current licensed State of Connecticut Building Inspector. Also, candidates need computer skills and a familiarity in the use of Microsoft Excel and Word, PermitLink Permitting Software, and shall hold a valid Driver's License. Submit your Resume and letter of interest to the Town Clerk's Office, 26 North Main Street, PO Box 29 Marlborough, CT, or e-mail townclerk@marlboroughct.net the deadline for filing applications is 12:00 p.m., Friday, April 19, 2024. Town of Marlborough is Equal Opportunity Employer 2TB 4/5, 4/12

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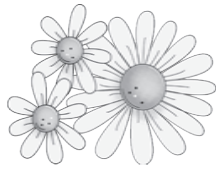
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Our ideal candidate should have the following:
• A working knowledge of problems and issues facing older adults, adults, veterans and youth and the principles, practices, theories and methodologies utilized in municipal services, operations and programs for these groups.
• A working knowledge of the federal, state, regional and local legislation, regulations and community programs and services for individuals and groups served.
• A thorough knowledge of pertinent municipal, state and federal law governing local wellbeing activities and objectives of federal assistance.
Preferred qualifications are possession of a Master's degree in social work, counseling, psychology, gerontology, or closely related field and at least for (4) years of direct services and/or work in the social services field, plus two (2) years of supervisory experience or an equivalent combination of experience and training. Possession and maintenance of professional licensure or certification in social work, marriage and family therapy, or similar or related field is desirable. This is a full-time, 35-hour-per-week position. The starting salary is between \$66,998. to \$78,821. per year, plus benefit package which includes health, dental, vision, 401a defined contribution plan, life insurance and various voluntary benefits, as well as PTO and paid holidays. This is a bargaining unit position.
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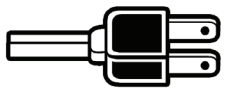
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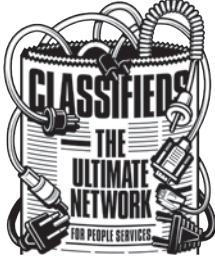
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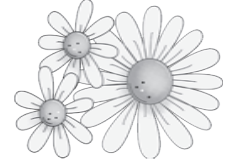
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