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Donate Life... On Monday, the Donate Life flag went up at Town Hall, to mark April being National Organ Donation Awareness Month. These flags are raised all over the country in order to bring greater awareness to the importance of registering as an organ and tissue donor. It is also a way to honor the donors and their families, as well as the recipients. The flag will be flown until Friday, April 19. Pictured from left are supporters Kennedy Lynn Perez with her grandmother Sherri Clark-Ruiz, donor mom and dad Kathy and Todd Bruno honoring their daughter Julia, First Selectman Bernie Dennler, and Peter and Frances Kupczak, honoring Peter's daughter Jessica Marie.

Brainerd Place Developer Pulls Apartment Plan

POSTAL CUSTOMER

LOCAL

By London Brazal

Portland residents gathered at the high school last week for a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, ready to voice their objections about the more than 100 additional apartments proposed for the Brainerd Place project.

But ultimately they never got a chance to weigh in - as the developer behind the project withdrew the application for the extra dwellings

Developer Dan Bertram had proposed an amendment to the Portland zoning regulations that increased the allowable residential units to 350 - an increase of more than 100 units from the current 240. Furthermore, he wanted to increase the ratio of allowable apartments from 16 to 21 units per 5,000 sq. ft. of commercial space. The last change was to include upper-floor commercial areas in the total commercial area, which now only considers ground-floor space.

During the meeting, Bertram tried to show the new development proposal and site map; however, town attorney Kari Olson made it clear that he could only show information pertinent to the application. Bertram repeatedly stressed he was trying to put the text amendment into context, and said, "Why are we here?"

The proposal for more apartments was due to the challenge developers had in finding businesses to lease the approved areas of commercial space after CVS backed out of Building B.

"We have some tough news because we have come into an area that has existing commercial buildings and those that are being absorbed," Bertram explained. "And, markets that are perceived a certain way in the surrounding areas."

Bertram explained how the proposed amendment came about. Originally, the developers were using Atlantic Retail out of Boston and researched the market to find town-wide perception issues, said Bertram. The town heavily suggested that they use a local real estate broker instead and started to work with SullivanHayes Companies from Farmington. In an email from the owner, Jed Hayes, the company withdrew as the leasing agent for Brainerd Place. The company had several concerns regarding the project to successfully lease the spaces. Mainly, the amount of retail space is more than the market can accommodate.

'This location lends itself to convenience and service uses and not to other users requiring a large trade area," read Bertram. "This limits the number of tenants that we feel would be reasonable prospects." The company also worried about people and businesses needing to be educated about Portland and where it is located. The other large concern was the second-floor space. SullivanHayes felt that it would not be attractive to retail and only a large medical user would be fit. With that, their analysis said the basement would not be leasable at all.

Following SullivanHayes' assessment, Bertram explained that he wants to make Brainerd Place a success. "We want to show the town and the entire community that we are optimistic about Portland," he said. "We think that if we make certain changes to the regulations, we can have differentiating success. We can compete with the surrounding communities and complete a job." The current broker, CBRE, analyzed the proposed site plan and believes it is more

See Brainerd Place, page 7

Dennler: Colchester at Budgetary 'Crossroads'

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester First Selectman Bernie Dennler III proposed a substantial spending increase for the upcoming 2024-25 fiscal year, urging local officials to inject new funding into a municipality that's struggling to service its community.

During a public hearing last Wednesday, April 3, Dennler called for a \$17.14 million town budget — a \$1.48 million, or 9.45%, hike over the current 2023-24 spending plan.

Combined with the Board of Education's adopted budget proposal of \$45.73 million - a \$1,746,724, or 3.97%, increase in spending the projected mill rate would spike by 1.58, or 5.8%, to 28.80

Presenting in front of the Board of Finance (BOF) and a packed meeting room at Town Hall, Dennler asserted that the drastic spending escalation was justified and that Colchester was in need of a fiscal "correction year."

he said. "I think this is just what happens when we kick the can for many, many years."

The new first selectman, who was elected last November, didn't assign blame for the financial condition he diagnosed for the town; instead, he conveyed that, like many neighboring towns, Colchester faced uncertain economic circumstances following the pandemic.

Still, Dennler said that municipal spending had failed to keep pace with inflation and the town's own operations. In January, he implemented a budget freeze to crack down on department expenditures as the 2023-24 spending plan appeared on track to go over budget.

"We've reached a point where we've run out of runway on this stuff and we're at a crossroads," Dennler said. "We either need to make a correc-

This week, Dennler told the Rivereast he was "confident" in the budget he presented. He said his proposal represented a "starting point" for phasing sufficient funding back into Colchester. The BOF, he added, will "hopefully come to a

similar conclusion." Ultimately, Dennler said it was up to residents to deliver a verdict.

"Budgets are about choice," he said. "The final decision rests with the community."

Republican Art Shilosky, the vice-chairman of the Board of Selectmen and former first selectman, strongly believes the spending increase should be approved.

"I think this budget will go through as presented," he said.

'This is as Low as We're Willing to Go' Dennler spotlighted an overall decline in

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RHAM 'Lightning Thief' Comingpg 14
East Hampton EHAA Left Behindpg 22
East Hampton Seniors Present Capstone Projectspg 25

"I don't believe that this is an unrealistic accounting of what we need to spend as a town,"

tion or we're going to have to cut services, but the level of the budget is not sustainable with the services we provide at the moment. That's a decision we have to make as a community."

spending dating back to the pandemic. In his presentation, he stated that the current budget is nearly \$45,000 less than the 2021 spending plan. See Budgetary 'Crossroads', page 7

Hebron
Use It or Lose Itpg 26



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Andover • Andover

From the Superintendent's Desk...

Could it really be April already? This school year has certainly been going quickly and so much has happened at Andover Elementary School. This year has brought many sensational changes. Our enrolled overall has increased as the Town of Andover continues to welcome new young families. Current enrollment includes 220 scholars, our highest since 2016. Since the fall, our preschool has blossomed in numbers.

We welcomed a third class in November bringing our preschool number to from 34 to 45 children and are getting ready to consider a fourth room with a potential anticipated number to grow to 60 little ones for the 2024-25 school year. Preschool is in the middle of NAEYC reaccreditation, and we will be adding kindergarten. This will recognize our play-based learning curriculum program and AES will stand out in the region for its advanced credentials. We are very excited to welcome this expansion. In our other lower grades, we are focused on the Science of Reading and implementing the Book Worms Reading Program in these grades. Staff has been working on professional development and how to integrate this new program with Fundations and other supplemental materials. We continue to meet the needs of all of our learners through remediation and enrichment.

In the upper grades, our cohorting has made a huge difference. WIN (What I Need) blocks address children where they are academically, and the upper grades are thriving. Hilary Boris represented AES at the Spelling Bee and we are very proud of her second-year appearance. We have four inventors from our Invention Convention who will represent AES in the next semifinal round (Weston Loteczka, Olivia Delaware, Lilli Godwin, and Wynston Greenhouse). We have new signage outside to spruce up our lot as well as on the gym to acknowledge our School of Distinction honor for ELA growth in 2023. Lastly, we have been enriching students and families all year with our afterschool program and family engaging activities. From pumpkin carving in October and gingerbread houses in December, to cake wars, paint night, and egg coloring, our families have been a huge part of the school year. We plan on making the final few months even more extraordinary. The state of the school is..... "growing by leaps and bounds" and we couldn't be prouder!!

> Valerie E. Bruneau Andover Superintendent of Schools

Bingo & Baskets

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Baskets night Friday, April 19, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$12 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required. Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for more information.

Collecting for Auction

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

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

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

Preschool Openings

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

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

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

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

Town-Wide

Tag Sale Coming The Andover annual Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, May 19. Proceeds benefit the Andover Senior Luncheon Program. Residents who would like to be included and have their address listed on the tag sale map should send a check for \$10 payable to Town of Andover and mail it or bring it to: Town Clerk, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232. Include a list of items that you will have for sale so it can be included on the map. Send information and payment so that it is received by May 3.

Chili Fest Save the Date

The Andover Democratic Town Commitee will hold the Andover Chili Fest Saturday, May 4, from noon-3 p.m., in the Town Hall community room. All are invited to participate

More details to follow - including prizes and more - but those who already know they're interested in entering a pot of chili for the Chili Fest should contact Elaine Buchardt at ebuchardt@snet.net.

Veterans Meet April 20

The Andover Veterans meeting will be held Saturday, April 20, from 5-7 p.m., in the Town Hall community room. The time change for this month's meeting is due to a conflict in scheduling.

All veterans and currently serving military members are welcome. Spouses/significant others are invited as well. Pizza will be served.

Memorial Day is coming up, so this meeting will be a good time to discuss the event. If you have any questions, contact veterans representatives Susan Camoroda at 703-472-3209 or John Botti at 860-839-3481, or email veterans@andoverct.org.

Kindergarten Registration

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

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

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

April Programs at Library

in.

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, has announced the following programs. For more information, call 860-742-7428.

Cookbook Club: Tuesday, April 16, 5:30 p.m. Recipes of Ree Drummond, the Pioneer Woman, will be featured.

Medicare Seminar: Thursday, April 18, 1-6 p.m. Have questions about life insurance and/ or Medicare? Mark Macrina, a licensed life and Medicare agent from Madison's Senior Health & Retirement Services, will be here to help. You can arrange a one-on-one session or just drop

Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following items have been updated for Andover seniors, veterans, and disabled. If you want to attend any events, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register. Transportation is available for all events. There is shopping on Tuesdays, Foodshare rides bimonthly on Wednesdays, Food Pantry Mondays and Wednesdays, and lunches bi-monthly on Fridays. For all Young at Heart events, including movies, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057, and call Town Clerk Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2 for all trip information. For all senior events and information, visit the senior page of the town website, and overct.org.

Note: Senior transportation calls are now only heard from 9 a.m.-noon, by calling Palazzi. If you call at any other time, leave your name, phone number, date, time and address of your appointment. A return call will be given within 24 hours. Medicals will no longer be available for Tuesdays. They are available for Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Shopping Dates: Manchester: 4/16, 4/30. Willimantic: 4/23. Call Palazzi for transporta-

Congregational Church News

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

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

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m

Sonshine Stampers: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

Scholarship Available for Andover Students

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

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

Application deadlines are May 3.

Rock Painting with Karen Zito: Thursday, April 18, 6 p.m. All are invited.

Page 3

Of Birds & Stars: Tuesday, April 23, 6:30 p.m. Meredith Barges, co-chair of the Lights Out! Connecticut initiative, will present "Of Birds & Stars: Exploring the Wonder of Bird Migration in Connecticut." Learn about the distance journeys they make twice each year to Connecticut, and why they need dark skies to

Senior Luncheon: Friday, April 19 and will feature meatloaf and sides. Call Palazzi for reservations by the previous Wednesday.

Upcoming Trip: Friday, April 19, Legally Blonde at Little Theater of Manchester. Call Carol Lee for more information.

Rides to Food Pantry: The bus is available for the food pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m. Note: If no seniors want to ride senior transportation on Wednesdays to food pantry, those Wednesdays will be eliminated from the driving schedule so that additional medicals can be scheduled. There will still be a bus for Foodshare every other Wednesday. Call Palazzi if you need transportation or have questions about this change in schedule.

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

Vendors, Donations Sought for Tag and Bake Sale

The Andover Senior Lunch Fundraising Committee is in the process of collecting donations for its annual Tag, Vendor and Bake Sale, which will be held Saturday, April 27. The tag sale is a fundraiser for the senior lunch program.

The committee is looking for items to sell. If you have items to donate, they can be brought to the Town Office Building. Call Carol Lee at 860-742-0188 ext. 2 for more information.

Vendors and bakers are also needed for the sale. For information, contact Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122.

Library Friends Scholarship

Andover Friends of the Library is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to an Andover high school senior. Applications are due May 1, and are available at the guidance office at RHAM High School, at the Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6 and on the town website at tinyurl. com/2huzen57.

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

For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428 or email the Friends at andoverfol@ gmail.com.

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- ★ Ladies & Mens Mixed League Thursday Mornings Play begins May 2ⁿ
- * Couples Friday Evenings Starts End of May 5pm Shotgun Start
- * Men's Club Sunday Morning 18 or 9 Holes Play begins April 14th & 21st, stop in pro shop for more info
- * Colchester Senior Center Golf League Starts in May



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NEWS BULLETIN • April 12, 2024

From the Editor's Desk Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Congratulations to the UConn Huskies! Okay, so it wasn't the dual championship like it looked it might be, as the women were sunk by a foul that didn't need to be. (It was a

foul, yes, but with 10 seconds left in a tie game to decide who's going to the championship game, it just felt pretty bogus to call that foul.) But the men won, in what was another dominating performance, a 75-60 victory

dominating performance, a 75-60 victory over the Purdue Boilermakers. It's back-toback championships for the men's Huskies. Very awesome.

As there was last year, there will be a parade in downtown Hartford to celebrate the championship. The festivities will be this Saturday, April 13, Gov. Ned Lamont said in a press release issued Tuesday. Lamont said the State of Connecticut, the City of Hartford, and the Hartford Business Improvement District will host the victory parade and rally.

The parade will begin at 11 a.m. and will step off at the State Capitol building at the intersection of Trinity and Elm streets. From there, it will proceed north on Trinity Street, go through the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch, turn right (east) onto Jewell Street, turn left (north) onto Trumbull Street, and end at the intersection of Asylum and Trumbull streets.

The rally will begin at approximately 11:30 a.m. and will be held outside of the main entrance of the XL Center on Trumbull Street, where the players, coaches, and other guests will be invited to give speeches.

"For the second year in a row, the UConn men's basketball team wowed the nation by dominating the NCAA tournament, and now it's time for Connecticut to give them the victory celebration they deserve," Lamont said in the press release. "I urge basketball fans from all over Connecticut to come to Hartford on Saturday morning and show the Huskies how much this team means to our state and how proud we are of their accomplishments."

I went to last year's victory rally, and it was a lot of fun. I'd encourage all of you to come out to Hartford on Saturday to celebrate with the Huskies.

Longtime Colchester residents might remember the name of Marc Petruzzi, who for a time was the town's resident state trooper supervisor. I've met Petruzzi in the past – and actually went to high school with his sister – and he was a nice guy. Always very professional as well; a pleasure to work with.

So I was happy to see Petruzzi back in the news recently, as the Vernon Town Council unanimously appointed him that town's chief of police. He replaces John Kelley, who retired earlier this year.

According to the Journal Inquirer, which reported on the new hire, Petruzzi had spent **Editor's Desk continued on page 6**

Bulletin Board

Assuming that the recent solar eclipse is a celestial sign from the Great Whomever that we are rapidly approaching the End Times (just in case floods, fires, wars, mass starvation and pestilence haven't been persuasive enough), my thoughts this week turned once again to Trappist-1.

Trappist-1, as you may recall if you are an astronomy nerd or spend your Saturday nights alone with 1,763 cable TV channels and nothing to watch, is a solar system discovered a few years ago by a bunch of astronomers in Chile. Located "just 39 light years away," the system contains seven warm, "Earthlike" planets, all of which may contain water, revolving around what astronomers insensitively describe as a "dwarf star sun," which they have dubbed Trappist-1. (Hey, at least they didn't go to extremes with the dwarf thing and name it Dopey-6 or Sneezy-3 or something.)

Incidentally, if you're really into this kind of stuff, or (more likely) you think I'm making it all up, you can actually buy a genuine canvas print online depicting Trappist-1 glowing redly on its seven planets, all lined up in front like a bunch of marbles, for a mere \$87.20. If you want a frame, that's another \$71. I'd post a picture but they've watermarked this Mona Lisa of celestial art about a thousand times with a CANVAS stamp lest someone (like me, for instance) try to download it for free and hang it in my living room over the couch next to my painting of "Dogs Playing Poker."

Not to continue to digress (too far), but I initially thought the Trappist-1 title for this solar system—and potential Eden—might be based on some obscure religious Trappist monk reference or allusion, which, to my mind, would add an alluring air of mystery to the place. Alas, a quick Google search reveals that the name is based on the telescope they used to discover the thing, an instrument named "the Transiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope" (TRAPPIST). Leave it to a scientist to name a sun after a telescope. As for me, I haven't been so unimpressed with an acronym since I found out that "NSF" on my checks stands for Insufficient Funds.

Anyway, the way things are going on Earth these days—and the growing need for an exit strategy that doesn't involve blowing your brains out—the fortuitous discovery of potentially Earthlike planets is encouraging. It's a lot like hearing from the comely widow next door that you can live over her garage until your soon-to-be ex-wife gets tired of knocking holes in your bass boat with a fire axe.

But don't pack your suitcase just yet. The bad news is that while astronomers may consider 39 light years a mere hop down to the corner Radio Shack for some arcane electrical component, from a practical standpoint, there's one small problem: our ability to travel at the speed of light is about the same as our ability to cure baldness or to have a civil conversation about politics, or manufacture an airbag that won't decapitate you when you run into a nearsighted moose on the highway.

We just can't seem to do it.

The upshot is that light travels about 5.88 trillion miles in a light year. So 39 light years would have you traveling about 229.32 trillion miles, which, by way of comparison, is about the number of times in a week that the average U.S. political candidate refers to people as folks" in an effort to persuade us that he's really just one of us before heading o about income inequality at a \$25,000-a-plate fundraising dinner with "folks" who aren't any more like "us" than he is. But to get back to the stars and the bitter cold of deep space as opposed to the bitter cold of political hypocrisy .. To put this 39 light years scenario another way (if I understand this correctly, which is probably optimistic), light travels at roughly 1,012 miles per second. Assuming a typical U.S. highway speed limit of 65 mph, which translates to roughly 95 feet per second, driving my Volvo station wagon to this newfound solar system would take me ... well, longer than the warranty on the car, that's for sure. Science nerds who are now shaking their heads over my mixing of time as distance and distance as distance or distance as time, please ... no letters. I freely admit that while I know what I want to say, I have no idea what I'm talking about. This will presumably come as no great shock to regular readers of this column. The point is, folks, despite the promising discovery of Trappist-1, we seem to be stuck here with each other for the foreseeable future. So let's try to get along, shall we? And, please, no snobby phone calls from Lexus owners bragging that you'd leave my tired old Volvo in the stardust in any race to a far off galaxy. At least my Volvo's paid for.



Funds for a Cause... Members of the East Hampton Youth Football & Cheerleading Association recently presented a check to the Sandy Peszynski Foundation from funds they raised during their 2023 season. Pictured are, front row, Emily Johnson, Lillian Malatesta, Bryce Pinney, Kenna Sayers, Brylie Pinney; back row, Ryder Bonin, Mason Seaman, David Johnson, Jill Peszynski, Brody Pinney, Evan Yacono, Mark Marozzi.

Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Thank You, Campagna

To the Editor:

My husband and I were featured in *Where in the World is the Rivereast?* We recently went to Campagna Restaurant in Portland to eat and redeem our certificate. The food was delicious. The service was marvelous. We wanted you and your readers to know of our experience. We recommend that people visit and dine at Campagna Restaurant.

Roy and Betty Jane Harrington – East Hampton

Thank You, Poll Workers To the Editor:

As Head Moderator, I would to recognize the diligence and collegiality of all the Poll Workers and thank them for their efforts over a very long Presidential Primary Day. Their day started well before the first vote was cast and continued after the polls closed to ensure that everyone eligible to vote was able to do so and that each of those votes was counted.

A thank you as well to each voter who cast a ballot during Connecticut's first Early Voting period or on Primary Day itself. It was humbling and gratifying to witness your commitment to our democracy.

Repectfully, Stan Soby – Colchester

Budget Hearing

To the Editor:

The Marlborough Board of Finance will hold a 2024-25 budget public hearing at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School Cafeteria, 25 School Drive, on Monday, April 15, at 7 p.m. You can also log in and participate virtually on Zoom.

At this point we are looking at an 8.92% tax increase bringing with it an additional 3.10 mills tagged on to our mill rate.

So, I suggest you follow the budget process closely. Please attend the public hearing on April 15 and be prepared to vote on the budget at the referendum on May 7.

Ken Hjulstrom - Marlborough

Some Basic Numbers

To the Editor:

As we prepare to vote on a budget in a difficult season, some confusion and controversy remains surrounding the numbers that resulted in a big potential tax increase for our town, and the transparency with which some of the procedures and the numbers themselves were derived.

Limiting my comments to the elementary school budget and the manner in which additional administrators and personnel were added, here is some context to ponder.

It is only fair to compare our elementary

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News Bulletin

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Jim Hallas

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Reader Forum • Reader • F

school with other relatively small elementary schools, of pre-K through 6, or K-6 enrollment. Data from 2022-23 show that there are 52 such schools in Connecticut, with fewer than 500 students. Of the 52 schools, per pupil expenditures range from \$11,916 to \$27,569. Marlborough is the 12th highest PPE. At the same time, it is 6th lowest percent of high needs students. Given this current data, our new top-heavy administration numbers, newly-added staff and already-excellent ratio of professional support people, our PPE will be even closer to the top of the column! And no, the other 52 schools don't divide their small student population among two full-time, top-of-the-scale principals along with a half-time special ed director. These data and more are available to the interested citizen, which should have included Board of Ed and Board of Finance members, whose role was to question and provide due diligence, at EdSight, Ct.Gov's official website.

Our children will not be better served by a top heavy administration and more aides. However, we will all be better served with safe roads, fewer potholes, up to date culverts, and an up to date, electrically sound HVAC system in town hall. We must budget responsibly for a whole town.

Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

Nov. 5 Deciding Factors?

Come Nov. 5, the presidential vote may well be decided by choosing between Easter as the Transgender Day of Visibility, or Easter as Resurrection Day.

> Peter Kushkowski "Almost Heaven" Portland

Remember in November

To the Editor:

"Donald Trump took credit for the elimination of Roe v. Wade, embracing his role in selecting the Supreme Court justices who were instrumental in ending the half-century precedent that protected abortion rights nationwide. 'After 50 years of failure, with nobody coming even close, I was able to kill Roe v. Wade, much to the "shock" of everyone,' Trump, the former president and front-runner for the 2024 Republican nomination, said on his social media platform. Trump said his actions have 'put the Pro-Life movement in a strong negotiating position' against proponents of abortion rights, giving himself credit for the various bans that are being advanced by conservatives across the country. More than a dozen states have enacted abortion limits since Roe was overturned [in June 2022]. 'Without me there would be no 6 weeks, 10 weeks, 15 weeks, or whatever is finally agreed to. Without me the pro-life movement would have just kept losing,' Trump added. (NBC News, May 17, 2023)

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Snopes for Dopes

To the Editor:

Claim: Snopes is an unbiased source for debunking fake news. Rating: False

Although Snopes was founded by the married couple David Mikkelson and Barbara Hamel to debunk urban myths, it didn't take long for life to imitate art. While Snopes began as a hobby, it soon turned into a viral sensation as people used its "fact-checked" proclamations to assert the validity of their claims during pissing contests. A few good years of corporate growth and advertising sales were rapidly eclipsed by the scandal of Mikkelson embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars to hire prostitutes, go on lavish dates, float the divorce proceedings with his ex-wife, and bring his new wife – Elyssa Young (former prostitute/porn actress) on a honeymoon. Upon their return, Young was hired as a paid employee. or "unproven" when they are inconvenient to the government assigned narrative.

Today Snopes is owned by two people, Drew Schoentrup and Chris Richmond. They publish hard-hitting truths like this one, posted April 3, 2024: "Sugar Causes Hyperactivity in Children?" Rating: False.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

AARP Tax Thanks To the Editor:

This year, I leveraged the free AARP Tax Program at Hebron's Russell Mercier Senior Center for my mom's taxes. It was our first time using the program and I have to say that the entire process was easy-peasy; and yes it is really free!! With mom having Alzheimer's and the managing of her finances falling to me; I leveraged the program to lessen my own stress during tax time. I called, set up an appointment; filled out the intake form; bundled up all of mom's documents; checked in; reviewed the specifics with one of the tax preparers; answered some questions before a second tax preparer confirmed the information; then was done! It was worth the wait in the sitting area.

Thank you to AARP for providing the tools and the resources for such a great program and to the Hebron Senior Center for providing the sign up process and the space to host the program. And a big thank you to those that volunteer to help the program! Job well done!!!

With peace and kindness, Tonya Maurer – Hebron

Note: Maurer is chair of the Hebron Commission on Aging, but said she is writing as an individual.

Just for the Record To the Editor:

As defined by Webster's Dictionary, there are four definitions for a bully:

(1) archaic: a cutthroat – thug.

(2) person who hurts, frightens, threatens, or tyrannizes over those who are smaller or weaker.

(3) bullying – to act the bully toward force (a person) into doing something by threatening loudly, browbeat.

Do you know anyone like that... or does those things? Would you want him as your friend? Would you vote for him or her?

(4) Bully – canned or corned beef. It's your choice.

Ralph Bianco – Colchester

Early Voting a Success To the Editor:

The very first Early Voting session for the presidential preference primary was a great success here in Marlborough. It took the efforts and diligence of many people to make it work. A huge thank you to Ann Kilby, our Democratic registrar, and Michele Anne Kacy, our new Republican register, for working hard to enact and uphold the state requirements for Early Voting.

Several people gave up their spare time to work long days (in an unheated building due to the HVAC work) at the Early Voting polls. Public Works and the Town Hall staff were helpful to the entire process.

And finally, it wouldn't have been a success if no one took advantage of the Early Voting opportunity; many thanks to those who did.

Sincerely, Lauren A. Griffin Marlborough Town Clerk

EHAA Support

and there on nights and weekends to get in my hours. It was a different time than now – people were dedicated to helping out neighbors without any compensation. Something I learned from my WWII-era parents and through Boy Scouts where part of the Boy Scout motto is "To help other people at all times."

As the old-timers retired from the East Hampton ambulance there were less and less people to fill the schedule and we relied on a handful of EMTs to go on most of the calls. Some went on 300+ calls per year. And there were less and less new volunteers coming in. Then came COVID – requiring the EMTs to be fully suited in Tyvek from top to bottom on every call. We had even less people volunteering to do that job.

Today, there are very few pure volunteer EMT organizations in Connecticut. Almost all have some variation of pay for its members. In East Hampton, there are still several fully volunteering EMTs. But most are paid either by hour or by call. Now, our schedule is completely staffed and ready to go to help those in need 24/7.

I am asking the Board of Finance and Town Council to support the East Hampton Ambulance Association so we can continue to help the citizens of East Hampton when they need it most.

> Thank you, Mark Kimball, EMT East Hampton Ambulance Association

Please Attend Public Hearing To the Editor:

The Hebron Board of Education appreciates the spirit of collaboration demonstrated by the Board of Finance at their April 2 meeting, where they unanimously approved our proposed budget to go forward to public hearing. This decision preserves current class sizes and programming for all children in the Hebron Public Schools. We deeply appreciate the Board of Finance's recognition of this important and highly valued resource in our community. We would also like to thank all Hebron students, families, staff, and community members who engaged in the budget process with us this season.

We ask that you please continue to make your voices heard at the public hearing on April 16 at 7 p.m. at the Douglas Library. We have heard consistently from families that preserving class size is a top priority; a significant reduction to our budget would likely impact the number of sections we can offer across the grades next year. Immediately following the public hearing is when the final decision on budget totals will be decided before going to referendum. We ask that you attend this meeting and make your support of our proposed budget heard so that we can move forward to a successful referendum for our schools and town.

Thank you, Hebron Board of Education Members: Heather Petit, Joseph Margaitis, Sera Coppolino, Kim Hills, Eleisha LeMay, Nicole Matthews,

Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl

Historically Speaking

To the Editor:

If you want to capture someone's attention, whisper. If you want to be divisive, demean local heritage, but beware, blood is thicker than water. Historically, New Englanders are a tightknit crew. Many families have been rooted here for generations and share similar bloodlines. Others, simply fall in love with the area. It can be very charming. Once this region gets under your skin, you may find yourself joining the lowel historical projects. and in the placing of every stone. I recently over heard someone say that New Englanders want New England to look like New England and I could not agree more. Our landscapes are our heritage, our roots, our traditions and our values. These speak volumes of who we are as a culture. From trees to post and beam structures, crackling wood stoves, stone foundations and clear starry nights, we are a proud and hearty lot who strive for democracy and self reliance. My father was quite a New England character himself. He kept books, not about governments designed to dictate, but books to enrich our lives. *Connecticut Doorways*, by Amelia F. Miller, was one of his favorites.

You don't know people until you walk a mile in their shoes. It would be disadvantageous to snub our region's rich history. However, by "donning your wellies" and walking a mile with us, on muddy trails, over roots and ruts, you may find that inconvenient pile of rubble, is really an old family legend or a "small point of pride." Tread lightly as we wouldn't want to crush the delicate moss or crocuses now in bloom. Historically speaking, they bring us hope for softer days. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Stay Engaged To the Editor:

In 2016, I filed formal complaints with the Portland Ethics Commission on five members of various town boards that either voted for the Brainerd Place project or endorsed the project as a town representative during PZC hearings. These board/commission members did not disclose their prior involvement with the Elmcrest Advisory Council, which had put them in direct contact with the developer of Brainerd Place. While these volunteers may have had Portland's best interest in mind, their predispositions compromised the zone- and site-approval process.

Instead of talking about the prospect of 238 apartments during the PZC meeting, and the impact that would have in Portland, the discussion was mostly about restoring historic homes and tax breaks. Many supported Brainerd Place for two reasons: the restoration of old homes and the desire for a mixed use development. As I told my fellow PZC members at the time, we will get neither. Any proposal for additional apartments, no matter what else is "promised" in exchange for that, should be denied.

Portland residents need to stay engaged in any future PZC meetings, or BOS meetings regarding any tax abatement for Brainerd Place.

Mike Woronoff – Portland

Getting Away with Murder To the Editor:

I recently read in a Hartford newspaper that an illegal immigrant that was deported two years ago after serving a 7 year prison sentence for attempting to murder someone had re-entered our country again. (Joe Biden welcomes all that wish to enter our country.) Go ask someone that has lost a family member or friend if they think a seven-year imprisonment, with free meals, free medical and free air conditioning, is adequate punishment? The only adequate punishment is the murderer's life!

An eye for an eye and death for a death. If you think that this is too severe and we should forgive them for what they have done, I say, tell them "You are forgiven," as you pull the lever. If he and all those that attempt to kill someone were given the electric chair immediately after being found guilty, that would save a lot of innocent people from being killed. If a person knows that a quick death was guaranteed immediately after being found guilty, some will think twice before killing again.

After the couple's divorce, a disgusted Hamel sold her 50% claim in Snopes to Proper Media for \$3.6 million.

Soon afterward Mikkelson and Proper Media began to butt heads and a lawsuit was filed alleging that Mikkelson attempted to gain, through conspiracy, a controlling interest of the business, had tried to block Proper Media from its share of profits, and misused corporate funds for personal expenses. Mikkelson, cut off from corporate coffers, used crowdfunding to raise \$600,000 to help with his legal troubles. It was also discovered that Mikkelson had plagiarized at least 54 articles during his "journalistic endeavors."

Thankfully Mikkelson and Snopes have parted ways and Snopes has played a crucial role, along with Facebook, in helping to censor stories and stifle dissent by labeling them as "false" To the Editor:

I've lived in East Hampton for 38 years and been an EMT with the East Hampton Ambulance for 17 years.

It's always been a requirement to put in 24 hours each month to maintain your EMT skills and fill the schedule so an EMT team is ready to go when help is needed. When I started it was actually difficult to find 24 open hours in the schedule since there were so many dedicated volunteers in town. So I put in 3 hours here

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Frank Blume - Colchester





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Editor's Desk continued from page 4

the last year and a half as the deputy police chief in Wethersfield. Before that, the Glastonbury resident spent 22 years with the Connecticut State Police - including, as I said, a stint as Colchester's resident trooper supervisor. He served in the role from 2011-2013.

Petruzzi eventually reached the rank of captain with the state police, before moving on to Wethersfield.

According to the Journal Inquirer, Petruzzi said he chose to apply for the Vernon position based on the dedication of the town's officers and his familiarity with the area - both through his time in the Connecticut State Police and growing up in South Windsor while his mother worked at Rockville General Hospital.

Petruzzi said he hopes to make the town's police department "the finest" in the state.

"My ultimate goal is to have [residents'] first experience with a police officer not be in a moment of crisis," Petruzzi said. "Unfortunately, we're going to have to show up at times that are the worst moments in their

Vernon Town Administrator Michael Purcaro told the Journal Inquirer "Marc brings a wealth of experience, leadership, and management in law enforcement to the Town of Vernon. To me, the one thing that sticks out is his commitment to community engagement and customer service."

Purcaro said Petruzzi will bring a "fresh perspective" to the department and help advocate for the local law enforcement community.

So, congratulations to Petruzzi on a great next step on what's been a very accomplished career.

Have a great week - and don't forget to check out the UConn parade!

♦ Happenings

HOPE AFTER LOSS GROUP TriCircle support groups provide a safe, confidential, and supportive environment after having a loved one(s) die from a drug/alcohol related passing. Every three weeks 6-7:30pm. Every Monday rotating in 3 locations. Virtual option available. www.tricircle.org 860-349-7074 ana@tricircle.org

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

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* Budgetary 'Crossroads' cont. from page 1

Some areas of the current fiscal year were underrepresented or inaccurately budgeted, according to Dennler. He provided numerous examples of items, including police benefits and FICA calculations, that wrongly reflected actual costs.

Other areas, such as several town contracts, were not properly accounted for in the current spending plan, Dennler said.

In addition to correcting financial errors, the first selectman reinstated funding that was trimmed entering the current fiscal year, including Youth and Social Services programming, the Cragin Library book budget and the Highway Department equipment rental fund.

Those cuts, Dennler said, were either "not the right decision for the town" or "not realistic."

Moving forward, the BOF will likely examine each town department to fully understand why their individual budgets are climbing. Police (+\$207,601) and Fire (+\$157,532) are two areas slated for significant surges.

Public Works, overall, is increasing by a total of \$569,617, represented by Highway (+\$179,873), Grounds Maintenance (+\$143,325), Facilities (+\$121,576), Transfer Station (+\$68,457) and Fleet Maintenance (+\$56,386).

An approved collective bargaining agreement between the town and Municipal Employees Union "Independent" MEUI Local 506, SEIU, AFL-CIO, CLC representing Transfer Station, Grounds, Highway, Fleet and Facility Maintenance, and Water Department Employees will increase labor costs by \$113,000 in 2024-25. Even with the pay bump, Public Works Director Joseph Leone said Colchester's wages will not be competitive until the 2026-27 fiscal year. At the moment, he said roughly 90% of neighboring towns can beat Colchester's compensation.

Last month, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) signed off an overarching proposal that would address shortfalls in the Public Works department for the upcoming fiscal year. Dennler included the funding in the budget proposal, including three part-time seasonal employees (\$53,568) who would specifically work at the town's recreation complex.

The fresh funding for materials and staff to maintain recreational assets represents the largest financial commitment the town has taken following widespread community feedback regarding the condition of local fields. Last July, the BOS approved \$250,000 to install field irrigation at the town's recreation complex, although that project was paid for by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

"I think the outpouring of community support that we've seen for this subject over the last several months demonstrates that this is a need for our community," Dennler said.

Leone passionately advocated for the field maintenance funding, rhetorically asking during the public hearing: "What is our solution here?"

"Do you reduce the number of practices and games on our fields, taking playing time from our kids and dooming them to be uncompetitive? Or do we fund these fields used by thousands of families every year?"

Multiple local sports leaders have identified the state of the fields as a safety risk that can cause injuries — something Leone said was unacceptable.

"The town cannot be responsible for affecting someone's life in this way due to the poor condition of our fields," he asserted.

While the public works budget alone would

cially fund a deputy director of finance. In January, the BOS actually created the position and appointed Michelle Marceau — an accountant for Colchester Public Schools. She immediately took over as acting director of finance after Mary Williamson was placed on paid administrative leave.

Following the disbandment of the joint school-town finance office roughly two years ago, the town has spent over \$150,000 on outside help, but has still fallen behind. The finance department now faces serious pressure to complete the 2022-2023 financial audit report — which was originally due Dec. 31 — but, the town was granted a six-month extension. Failure to meet that deadline may result in state oversight, according to a warning issued by the Office of Policy and Management.

Without the audit complete, Dennler said the town cannot bond for its senior center and fire apparatus debt, which costs additional taxpayer money.

"We're prolonging the time that we are paying interest," he said. "It means the net-cost to all of us over the life of paying for these projects is more than it would've been."

Simultaneously, the town also cannot take on any new debt for a large project, such as a potentially massive overhaul of the Bacon Academy athletic complex.

"We need to get our financial house in order," Dennler said.

The first selectman proposed a flat debt service plan this fiscal year, which requires BOS and BOF approval, that would mitigate the budget request.

Amassing community support has been difficult in previous budget cycles. In 2022, when putting together the 2022-23 fiscal year, the town budget took four referendums to be approved by residents, extending the process into November — over four months into the fiscal year it funded.

"I know sometimes this process gets heated, especially in challenging years like this one, but I ran saying that we would bring civility back to our town government and I am committed to holding through to that in this budget process," Dennler said.

School Budget

While the Board of Education shifted a few expenses throughout the school budget proposal last month, it adopted the same bottom-line total originally recommended by Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III.

During the public hearing, Sullivan expressed that the 2024-25 spending plan "includes nothing new," and is largely a status-quo budget, apart from a new teacher at Jack Jackter Intermediate School and the transition of two registered behavioral technicians — who were both currently being funded through an (ARPA) grant — into the operational budget.

Sullivan said the school district was "maintaining our obligations" and "working to put forth the same level of programming we have right now, which I think based upon the academic performances is a good return on investment for the community."

What is perhaps more noteworthy, however, is what isn't in the school budget. Several topics, mainly focusing around Bacon Academy, have generated both excitement and questions throughout the community.

Earlier this year, Colchester administrators unveiled a comprehensive proposal that would create a new magnet school program in the district. The Board of Education also solicited a presentation regarding a compressive overhaul of the high school's athletic complex, which could cost up to \$7.5 million. "We are not asking for one dollar to address any of those," Sullivan conveyed. "None of those are things that we're talking about in the budget. This isn't the time or the place to talk about our fields. This is not the time or place to talk about facilities or the magnet program." Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional

From the State Senator's Desk

Happy Spring! After a wet winter, it's nice to finally see the sun shining and temperatures rising as flowers grow and trees bloom. However, while this season comes with plenty of benefits, it also brings pesky nuisances – bugs are populating our gardens and forests once again.

There are several insects that we need to watch for in Connecticut, and one of the most important is the spotted lanternfly. The spotted lanternfly is an invasive species with the potential to cause serious damage if it spreads further – it reproduces rapidly and has infested much of the northeast. The lanternfly poses a serious threat to state agriculture, especially fruit crops, as it will eat through many plants. To stop its further spread, experts strongly recommend killing these insects on sight – they resemble moths or butterflies with distinctive black-spotted wings, and their eggs often resemble white patches on trees. Keep your eyes out, as preventing their further spread will help our state's ecological systems.

Another common spring pest is the stink bug, which can be particularly pesky if they get into a home or residence. The bugs are usually large and brown, their backs resembling shields, and if you crush them or spook them, they earn their name, disseminating a foul-smelling substance that can be hard to clean or get rid of quickly. If one gets into your home, be sure to try and capture it without startling it, releasing it outside where it won't bother you.

Perhaps the most dangerous, and most important, insect to watch for is the tick, which can carry any number of diseases, and which we know carries Lyme disease, so named as it was originally discovered in Lyme. Ticks can be pervasive outdoors, especially in wooded and forest areas, and can cling to clothing. If they bite, they can be hard to find, and they can transmit disease that may not show symptoms for a while. To prevent such a frustrating experience, be sure to wear long sleeves when outdoors, especially when hiking or spending time in tick-heavy environments. It's also important to use insect repellent that targets ticks, as well as to check your body and shower after returning home; ticks are notorious hitchhikers.

Please enjoy your spring, but do so safely and responsibly; especially with pesky bugs in mind. Monitoring for lanternflies, stink bugs and ticks can keep both your home and family and our state's agriculture safe from disruption.

State Sen. Norm Needleman D-33rd District

Note: The 12-town 33rd State Senatorial District includes Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.

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***** Brainerd Place cont. from page 1

marketable than the previous plan. In a letter, the company said "The demand for retail, office and medical space in Portland is in the 2,500 to 5,000 sq. ft. range. The spaces being offered for lease are more aligned with active requirements in the market."

After Bertram's presentation, other members of his team were going to speak but were ultimately cut short by Olson because they were straying away from the criteria of the text amendment. Olson reminded the developers that they were looking at the number of apartments, not the design changes for specific buildings.

ings. "I am really trying to inform people the whys of this and I feel like the process is a little bit getting in the way. But we are trying to make our best case of why we did all this to analyze a way forward," said Bertram. After some back and forth between the commission's members and Bertram, he requested a moment to confer with his team. At that time, one resident disturbed the otherwise civil meeting but was quickly told to wait his turn for public comment.

When granted his request, Bertram talked with his counsel for about four minutes and went back to the podium to apologize for how the presentation was not entirely on course.

"We've done a huge amount of work to propose something that we think will be fantastic for Portland and we want to present that," Bertram said. He then announced that with disagreements among council, the developers would withdraw the application regarding an increase of apartments.

Bertram's announcement was shortened with cheering and clapping from the audience; however, Bertram noted they will be back to present. "We will resume this in another forum with the ground rules a little more worked out so we can give a coherent presentation," he said.

On It. Ending racial injustice requires all of us

to work together and take real action. What can *you* do to help?



Educate yourself about the history of American racism, privilege and what it means to be anti-racist.

significantly expand the overall spending plan, Leone conveyed that his department already nixed several areas, pleading with the BOF not to make further reductions.

"This is as low as we're willing to go," he said. "Everything that we've asked for has a safety reason of an employee, an adult or a child in this town behind it."

Dennler recommended that the town offi-





Commit to actions that challenge injustice and make everyone feel like they belong, such as challenging biased or racist language when you hear it.



Vote in national and local elections to ensure your elected officials share your vision of public safety.



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



Let's come together to take action against racism and fight for racial justice for the Black community. Visit lovehasnolabels.com/fightforfreedom



$Marlborough \bullet Marlborough \bullet$

From the Town Manager's Desk

Each year, the Board of Finance convenes a public hearing to present the annual budget and take questions from taxpayers. This year, the public hearing is scheduled on Monday, April 15, at 7 p.m., at the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria. I encourage everyone to attend.

In other important news, after qualifying for bronze certification last fall, the all-volunteer Sustainable Marlborough team continues to work toward the next level (silver) certification from Sustainable CT, a nonprofit organization that awards grants to support initiatives around environmental stewardship and healthy communities. The Sustainable Marlborough team has focused on issues like pollinator gardens, community health and wellness, and composting.

Sustainable Marlborough's focus on composting responds to a need to identify and implement cost-effective solutions to reduce the amount of waste shipped out-of-state. The 2022 closure of a trash-burning plant in Hartford coupled with the large volume of waste generated across the state means that, according to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Connecticut residents pay to transport 860,000 tons of waste to landfills in other states.

The financial cost of the current system is a burden on everyone. Whether you use the transfer station or pay for a private hauler, your taxes pay for the disposal of waste processed through the transfer station. Tipping fees - charged based on the weight of the waste - have nearly doubled in the past 10 years. We can reasonably expect these fees to continue to increase.

So, what can we do? Organic waste - like food scraps and yard waste - is estimated to be 20-30% of municipal solid waste and is heavier than other forms of waste. Diverting organic waste from the waste stream into a lower-cost disposal option that creates reusable compost and/ or renewable energy is a viable alternative. The Sustainable Marlborough team is working on bringing composting to town. I encourage residents to attend the Sustainable Marlborough/ DEEP composting forum on Tuesday, April 30, at 7 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria to learn more.

David Porter Marlborough Town Manager

Cemetery Spring Clean-Up

The annual cemetery spring clean up is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, at Marlboro Cemetery. Volunteers are invited to participate and are asked to meet at 9 a.m.

Residents are asked to remove any personal

items and holiday decorations prior to the

clean up. All items found to be in violation of

cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance

45 I

to maintenance will be removed. These items include shepherd hooks, glass objects, items hanging from trees, pots, or items beyond the front of the stone.

Consult the town's website, www.marlboroughct.net, for a complete listing of regulations (select "sexton and cemeteries) from the menu.

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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. -- and entries are due nedxt week.

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,

nual Pancake Breakfast Sunday, April 21. The

breakfast is being planned for both dine-in and

take-out and will be held at the East Glaston-

bury Fish and Game Club on Planeta Road in

Marlborough, which is located off of West Road

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,

just east of Exit 12 from Route 2.

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.

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.

Lions Pancake Breakfast The Marlborough Lions Club will hold its an-

and juice.

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.

Local businesses are invited to sponsor the event for \$25

For more 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.

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, April 15: 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: orange juice, cheesy vegetable lasagna with vodka sauce, squash medley, dinner roll, wholegrain fruit bar; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; Setback, 3-4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16: 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 17: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-ball pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: turkey stew with potatoes, peas, carrots, garlic knot, fresh fruit; Setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-6 p.m.; Parks & Recreation Commission, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 18: Cemetery Committee, 9 a.m.; Parkinson's Disease Exercise, 3-4 p.m., Commission on Aging. 4-5 p.m.; EDC, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 19: 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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

Marlborough • Marlborough

Once in a Lifetime' Solar Eclipse

By Michael Sinkewicz

Although they're nearly 93 million miles apart, every now and then the sun aligns perfectly with the earth and moon to create a truly remarkable celestial event: a total solar eclipse.

On Monday, most of America was able to observe some form of the eclipse, although Connecticut was outside the coveted path of totality, which witnessed the most striking and unique visual spectacular.

Many local residents still embraced the chance to safety behold the silhouette of the moon as is methodically slid across the sun, slightly dimming the sky for a brief period.

This reporter eagerly donned a pair of eclipse glasses and gazed up to see over 90% of the sun blacked out — an impressive spectacle, and a humbling reminder of one's place in the universe.

But despite being a unique astronomical phenomenon, the temperature didn't seem to change; the sky didn't suddenly blanket the town in darkness; and, as far as I know, animals didn't appear to act up more than usual.

However, all of that did happen in East Burke, a small town in Caledonia County, Vt., with a population of roughly 130 people. That's where

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.

Community Invited to Monthly Sings

On the first Friday of each month, from 7-9 p.m., the group "Marlborough Sings!" meets in the upstairs lounge at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 S. Main St. The free monthly sing-alongs are hosted by Seat of our Pants member Carolyn Brodginski. All are welcome. Songs come from many genres, including

Broadway, folk/Americana, oldies, rock, country and more. Chords are included on each song for anyone who would like to bring a guitar or other instrument to help accompany the group.

For more information, contact the church office at 860-295-9050 or office@marlcongchurch.org.

Native American Storytelling

The RHAM Middle School Inquiry Academy will hold a presentation of Native American storytelling and Indigenous art at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St., Marlborough, on Saturday, April 20, from noon-3 p.m.

Native American children's stories will be read from noon-1 p.m. Presentations on Indigenous art and essays on native oral traditions will continue from 1-2 p.m. and there will be an open gallery of student art from 2-3 p.m. On display will be student examples of Molas, an artistic tradition of the Kuna people of Panama, as well as Boruca masks from Costa Rica.



Marlborough resident, and Rivereast advertisement representative, Jason Baran trekked up a mountain with his wife to view the cosmos.

Unlike his hometown, East Burke - where his friends own property — was in the path of totality and would be subjected to the full solar eclipse treatment.

They traveled up on Sunday for what Baran billed as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." According to NASA, the next the next total solar eclipse that can be seen from the contiguous United States won't be until August 2044 - and there won't be a total one that be can be seen from New England until 2079. So that means that, for many, this was their best chance to see history

While the exact locations along the path of totality are known well in advance and mathematically guaranteed, the weather is not, and some spots were unlucky. Leading up to the big day, meteorologists offered their best predictions and signaled where across North America the festivities would be spared from dreaded cloud cover.

"It was just a beautiful, sunny day," Baran said. "No clouds - it was amazing."

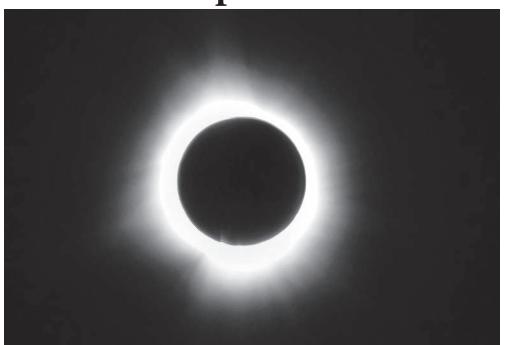
As the crucial moment approached, he played Pink Floyd's album "The Dark Side of the Moon" to further enhance the experience. Looking up, Baran could see the moon slowly reaching it's

East Catholic Honor Roll

The following Marlborough residents made the East Catholic High School honor roll for the third marking period of the 2023-24 school year:

Honors with Distinction: Kamden Bevans and Lucy DeCorleto, Class of 2026; Grace Veltri, '25; Christopher Richard and Luke Veltri, [•]24

First Honors: Kalli Bevans, '27.



For Marlborough resident, and Rivereast employee, Jason Baran, Monday's solar eclipse was a "once-in-a-lifetime" event. Like many others in the Nutmeg State, Baran and his family trekked up to Vermont to catch the celestial spectacle - which Baran's wife Robin documented in this photograph.

destination: 90% covered... 95%... 99%...

"Boom, like a switch, it got dark," Baran expressed. "It was the most surreal thing."

His wife took pictures with a special lens of the moment of totality, a period that lasted roughly three minutes, as the glow of the corona dazzled those below. Baran believes the temperate slightly dipped, but what he found most interesting was the immediate reaction from the wildlife.

Before the eclipse began, it was still and calm,

but as it culminated, the hoots of owls filled the air, adding to the bizarreness of the event.

Baran conveyed that seeing the eclipse was something he wanted to do and he knew exactly where he needed to be in order to fully enjoy the moment. Still, even when you're prepared, it's hard to describe the actual impact of a solar eclipse.

Without a doubt, his trip was worthwhile.

"It was emotional," he conveyed. "It was perfect."



Town of Marlborough 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

	2021/2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2022/2023 APPROVED BUDGET	2023/2024 APPROVED BUDGET	2024/2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	\$ INC./DEC.
REVENUE:					
STATE OF CT – EDUCATION (ECS)	\$ 2,902,339	\$2,902,339			-
STATE OF CT	\$ 86,472	96,497	556,341	420,635	5 (\$135,706)
LOCAL	\$ 349,800	378,800	488,800	508,800	\$20,000
TRANSFER FROM OTHER TOWN FUNDS	\$ 399,157	415,919	486,426	477,373	3 (\$9,053)
USE OF UNASSIGNED TOWN FUND BALANCE	\$ 540,189	850,000	778,393	650,000) (\$128,393)
BACK TAXES	\$ 110,000	112,777	110,000	150,000	\$40,000
TAX LEVY	\$ 21,671,852	22,009,732	21,722,895	22,907,747	7 \$1,184,852
TOTAL REVENUE	 \$26,059,809	\$26,766,064	\$27,094,944	\$28,066,644	\$971,700
EXPENSE:					
RHAM OPERATING	\$ 10,956,834	\$10,777,357	\$11,061,318	\$11,444,219	\$382,901
RHAM CAPITAL	\$ 108,120	182,672	195,568	182,768	3 (\$12,800)
AUDIT SURPLUS	\$ (259,276)	(15,899)	0	(300,122)) (\$300,122)
RHAM TOTAL	\$ 10,805,678	10,944,130	11,256,886	11,326,865	69,979
LOCAL BOE OPERATIONS	\$ 7,829,221	8,046,932	8,434,685	8,664,081	L 229,396
LOCAL BOE CAPITAL	\$ 20,000	230,000	85,000	75,000) (10,000)
LOCAL BOE TOTAL	\$ 7,849,221	8,276,932	8,519,685	8,739,081	L 219,396
TOWN OPERATIONS	\$ 5,308,421	5,560,921	6,215,180	6,304,880	89,700
CAPITAL TOWN OPERATIONS	\$ 517,683	520,000	221,949	764,577	542,628
TOWN OPERATIONS TOTAL	\$ 5,826,104	6,080,921	6,437,129	7,069,457	632,328
CONTINGENCY	\$ 75,000	75,000	75,000	125,000	50,000
DEBT	\$ 1,503,806	1,389,081	806,244	806,241	L (3)
TOTAL EXPENSES	 \$26,059,809	\$26,766,064	\$27,094,944	\$28,066,644	\$971,700

No Injuries in House Fire

By Michael Sinkewicz

Nobody was injured in a house fire this week in Marlborough, according to local officials.

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) responded around 1 p.m. on Monday to a reported structure fire on Isleib Road, according to an update posted on the MVFD's Facebook page.

When firefighters first arrived, they began combating flames on the siding of the house, as well as live power lines burning in the front yard, according to the MVFD. The fire then spread to the attic, but was quickly extinguished without causing any major damage or injuries.

"We would like to thank our mutual aid fire departments for their quick response in assisting us with this incident," the MVFD stated. Several area fire departments provided mu-

tual aid, including East Hampton, Colchester, Glastonbury, and Tolland County.

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 is a certified 5K and will start promptly at 10:30 a.m.

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.

In the past, local businesses 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.

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

Benefit Assessment Bills Due

Residents in the town's sewer district are notified that Benefit Assessment bills are due to the Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority (MWPCA).

Bills were due April 1, and the last day to pay without interest is May 1. Delinquent bills will be charged 1.5% interest per month reverting to the due date of April 1 or 18% per year. Minimum interest is \$5. If you do not receive a bill, contact the Tax Office at 860-295-6205.

Make checks payable to MWPCA. Payments can be mailed to: Tax Collector, Town of Marlborough, P.O. Box 26, 29 North Main St., Marlborough CT 06447, or placed in the drop box to the left of the Town Hall front door. Payments can not be made via cash.

Tax Collector hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.noon.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the able food items year-round for Marlborough Congregational Church of Marlborough, Unit- Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex ed 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.marlcongchurch.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@marlcongchurch.org for more information. Sunday, April 14 is a Bluegrass Sunday with Joyful Blue leading familiar hymns, with handclapping and singing along by the congregation. Church pastor the Rev. Valerie Seaver will lead the service. Her sermon title is "Abiding in Christ." After worship all are invited to Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge for light refreshments. At 11:30 a.m. a question-and-answer session about possible plans for the church parsonage will be held in the Thienes Lounge. April 21 is a New Member Sunday. If interested in membership in Marlborough Congregational Church, contact Seaver. Faith Formation (Bible Study) is led by Seaver and meets Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. upstairs in the Thienes Lounge.

From the Superintendent's Desk

The following summary is intended to help continue to inform the public about the Marlborough Board of Education budget which is included within the town budget heading to referendum on May 7th. More information is found under the Budget tab of the school district website, www.marlborough.k12.ct.us.

The BOE budget increase of 2.72% was Marlborough's lowest increase in the last four years and one of the lowest increases in the state. The average school budget increase across the state is 4.81% (source: CT Association of School Business Officers). The BOE was able to achieve a comparatively low increase by a continual leveraging of spending efficiencies, staff retirements, and effective special services yielding a substantial decrease in out-of-district tuition and transportation costs. The district also proactively applies for grants including those that fully fund all instructional technology.

The budget supports aspirational goals for students despite a relatively low increase (largely driven by cost increases in contractually bargained wages, medical benefits, transportation, fuel, electricity, and supplies). It provides the books and materials teachers and students need, early interventions to meet students' learning and behavioral needs, and the investment in the educators who work tirelessly to provide a growth-oriented learning environment for students. MES has demonstrated an excellent return on investment – comparatively low per pupil expenditure yet strong outcomes including a model K-3 Reading program; students exceeding state assessment index scores in literacy, math, and science; award-winning choral, instrumental, and visual arts programs; immersive Spanish instruction in grades K-6; innovative physical education and health experiences, and; a library-media center situated for research, the joy of books, as well as robotics instruction.

There is no change in the overall number of PreK-6 classroom sections for next year. Enrollment is one of the major factors that determines the number of classes and the district uses NESDEC for enrollment projections. NESDEC prepares hundreds of enrollment projections each year for school districts throughout New England. These ten-year projections are designed to provide up-to-date enrollment information for planning and allocation of resources. Enrollment has been steady for the past few years, but may be on the rise in the future as the current projection shows an increase of 94 students (17%) over the next ten years, not including any impacts on school enrollment tied to potential multi-unit housing construction.

The budget supports an appropriate level of administrator staffing. There are two full-time building administrators - a structure which has been in place for 43 years - and a half-time superintendent (which was reduced from a full-time position 15 years ago). The half-time superintendent's salary is less than half of full-time superintendents in the region. The building administrators' regionally competitive wages are negotiated through collective bargaining. With both current building administrators retiring, the positions have been successfully filled for next year with veteran school leaders who will function as co-administrators as they share in the supervision and evaluation of 70 staff, oversee the implementation of instructional programs, monitor every child's academic progress, engage with students and families, and effectively lead and manage the wide range of grades within the school.

The budget includes the return of a half-time pupil services director to work in collaboration with the school administration on special education management (specialized and complex student needs, grant management, and program oversight).

Unlike most school districts, Marlborough does not have a director of curriculum nor a human resources director – it is the superintendent in collaboration with the building administrators who absorb these responsibilities.

For more details behind this summary, please see documents posted under the Budget tab of the district website.

Holly Hageman Marlborough Superintendent of Schools

Lions Brewery Tour

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

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

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

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 Patriots' Day Game: Monday, April 15, 11 a.m., at Fenway Park. Trip fee: \$175. Bus leaves Putnam ri'de at 7 a.m

from \$5 to \$9, with \$3 tasters, wine for \$10, pre-made cocktails for \$8, or soda for \$2. There will also be stuffed breads provided by the tour; however, additional food can be purchased if desired.

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

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.

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

Outreach: The church collects non-perish-

for Sunday worshipers 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.

Annual Spring Tag Sale: Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Donations can be brought to the Community Fellowship Hall during thrift shop hours

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@marlcongchurch.org.

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/nonresident.

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.

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/nonresidents.

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

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/nonresident.

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.

Portland • Portland •

Portland.

unless noted.

Golf Course.

class 6:30-7:30 p.m.

sion 3 is Aug. 5-9.

28-June 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

St. Mary Church News

Food Drive EXCHANGE CLUB OF PORTLAND Annual FOOD DRIVE Benefiting Portland Food Bank

Food Drive... Members of the Portland Exchange Club, Jamie Leonard (left) Tim Welsh (center), JoAnn Leonard (right) and state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) recently collected donations at Adams Hometown Market. Thanks to customer's support, the Exchange Club will be donating \$400 to the Portland Food Bank.

Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) has announced the availability of the Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship.

Peterson was a lifelong Portland resident, ardent soccer fan, and contributor to the town's soccer program. He was instrumental in forming the Portland Soccer Club and this scholarship helps to honor his memory and connection to Portland's soccer history.

The PSC Board of Directors will award one \$500 scholarship annually for high school seniors who are college- or post high schoolinstitution bound. Applicants must be a Portland resident and have played a minimum of two years with the PSC. All applicants must submit a 250-word essay explaining "How Soccer Inspired Me to Give Back to the Community." The essay needs to demonstrate the role soccer has had in the applicant's development and how the applicant has used that influence to give back to Portland's soccer community.

Scholarship applications can be found on the Portland Soccer Club website, www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub, under the 'Community Link' drop-down. All scholarship applications must be received no later than May 8.

For more information, contact PSC President Chad Wilson at nosliw.dahc@gmail.com.

Brownstone Quorum Annual Meeting

On Sunday, April 28, Portland resident Alain Munkittrick will present a program, "Historic Places & Open Spaces," at the Brownstone Quorum's annual meeting. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. at the Portland Waverly (Senior) Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

Co-sponsored by the Quorum and the Portland Historical Society, Munkittrick's talk will draw from his research for his latest publication, Historic Houses of the Connecticut River Valley, focusing on how the evolution of amalgamated family farmsteads and great landed estates to parklands and preserves have contributed to the nature of the valley as it is seen today.

The program will begin after the election of officers and presentation of awards. R e g i s ter in person at the senior center or by phone at 860-342-6760. Light refreshments will be served.



Alain Munkittrick

First Congregational 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

All are invited to this evening of music as MHVC's 90-voice chorus and 10-piece orches-

tra perform a variety of songs. Music director is

Samuel Tucker, and Alan Dougherty is accom-

of programs for adults and children. For a com-

plete list of programs, full course descriptions,

or to register, visit portland.recdesk.com or call

860-342-6757. Advanced registration is required

days, April 20-May 11, 3-4 p.m., at Portland West

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

Yin Yoga at Riverfront Park: Tuesdays, May

Slamma-Jamma Basketball Camp: Camp is

held Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

in the Portland High School gym. Session 1 is

June 24 June 28; Session 2 is July 15-29; and Ses-

Organic Community Garden: All are wel-

come to grow their favorite vegetable, flower or

herb. The garden is located in Bransfield Park on

Rose Hill Road. Gardeners can purchase a 10x10

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

ternoon (3-6 p.m.) child care is available, for

students enrolled in grades K-6 in the Portland

Public School system. Call Parks and Rec. for

plot for the summer for a fee of \$30.

Junior Golf Workshop (Grades 6-8): Satur-

Junior Golf Workshop (Grades K-8) Session

Vocal Chords Spring Concert

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

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.

Confession: Saturday at 4-4:45 p.m., or call

Other Programs: For information on faith

formation programs, baptisms, blessings of

marriages, Knights of Columbus, the St. Mary

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 Bon-

Ladies Guild and more, call the church office.

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.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes Portland Parks and Recreation offers a variety

prices and more information.

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

Antonelle for an appointment.

giorno at 860-685-1966.

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.

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.

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

May 18 and June 15, at 12:30 p.m. in the Van Beynum Room. The first hour will be quiet writ-

> chat about your project with fellow writers. Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficials: Wednesday, April 24, 6 p.m., with John Root, naturalist and educator.

> ing time, with the final 30 minutes set aside to

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 repackage 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. Sign up for emails to learn how to grow food and save seeds.

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

Worship: 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.

from the Connecticut Library Association!

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: Saturday, May 4, 10:30 a.m.-noon. The library has partnered with Middletown High School's animal ambassador program and is hosting a therapy animal at the library. Kids ages 6-12 can make an appointment for a 15-minute session to read to an animal buddy.

Teen Programs: 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.

LGBTQ+ Dungeons and Dragons Session: Wednesday, April 17, 6 p.m., for ages 13-19. On April 3, you created a character; now, put them to the test in a new game quest. Registration is recommended, but not required.

Adult Programs: Ukulele Classes: Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m. April 16, 23, and 30. 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,

Movie: Wednesday, May 8, 1 p.m. The Color of Purple will be shown.

Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficials: Wednesday, April 24, 6 p.m. John Root, naturalist and educator, will present how to attract all these pollinators helpful to the health of your garden.

Bird-Friendly Gardening: Thursday, May 9, 6:30 p.m. Portland resident, local author, organic gardener and Frau Zinnie blogger Jen McGuinness will talk about her newly published book, Bird-Friendly Gardening, just in time for spring and World Bird Migratory Day (May 11). Registration encouraged.

Baseball Rivalries: Red Sox-Yankees: The Greatest Rivalry in Sports: Wednesday, May 8, 6:30 p.m. This program, hosted by award-winning sportswriter, baseball beat writer and book author Marty Gitlin, features videos of the biggest moments of the rivalry from well over a century, as well as trivia questions. Wear your baseball swag if you have it. Registration requested.

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Zion's Grace Guild will have several gift baskets

The price for dinner is \$15 for adults, with

Portland • Portland •

From the State Representative's Desk Public Health Week

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Each year, the first week of April is recognized as National Public Health Week. This is an opportunity to raise awareness for diseases, treatments, and important health initiatives. As a longtime member of the Public Health Committee, I want to share updates on key public health proposals slated for action in the House and Senate.

HB 5198 extends telehealth services to improve access to medical treatment.

HB 5200 expands access to medical diagnostic equipment and examination rooms for individuals with disabilities.

SB 176 will create a plan to provide hospice and palliative care for children.

HB 5322 will address intimate partner violence by sharing educational materials with pregnant and postpartum women.

SB 368 expands access to plasma donation centers to help treat patients in need.

HB 5321 will enhance the state's newborn screening panel by adding a screening for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a progressive muscle-wasting disease that affects children from an early age.

Finally, the Public Health Committee voted unanimously to continue using money from the tobacco settlement fund to support initiatives that spread awareness about the dangers of smoking and tobacco use. I am hopeful these proposals will advance as they will each contribute to improving public health for our residents in Connecticut.

As always, feel free to reach out with your questions, ideas, and concerns at Christie.Carpino@housegop.ct.gov.

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

Kenny Fletcher Car Show

The Kenny Fletcher Car Show at Valli will return for its 12th car show 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.

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.

Registration Continues for Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Portland Historical Society's 28th annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day will take place Saturday, May 11 - and just two weeks remain to register.

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 official 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.

Bake Sale of homemade goodies at the Callander House. Members and friends of the society will be baking before Saturday and packaging their specialties for this sell-out sale.

fundraiser for the historical society.

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., color Class, 9:30 a.m.-noon (to register, email is open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and bivenne@yahoo.com); Hearing Clinic, 11 a.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. For more information or

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.

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

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. The application for the scholarship is avail-

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-

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 oth-

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

Portlandctlionsscholarship@gmail.com.

Prior students of Conn Valley School of Music & Dance will be given priority. Portland students can obtain an application

pursuit of a career in dance, music, or the arts.

form from the Portland High School guidance office. All applications must be received by April 15 to be considered.

Other secondary factors considered are good academic achievement and participation in extracurricular activities.

able at the Portland High School Counseling Center and online at www.portlandexchange. org/john-w-goodrich-scholarship. Deadline for applications is April 15.

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.

erwise.

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 friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com.

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.

On Saturday, May 11, the society will have a

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is the main

children 12 and under free. Seating is limited. Proceeds will support Zion's youth travel to the

Italian Night at Zion

ELCA Youth Gathering 2024. For tickets, call Zion at 860-342-2860, or text/ call Michelle at 860-287-6920. Zion is located at 183 William St.

available for raffle.

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.; Syncosize II Dance and Fitness, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients - donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); WaterCoupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m. Sethack Wednesday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Wellness Fair, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday: Foot Clinic with Stacey, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. Friday: Light aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Special Events: Blood Pressure Clinics: 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the first Monday of each month.

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.

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.

All applications must be received by April 15 for consideration.

National Day of Prayer

All are invited to gather at Town Hall, 33 East Main St., on Thursday, May 2, at 5 p.m., for a local celebration of the National Day of Prayer. All are invited to pray for the town, its families and schools, as well as the state and country.

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.

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

Wellness Fair April 17 The Portland Waverly (Senior) Center will

hold a Wellness Fair Wednesday, April 17, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the center, 7 Waverly Ave.

This free event aims to empower and educate seniors about healthy aging through a lineup of experts in various fields - from nutrition and fitness to mental well-being and holistic therapies.

The Wellness Fair is open to all seniors in the community and surrounding. For more information, call 860-342-6761.

Hemlock Grange Game Night

Hemlock Grange will have a Game Night So-cial 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.

Portland • Portland •

Board of Selectmen Adopt \$40.05M Town Budget

By London Brazal

Following multiple sessions of budget deliberations, the Board of Selectman approved the adoption of the 2024-25 budget.

At their last meeting on Wednesday, April 3, the Board of Selectman (BOS) had its final discussions regarding the proposed budgets for the next fiscal year before they go to referendum in May. The motion made adopted the overall town budget of \$40.05 million - an increase of \$1.77 million, or 4.62% from the current fiscal year. The spending package includes \$15.30 million for the town's operating budget and \$24.74 million for the education budget. The motion passed 6-1; selectman Michael Hernandez opposed.

Hernandez said he was disappointed in the lack of discussion regarding the increase in the education budget.

"It kind of just like passed right through and we never really talked about it, so that bothered me a little bit," said Hernandez.

One of his larger concerns, he said, was decreased maintenance funding and a lack of capital repairs. He noted that the schools have been in disrepair and thinks it appears intentional. "It almost seems intentional in order to get a mega school built."

The selectman also explained his belief that the budget has been managed poorly because there have been spending freezes and a deficit.

"They have been aware of what they call a financial cliff or sunsetting funds for a couple of

The Portland Historical Society will hold a

meeting for membership to discuss proposed

bylaw changes on Tuesday, April 23, at 7 p.m., at

The bylaws were last updated in 2009. Mem-

bers and the public can read the revised Bylaws

as well as the present bylaws before the meet-

ing by going to www.portlandhistsoc.com and

clicking on "Publications" in the left-hand col-

umn. Choose "Proposed Revised Bylaws" to re-

the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

years and still couldn't manage to correct it or at least have a safety net in place," Hernandez said.

In his statement to the board, Hernandez said he could not support the education budget because the leadership has "made one bad decision after another." He believes money should not be approved without finding solutions for reoccurring problems.

Selectman Shaun Manning voted to approve the budget but made some similar points regarding the education budget. He mentioned the Portland high and middle school tennis courts being in disrepair. The costs to replace the courts or to repair them were said to be about half a million to a million dollars - which he said was a lot of money considering other maintenance needs for the schools in general. Manning was also upset about the timing of when the courts were deemed unplayable.

Adminstrators "realized right before practice was starting for the new season that these courts couldn't be played on and I would think that over time they would be seeing that there was some issue with them," explained Manning.

Manning said he thought it would have been necessary to see these problems in the off-season to allow more time for the district to figure out what they could do and plan where the money comes from.

"On Friday, I found out that [the school board] found \$119,000," he said. "I don't really know how they found it when they have a defi-

Historical Society to Hold Membership Meeting

view the document.

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

The Portland Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that collects, preserves and shares 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.

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 continuing

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 under-

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.

standing. Speakers combine personal life stories with a question and answer session. Visit www. stonewallspeakers.org for more information on the program.

Registration is not required, but is encouraged. This event is sponsored by donors to the Portland Committee on Solidarity; for more information on the committee, email portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com.

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. Brush pickup takes approximately one month and starts downtown and works

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 cit - of what I could come up with from watching the meeting the other night - of roughly \$270.000."

At a Board of Education meeting on April 2, Stephanie Fragola, assistant to the superintendent for business and financial affairs, explained there is a deficit for 2023-24 of about \$293,000, it went up another \$20,000, because of a temporary fix to the tennis courts.

"That's where we're at right now. That may also change a little bit because of excess cost," said Fragola. The district was notified by the state that the excess funding had been reduced for Portland.

First Selectman Ryan Curley followed up saying that the board unanimously agreed to end budget deliberations on March 26 and cancel the meeting scheduled for the day after. "At that time, this board had concluded budget deliberation on both the town and board of education budgets," Curley said.

'So, I mean there was definitely time to discuss you know the Board of Education budget," he added. "Next, [it] is up to the voters to decide. I just want to point out that we did have plenty of deliberation and you know we were all in agreement on that at one point."

Hernandez suggested that next year, there should be some space after deliberations so the members have time to soak it in.

"I don't want to make a rash decision and make that decision that same night. So next year I'd like to put a little breather in there because we've known we've changed our minds in the past," said Hernandez. "I know we did say that we were done deliberating, but I don't think it completely sunk in."

Curley continued to say that the annual town meeting for the budget is scheduled for May 6 and the referendum will take place the week after.

"Every registered voter and property owner in town is eligible to come and participate in that budget process and make their voice heard," noted Curley. "Should the budget be successful at that point it will be adopted but if not the budget will come back to this board and we will have to continue deliberations and most likely make some much harder decisions."

Tag Sale Donations Sought

The Portland Historical Society will hold its 28th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale 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. No textbooks, electronics (including televisions, 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 its collection. These photos can be of people, places and events from Portland's history.

On Tag Sale Day, the society will have a Bake Sale of homemade goodies on the porch of the Callander House. Members and friends of the society will be baking before Saturday and packaging their specialties for this sellout sale.

For more information on donating items, call 860-982-1486 or email PortlandCThistory@gmail.com.

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.

Great Hill Mountain Band Concert: The Brownstone Music Series presents The Great Hill Mountain Band in concert Sunday, May 5, at 4 p.m. The Great Hill Mountain Band has been playing country rock since 1994. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show and are available by emailing trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com or calling 860-463-6444. All proceeds will be donated to the Middlesex Land Trust, a group that helps to protect the forests, wetlands, and meadows of Middlesex County.

Town-Wide Tag Sale: Saturday, May 11, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. During the sale, the church will be open for hospitality, with rest-



rooms open to the public. The church will also sell Mother's Day and spring crafts and bake sale items. You can also reserve a 20' x 20' space on the lawn by calling the church office at 860-342-0458 or emailing trinityvitalconnections@ gmail.com. The reservation fee is \$25, and you must bring your own table/set up. Set up begins at 7:30 a.m. Space is limited.

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.

The safety of our patients and staff members is extremely important for us. All recommended COVID-19 safety measures are in place.

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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.



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Exchange Club Golf Tournament

The Exchange Club of Portland will hold its 35th annual Charity Golf Tournament on Thursday, May 2, at Portland Golf Course.

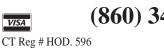
Proceeds support area programs and charities such as the Jason Fedash Town Tech Scholarship, New Horizon's Domestic Violence Services, Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Rushford Center.

Cost is \$170 per golfer for the four-person scramble event which includes cart, lunch, and dinner. Registration and sponsorship brochures are available at the Exchange's website at www. portlandexchange.org. Deadline for registration is April 23.

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Portland



RHAM • RH

By Michael Sinkewicz

Musicals return to RHAM High School next week with a presentation of *The Lightning Thief* — an energetic adaptation of the popular 2005 novel penned by Rick Riordan depicting the journey of Percy Jackson.

After a brief Broadway stint in 2019, the epic story now heads to the RHAM auditorium for three shows.

Performances are set for Friday, April 19, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 20, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets can be bought at the door with cash or online through a QR code; general admission tickets are \$10, and \$8 for students, seniors 65 and over, and children ages 10 and below.

Like every production that hits 85 Wall St., Hebron, *The Lightning Thief* will offer audiences a creative, exciting and memorable escape. This time, the plot centers around a young boy trying to prevent a war between Greek gods, featuring sword fights and even a minotaur — the classic mythical creature.

According to Drama Club Director Emma Filosa, this may be the club's best performance yet. "I really think it's going to be amazing," she asserted.

Last week, as rehearsals entered the final stretch, the *Rivereast* caught up with the cast and crew who showcased their painstaking efforts to perfect a high-voltage musical spectacular. For high school seniors, next weekend represents a bittersweet culmination, as they prepare to take their final curtain call.

While she's unlikely to be successful, Filosa jokingly said she'll make a desperate plea for her departing students to stay back and continue to dazzle audiences. Perhaps, she speculated, their grades could be mysteriously altered so they have to stick around another year.

"It's hard to put it into words," she said regarding the impact of the graduating class. "They're such a talented group of kids."

Electric Cast

One of the stars of the rock-musical is senior Dannan Page, who plays the female lead "Annabeth." Page earned top billing in the drama club's two prior productions, *High School Musical* and *Puffs*, or *Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic*.

Besides her acting and singing skills, Page always seems to bring something unique to the cast that manifests itself in unforeseen ways. This time, it was her eight years of fencing experience and the knowledge passed along from her dad, who taught her the sport.

Filosa conveyed that while she herself wasn't qualified to teach or realistically choreograph sword fight scenes, Page was able to step in and provide her own expertise, enhancing scenes that otherwise might have been shaky. It's safe to say, Page's influence on the drama club is impossible to quantify.

"For someone her age to be able to lead her peers, it's amazing," Filosa expressed.

Next fall, Page will be attending UConn to study journalism, but her minor will be in theatre, furthering her high school passion. After last year's spring production, Page wasn't sure if she wanted to continue with drama club; the commitment was exhausting and time-consuming. But ultimately, she couldn't let it go.

"There's no way I can give this up," Page said. "It's so much fun. It feels so powerful to go out on the stage and make people laugh and make people cry. It's such an amazing thing."

After physically demanding rehearsals on top of normal school work, the cast will sometimes grab a bite to eat together to unwind, strengthening their bond.

"We're very close," Page conveyed. "We can all relate to how fun it is, but also how challenging it can be to be in these productions."

Her character in *Lightning Thief* never found her niche, Page explained, and is searching for self-validation, which she attempts to achieve by venturing on a quest with Percy, who is played by senior Jeremy Kusher, another drama-club veteran that starred in High School Musical alongside Page.

"I could not be more excited," Kusher said during a phone interview. "Percy is very silly, but he's a lot stronger than he thinks he is. His strength comes out."

With just one break, Kusher is essentially on stage the entire show because almost everything revolves around Percy. Still, ahead of opening night, there's nothing stressing Kusher, who's ready to shine one last time.

"When I'm on stage, everything else falls away," Kusher said, adding that with the emerging talent at RHAM, the drama club "is in good hands."

Another senior, Kyle Wood, plays two characters: Chiron — a centaur and Percy's mentor — and Poseidon, who is Percy's father.

Unlike some of the other seniors, Wood was relatively late in joining the school's drama club. In true dramatic style, he was asked to join the cast of Puff's just two weeks before it premiered last fall. But afterwards, he was hooked and determined to make the most of this final production, ultimately landing two main roles.

"After the Puffs show, I realized that I really enjoyed doing theater," he recalled. I feel like it really meant a lot to me to make this decision and become part of the cast. I love it."

His message to audiences: expect comedic moments and fantastic musical numbers.

"I've been blown away every single time I've heard a couple of these people sing their songs," Wood said.



The RHAM Drama Club was hard at work last week as it attempted to catch Lightning in a bottle – specifically, *The Lightning Thief*, which the students will put on next weekend, April 19 and 20.

His character, Chiron, also has a song during the show, which doesn't immediately raise any red flags, until Wood admitted that he's not much of a singer, or at least so he thought. With practice — and advise from Page — he's ready for his solo.

"Now, I am very confident in my singing skills," Wood asserted.

As a newcomer, Wood made several observations that numerous cast members also verified: Filosa is the perfect leader for the drama club.

"She always gives off positive energy," he explained.

During rehearsal, Filosa excitedly instructed the cast, providing feedback and sometimes asking for insight, as well. With a large-scale production, it can be hard to fully grasp all the moving parts on stage. But even from the untrained eye, Wood seamlessly fit into the cast, and simultaneously stood out when his part demanded.

"In just two shows, he's made such a big impact," Filosa said.

Wood acknowledged that like many students, he's developed a classic case of "senioritis" that seemingly doesn't have a cure, except maybe theater?

"This keeps me going," he said. "Every day, I look forward to coming here. I love this environment."

One of the final main characters, "Grover," is played by sophomore Emerson Melquist. She said her role is being Percy's "protector," who is "told to watch over him and make sure he feels safe."

Melquist rattled over numerous descriptors for she show, which she believes has more "depth" than Puffs, a spoof of the Harry Potter novels.

"It's really intense," she said. "It's engaging. It's got everything. It keeps everyone on their toes."

Unlike her co-stars, Melquist potentially has two more years with the drama club. But for

now, the spring finale is bittersweet. "The bonds I've formed with them are incred-

ible."

Screenagers: Under the Influence

AHM Youth & Family Services invites all to the next installment in the *Screenagers film series, entitled Under the Influence, on* Wednesday, April 17, from 6:30-8 p.m., at AHM, located at 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron.

This is a free event for parents/caregivers and students in grades six and above. This

documentary created by Dr. Delaney Ruston and Lisa Tabb is designed to dive into the science behind substance abuse as it relates to youth and open up conversations about the complexities associated with social media, substance use, and the challenges youth face in this digital age.







Amy Meisner was diagnosed with MS in 1997. For someone who has always danced, MS would seem like the end. But for Amy, it means the start of a new chapter. She'll never leave the floor, still dances from her wheelchair, and is a great choreographer. Embracing Amy's undying passion, the National MS Society teamed up with LaTonya Swann to create an entirely new and inspired dance experience through virtual reality. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at **WeAreStrongerThanMS.org**.

Together We Are Stronger.

MS.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

RHAM • RHAM



Hobey Baker Award... Colby Bell, a junior at RHAM High School and a member of the NE Shamrocks hockey team, was a 2024 Hobey Baker Award recipient. Each year a high school hockey player is selected by their coach and team for exhibiting exemplary sportsmanship and character both on and off the ice. These high school hockey players across the state and nation exemplify the Hobey Baker ideal that "Character Builds Excellence." Colby is pictured with his Head Coach Adam Thomas (left) and Assistant Coach Ken Keeney (right).

AHM College Scholarships

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

scholarship, created in memory of star soccer player Erin Garvie, who passed away in 1998 during her senior year at RHAM, is typically awarded to RHAM High School students who participate in high school athletics.

Paige Houston Memorial Scholarship:

This scholarship was created in memory of Paige Houston, who was entering her senior year as an honors student at RHAM High School in 2013 when she passed away. Each year a college scholarship is awarded to a RHAM High School graduate.

William Stelzner Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship was created in memory of William "Bill" Stelzner, who passed away in 2016. 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.

Alumni Benefit Event

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

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

Tickets are \$25 per person. Blackledge Country Club will serve flatbreads, pastas and snacks, and a cash bar also will also be available. There will be a raffle of many great items. A limited number of tickets will be sold, all in advance, and none will be available at the door. Tickets can be purchased by cash or check only. Checks should be made out to RHAM Alumni Benefit.

Raffle prizes are always welcome.

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

sides of town roads and in town parks, and also

how much you know about the harm this litter

can do to the environment. Take a 10-question quiz at tinyurl.com/bc6w6z8f. Everyone who

completes the quiz by Friday, April 19, at 2 p.m.

has a chance to win a gift card to a local restau-

Direct questions about the clean-up walk

survey to AHM Prevention Coordinator Ashlee

Parks at ashleep@ahmyouth.org.

Earth Day Clean-Up Walk

rant.

AHM Youth & Family Services, in partnership with the Hebron Green Committee, will be at the Earth Day Clean-Up on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Members of the Hebron Community, parents and RHAM High school and Middle School students are encouraged to sign up to volunteer to participate in the clean-up walk by registering at tinyurl.com/bdz8twp8.

Also, AHM invites you to test your knowledge on what kind of litter will be found on the

Senior Center Newport Harbor Cruise

Colchester Senior Center is offering a oneday 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.

Kids vs. Cops **Basketball Game**

AHM Youth and Family Services will hold the Kids vs. Cops basketball game at RHAM High School Friday, April 19, from 6-7 p.m.; doors will open at 5:30.

Resident state troopers from Troop K will face off in a basketball game against student athletes from RHAM High School. Also, as an educational component for parents/caregivers, a mock bedroom set up by Hidden in Plain Sight will be set up to highlight how drug paraphernalia can be hidden in bedrooms by teens.

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.



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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.

Special Weekday Minyan: Monday, April 22,

7 a.m., followed by breakfast.

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend. The church choir always welcomes new members. The services are also available on Zoom; visit westchestercongchurch.org for login information.

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

Twelve-Step Meetings: Al-Anon meets in Canney Hall Wednesdays at 7 p.m. AA meets in Canney Hall Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

Scouts: The church sponsors two Scout BSA units: Troop 109 and Pack 109. During the school year, Troop 109 meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Pack 109 meets monthly on a Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Second Night Passover Seder: Tuesday, April 23, 6 p.m. There are daily Facebook Live classes on Ken

Alter's Facebook page, on "Ask the Rabbi" and "Bible Portion of the Week."

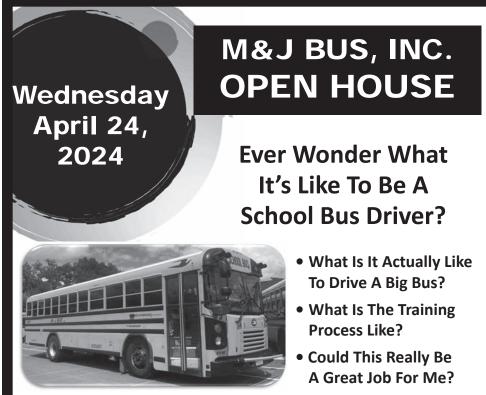
For more information, or a link for services or classes, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Westchester Church News

Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knitting Group meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. Many knitted, crocheted, and quilted items have been sent to Native American reservations, hospitals for babies, and other places to help those in need. The Blessings Box is at the end of the church parking lot and contains donations of non-perishable food, personal care, and other items for those in need. Take what you need; donate what you can. The church sponsors The Wounded Warrior Project, a popular donation opportunity to help veterans.

For more information, visit westchestercongchurch.org, email westcongchurch@gmail.com or call the church at 860-267-6711. Pastor Ron Lake can be reached at 860-428-3460.





Please join us for our Open House! On Wednesday, April 24, 2024, our managers/dispatchers & certified trainer will be here to welcome you to our M & J Terminal, talk with you, show you around & answer every one of your questions. This is a unique opportunity to sit in the driver's seat & picture yourself as a newly licensed school bus driver!

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.

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

History Museum Open Weekly

The Colchester History Museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., is open on Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., through Dec. 8.

This spring is 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,

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.

The ABCs of Colchester History.

The museum features permanent and special exhibits highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history. Admission to the museum is free, and guided and self-guided tours are of-

fered. For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-3240.

April Programs at Cragin

Cragin Memorial Library, located at 8 Lin-Cragin Book Club: Monday, April 22, 6 p.m. wood Ave., has announced the following April How Lucky by Will Leitch will be discussed. programs and events. For more information or Teen & Adult Craft - Felt Flower Bookfull program descriptions, call 860-537-5752 or

mark: Wednesday, April 24. Stop by the adult department to pick up a craft kid 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

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.

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 CasinobBonus 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.

Project Graduation Meets May 1

AHM Youth & Family Services will hold a Project Graduation meeting Wednesday, May 1, from 6:30-7:15 p.m., via Zoom.

circulation desk. Half-Day Gaming: Friday, April 26, 1-2 p.m.

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.



watch a video, and experiment. 3-3:45 p.m., for ages 14-20.

visit www.craginlibrary.org.

Registration is required; call 860-537-7201.

ate a seasonal treat. For kids and teens.

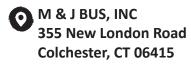
Watercolor Bookmarks: Saturday, April 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m. This all-ages craft is held in the lobby.

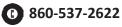
STEAM Saturday: Popcorn: Saturday, April 13. Best suited grades K-5. Pick up your kit, Teen Writing Club: Wednesday, April 17,

Nerd Camp: Wednesday, April 17, 4:15-4:45 p.m., for grades 3-5. This month, swap stickers.

Foodie Fun: Saturday, April 20. Grab your bag of goodies, watch the video online and cre-

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Parents of students in the junior and senior classes are invited to attend. Zoom meeting information is at www.ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/project-graduation.

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Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Sunday School: Held during worship from

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, including the Army National Guard 1109th TASM-G, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Reserve, U.S. Coast Guard and the Air Force Reserve.

The theme of this year's parade will be the

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. today, 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.

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.

'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.

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.

Memorial Day Participants Welcome

Battle of Anzio, and the Congressional 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.

Grand marshal will be David Miller, a Korean War veteran and a longtime Colchester resident. The parade will also feature a guest speaker during the gathering on the Veterans Green.

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

Pierogi for Sale

St. Mary Ukrainian Church in Colchester is going to make pierogi for sale on Saturday, April 27. If interested, call Brenda at 860-365-0281 to place an order. First-call, first-served only.

There will be 170 dozen pierogies available.

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.

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.

Bacon Band Director to Retire

Bacon Academy's band director of 37 years, Tom Kessler, is retiring from his post, and Bacon band alumni are inviting players back for an Alumni & Friends performance on Saturday, May 25, at 3 p.m., at Bacon, 611 Norwich Ave

Bacon's band program has generated hundreds of graduates with whom music continues to be a source of joy, comfort, and of course lots of "yuks." Many of his students have gone on to national and internationally recognized musical careers.

For the "Alumni & Friends" performance, fans are needed just as much as players. Everyone (alumni, friends, and fans) is encouraged to go to www.baconband.com to sign up for the email list and get more information on the event, as well as other future events.

Shredding Old Tax and Personal Records

Residents and businesses of Colchester and area towns can safely shred their old tax, medical 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.

Costs are \$5 for a bag the size of a plastic gro-

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.

Yoga, Mindful, Tools and More II: For Colchester Elementary School students in grades K-2. Choose Tuesdays, April 16-May 7, 3:30-4:40 p.m., or Wednesdays, April 17-May 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Cost: \$60 per person.

Spring Clean-Up 2024: Saturday, April 20, 8 a.m.-noon. Register to help clean up Colchester. Parks and Rec. will provide garbage bags and free garbage pickup. Jobs include spreading mulch raking, weeding, picking up garbage, and more. Locations include the schools, town buildings and parks. Meet up at noon for free ice cream as a thank you. Call Parks and Rec. for more information.

Open House for Summer Day Camp: Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m., at the RecPlex pavilion. Meet camp staff, ask questions, and learn all about the camp, which begins June 24

World Tai Chi Day: Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., on the Town Green. More than 16 teachers will offer a variety of 24 free classes and demonstrations, or beginners and enthusiasts alike.

Food Truck Festival: Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, starting at 8 a.m., on the Town Green

Youth Tennis Lessons: Tuesdays, May 14-June 4 (makeup date June 11), at the RecPlex. cery 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 staples.

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

Funds raised will be used to reduce the cost of programs like monthly camping and the cost of going to summer camp. Contact Al Letendre at letendrej@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Parks & Rec News & Notes

Ages 5-7 meet 3:45-4:30 p.m. and cost is \$65/ session; ages 8-12 meet 4:30-5:30 p.m. and cost is \$85/session. There is a minimum of five players and a maximum of 10.

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.

Indoor Street Soccer Camp: July 8-12 or July 22-26, 9 a.m.-noon, for ages 6-12. Cost is \$145.

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.

\$75.00 a Day

No Mail In

Rebates





Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Community Bible Study and Prayer: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

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

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 youthservices@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, teambuilding 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

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-

Monday, April 15: 9 a.m., Making Memories,

Tuesday, April 16: 9 a.m., Making Memories;

Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m.,

Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong, Bridge;

9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30

p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 2 p.m., Pre-

Wednesday, April 17: 9 a.m., Making Memo-

ries Program, Walking Group meetup at the

Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Flower Power Groovy

Thursday, April 18: 9 a.m., Exercise w/Anne;

10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga;

noon, Chair Massage; noon-3 p.m., Senior Ben-

efits Counseling; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m.,

10:15 a.m., Across the Ages; 10:30 a.m., Cho-

ral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga, Lunch Bunch at BJ's

Brewhouse; 1 p.m., Tech Time with Harry; 1:30

Friday, April 19: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit Video;

center.

12:45 p.m., Setback

Season Golf Meeting.

Knit & Crochet.

Lunch; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

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.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., p.m., Bingo; 2 p.m., Ham Radio Club.

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

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

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

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

Veterans' Coffeehouse

Meetup All former military members (male and female) are invited to the next coffeehouse meetup Friday, April 19, from 10:15 a.m.-noon, at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

The meetups may include presentations about a variety of issues including veteran benefits, local programs and opportunities and health and well-being. Coffee and light snacks will be provided.

For more information, call Mary Emerling at 860-537-2921.

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 nonperishable food items. The proceeds will benefit the Colchester Food Bank.

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

Dean's List

Sam Dzwonchyk of Colchester made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

He is currently in his second year with a junior status, and is studying actuarial science and statistical analysis.

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.

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.

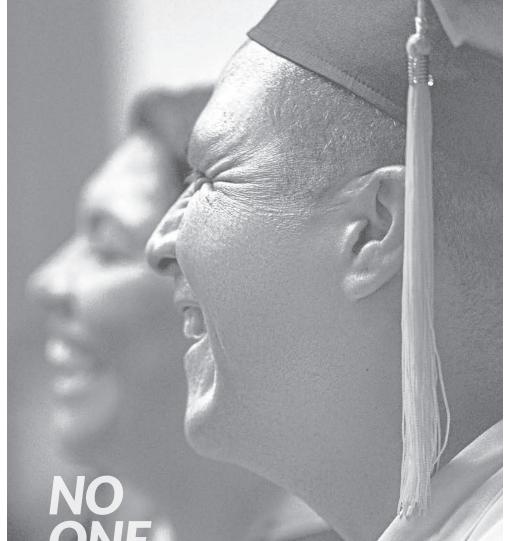
The trip will include a dinner with an Amish family, a bus tour of the Amish community visiting local shops, and a stop in Philadelphia to visit a museum and the Liberty Bell. The trip is \$645 per person, double. \$779 for a single. The bus will leave from the St. Andrew Church parking lot.

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

Dean's List

Colchester residents Hailey Groene and Rachel Wells made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

Groene, an education major, is the daughter of Julie and Bradley Groene. Wells, an accounting major, is the daughter of Ilyse and Stephen Wells.



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New Recreation Committee Takes Shape

By Michael Sinkewicz

The members of a highly anticipated Colchester committee were approved last week, an important step in the town's initiative to address longstanding recreational needs.

During its meeting last week on April 4, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) unanimously approved seven full-time members and two alternates for the newly formed ad-hoc Recreation Needs and Coordination Committee.

The appointments came after the BOS agreed to expand the committee from 5 to 7 members. By doing so, it allowed every applicant who interviewed for a position to participate in some capacity.

The seven residents chosen include: Kyle Calash, Michael Dubreuil, David Emery, Luke Mc-Coy, Matthew Parsons, Christopher Pianta and Suzanne Salemi. Additionally, Seth Bretmaier and Nina Minella were approved as alternate members.

Faced with pressing recreational needs, including the deterioration of the Bacon Academy athletic complex, the BOS moved forward with the new subcommittee in February to evaluate town and school assets.

During its lifespan, which cannot exceed one

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

year, the recreation committee will aim to make recommendations on how to best coordinate local resources and identify any gaps with its assets. Public support and financial feasibility are two considerations the BOS has listed as part of its charge to the committee.

Moving forward, First Selectman Bernie Dennler III said the BOS will look to flesh out its instructions to the committee before it officially begins meeting - something he said could happen later this month.

Unsurprisingly, the condition of the high school's athletic complex is top of mind for local leadership.

"We know the complex will be a piece of the puzzle," Dennler said during a phone call this week. "But the committee needs to look at the bigger picture?

In the initial stages, he believes the committee must gather community feedback regarding the potential installation of turf fields in town, perhaps at Bacon Academy. Because of the scale of that project, it's important for the committee to understand exactly what concept it wants to pursue, and whether it involves new natural grass or an artificial surface.

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.

"They need to get a consensus on that early in the process," Dennler said, adding that the conversion should happen at the "top of the agenda."

The committee will not be starting from scratch. Already, the Board of Education (BOE) has solicited a presentation from FieldTurf that outlined a \$7.5 million renovation of the Bacon complex. If adopted in full, that plan would result in multiple turf surfaces, new LED lights, resurfacing the tennis courts, upgrading the softball field and adding new ADA-compliant pathways.

Last month, the BOE expended \$25,000 to have FieldTurf render an itemized list of the possible upgrades at the complex that would include assessments of the its existing assets, such as the drainage systems, as well as draft documentation related to potential permitting.

While no official townwide vote or referen-

dum has been held on the issue of turf fields, the feedback during local board meetings in recent months has been overwhelmingly one-sided. Numerous student athletes, coaches and sports leaders have spoken out in support of new fields.

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

Cerniglia, who plays on both the team's offensive and defensive lines, blamed muddy and "dangerous" field conditions at the complex for a major injury he suffered last year.

"Having turf would make a difference," he asserted.

During a separate BOS meeting last month, Dennler said the field conditions at Bacon are a 'serious problem'.

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

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.

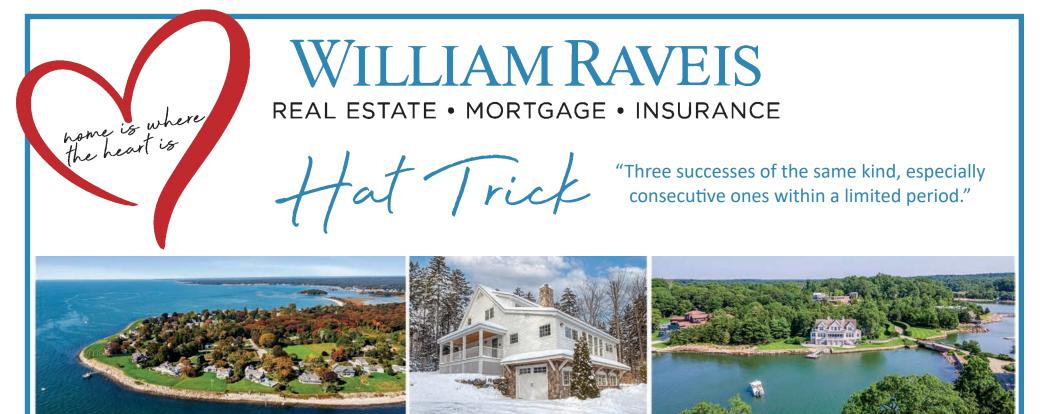
Incoming Kindergarten Story Time

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,

Colchester Elementary School will host the school policies and transportation. A questionand-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.





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Lake Clean-Up Day Coming

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug 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.

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

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

and crocheters are welcome.

Choir meets every Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. All voices are welcome. For more information about CCEH and its

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

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

Republicans Meet Next Week

The next meeting of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee will be held Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m., at The Dub-

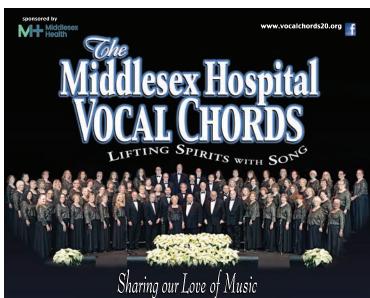
The public is welcome to attend. You can also email ehctgop@gmail.com.







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lin, located at 42 East High St.

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.

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.

Belltown Senior Golf League

Belltown Senior Golf League will begin its Tuesday morning Senior Mixed Golf League Tuesday mornings on April 23, at Portland Golf Course West, 105 Gospel Lane, Portland.

The nine-hole league is for ages 55 and up. Cost is \$28 with cart. For more information, contact Jack Anderson at jackande52@aol.com or 860-882-3752.

RTC Trade Scholarship Available

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee is accepting scholarship applications for a Trade Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to any East Hampton High School senior who is planning on pursuing a career in a trade.

Applications may be obtained from the East Hampton High School guidance department and are due by May 1.

Quilt Show Coming Up

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold its annual Quilt Show and Bits & Pieces sale on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, April 14, from noon-5 p.m.

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

Haddam Neck Congregational Church is located at 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

Oil Painting Demo April 27

The next program of the East Hampton Art Association will be held Wednesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at the East Hampton Community Center, 105 Main Street. The guest artist for the evening will be Shauna Shane, a full-time professional painter and popular demonstrator and teacher. She will present a demonstration in oils.

All are welcome. The programs are free to members and students, with a suggested donation of \$4 for nonmembers.

Joyce Ghent Founder/Executive Director & Samuel Tucker Choral Director have prepared a spectacular musical journey for our audience. Get there early! Our orchestra entertains with their amazing talent before the show.

Saturday May 4, 2024 7:00 PM

Tickets \$25. Non-Refundable Call: 860.342.3120 or 860.347.2787 PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL 95 High St. Top of Hill, Second School, Right at Stop Sign

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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 Gazebo 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.

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.ctdraftrescue.org/geldingclinic2024. Questions can be

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.

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PASTA COURSE

Penne Aglio Olio • Penne with garlic and oil • Penne Marinara Penne Alla Vodka Asparagus, sun dried tomatoes in a vodka blush sauce

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

DINNER CHOICES

Chicken Parmigiana Eggplant Rollatini Rolled eggplant stuffed with ricotta, prosciutto and roasted peppers Chicken Marsala Sauteed with

broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing served over spinach

mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce Balkan Meatballs Beef meatballs sauteed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

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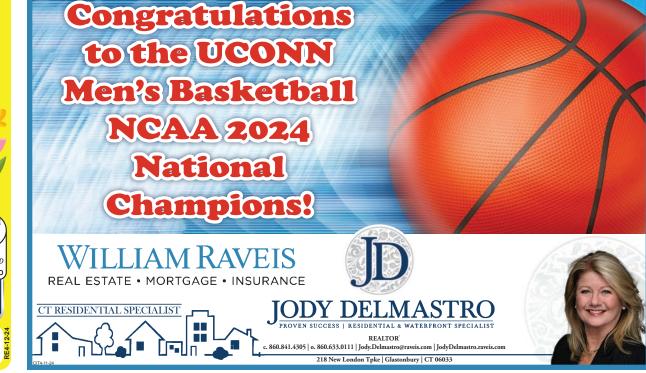
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East Hampton • East H Finance Board Approves Budget; Ambulance Left Behind

By London Brazal

At another special meeting of the Board of Finance (BOF) last week, the board approved various motions for the fiscal year 2024-25 budget recommended to the Town Council.

However, the East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA) was left out in the cold.

The BOF recommended a total budget of \$56.69 million, an overall reduction of about \$1.09 million from the originally proposed amounts. The first motion approved unanimously, was to approve the reduction of about \$360,000 from the Board of Education's adopted budget of \$37.72 million. Overall, the reduction was due to changes in insurance, transportation and retirements. The reduction lowered the increase from last year's budget to 5.21%, instead of 6.21%. According to Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith, the budget reduction does not impact teaching positions, class sizes or existing programs.

The second motion made was to approve the town operations budget of \$13.67 million, a reduction of \$194,000 from what Town Manager David Cox had proposed. The vast majority of that reduction was cutting the EHAA's request for \$173,000. Other, smaller cuts from Cox's proposal included \$2,000 in professional technical services under the police department; \$5,500 in physicals/medical and heating oil for the fire department; \$2,500 for the Middle Had-

dam Library; and \$11,000 for part-time salaries in grounds maintenance.

The motion to approve the town operations budget passed 5-2. Finance board member Kurt Comisky objected to the motion due to its omission of the EHAA funding, saying the finance board needed to address the longevity of the organization. Board member Anthony Spagnoletti also objected to the motion because he said he supports the EHAA; he just worries about the blurred lines of who has to initiate funding. Board member Richard Brown stated that the Town Council has to initiate any funding before it gets to the BOF since the EHAA is a nonprofit entity. According to chairperson Bridget McLennan, funding can be restored or cut at a later date depending on what the Town Council decides.

At the Town Council meeting on Monday, there was no action taken regarding the motions but Chairperson Dean Markham expressed a few points. He said there is not enough time to put a plan together throughout this budget process. Markham said he plans to create a task force to go through the entire EHAA situation, including the framework and funding, to bring back to the various boards. The Town Council will consider a special appropriation of funds, if needed, later in the fall. Markham said the EHAA has sufficient funds in the meantime.

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The BOF also unanimously approved the motion to approve a debt service budget of \$3.9 million. The last motion made was to approve the town's capital plan of \$2.38 million with some changes. In terms of removing projects, those included a flock plate reader (\$21,945) and reducing high school projectors and switches (\$85,000) which will be pushed to next year. Funding for the road repair and maintenance was reduced by \$300,000.

Reductions from the police department auto line (\$72,650) and Parks and Recreation's Air Line Trail line (\$65,000), because funding will come from special revenues instead. The capital plan's funding will come from the general fund, ARPA, residual project balances, excess funds from the middle school roof project, and the LOCIP grant from the state.

Finance board member Ted Turner said he would vote for the \$700,000 going to road repair and maintenance but still believes the number is low. BOF member Alannah Coshow said, To get to our goal, we will have to increase it by \$75,000 each year. So next year would be \$775,000.

Spagnoletti agreed that he is okay with the funding as long as they continue to increase that annually to get to the target. He said he believes that the incremental approach, backed by studies from Public Works Director Matt Walsh, was the right one.

Echoing that point, McLennan said, "It's important that it's continued to be increased." She explained that \$1 million in a single year on top of the other needs for the town was a lot.

The board unanimously agreed to approve the motion to accept the capital plan and the motion to transfer funds in the amount of \$1.39 million. And while each budget was approved by the BOF, there are still many decisions to make by the Town Council before it reaches a referendum

The drawing will be held Saturday, April

20, at 9 p.m., at the Hartford Marriott Down-

town, 200 Columbus Blvd., Hartford. Ticket

Tickets are \$10 each and may be pur-

chased through any of the Knights of Colum-

bus members or by calling Bob DeMarchi at

Household Hazardous

Waste Collection

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

The collection is open to residents of the Riv-

erCOG region, which includes East Hampton

& Portland. No commercial or business waste

Visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste/

Lions Offer Scholarships The East Hampton Lions Club is offering stu-

dents graduating in their senior year an opportunity to apply for its four annual scholarships.

The scholarships are the Governor William

O'Neill Memorial, the Joseph Becker, the Lions

The Lower CT River Council of Governments

holders need not be present to win.

860-267-5978.

Rd., Clinton.

to learn more.

allowed.

Knights of Columbus State Raffle

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

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

Online Farmers Market

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

To place a pre-order, visit bit.ly/healthyeasthampton. The pre-order window for each week is Sundays at 5 a.m. through Thursdays at 9 p.m. Pickups are year-round on Saturdays from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at East Hampton Congregational Church, 59 Main St.

All who donate will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Spring for details.

To book a time to give, visit RedCrossBlood. org, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-RED CROSS.



Club, and the Nelson Gustine Service Award. Those who apply need to be East Hampton residents who attend East Hampton High School or area charter, tech, vo-ag or Catholic schools, or are home-schooled. Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office. The due date for return of applications is April 30.

Teen Game Night at Epoch Arts

Epoch Arts is joining up with The Portal in Manchester and offering a teen game night on Friday, April 19, from 7-9:30 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

Teens in grades six and up are invited to come hang out, eat some food, listen to music and play some games. There will be a variety of board games plus DDR. Bryan Raddatz from







The Portal will head up the night.

Admission is \$10. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org, and for more information on The Portal, visit www.theportalct.com.

Dean's List

Jason Gardiner of East Hampton made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt.

KoC Scholarship and Grant

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

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

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

Applications are available at guidance offices and the parish center office, or by emailing stpatrick47@sbcglobal.net. Applications are due April 29.

East Hampton • East H

Upcoming Senior Trip

East Hampton Senior Center, located at 105 Main St., is offering a trip to Lancaster, Pa., in July, to see Daniel. Local seniors are invited.

The trip will run July 17-19 and will feature a visit to the Old Windmill Farm, a quilt shop, dinner in an Amish home, and reserved seats for a performance at the Sight & Sound Theater of Daniel, a story of exile, faith and trust. On the way home, there will be a stop in Philadelphia, where folks will check out the

National Constitution Center and 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.

Register with payment at the East Hampton Senior Center or call 860-267-4426 for more information.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

Children's Programs: Bubbles & Beats!: Mondays, 10:30 a.m., for ages 18 months to 5 years (drop-ins and siblings welcome.); **Toddler**

Library Hours: Monday and Thursday, 10

Art Exhibit: April's exhibit features photo-

graphs by East Haddam resident Everett Hart,

with a closing artist's reception on Friday, April

Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stop by and have a

Coffee Time at the Library: Mondays and

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

Yoga: Mondays at 9 a.m., Tuesdays at 7 p.m.,

Poems N' Drums: Friday, April 12, 3 p.m. In

your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroi-

Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is a \$15 drop-in fee. To

celebration of National Poetry Month, all are

invited to a poetry reading with East Hampton

Poet Laureate Stan Lindh, known professionally

CommuniTea: Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.,

Local Artist Display

work at Town Hall during April.

is watercolors.

Local artist Geralyn Yocher is exhibiting her

Yocher taught art in Portland Public Schools

for eight years and at Wesleyan Potters in the

children's pottery program. She paints in oils,

acrylics and watercolors; her medium of choice

as "Sympetalou," and drummer Chili Chilleye.

register, email tensummitst@gmail.com.

a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 3-6 p.m.

26, from 4-6 p.m.

dery, etc. All are welcome.

fresh cup.

Time: Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., for children ages 18 months to 3 years; Stories & Songs: Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5 years; Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., for ages birth to 24 months, and their caregivers.

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

Teen Programs: Teen Movie Matinee: Friday, April 12, 2 p.m., for ages 13 and up. Popcorn will be served.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles d., Middle Haddam, has announced the fol-**Pilates:** A new session begins Thursday, April

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.
Pilates: A new session begins Thursday, April 18, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$10 per class for the sixweek session, or pay \$12 per class to drop in. To register, call 203-592-4448 or email abstite@
sbcglobal.net.
Family Yoga Series: Fridays at 9:30 a.m.,

Family Yoga Series: Fridays at 9:30 a.m., for 45 minutes. Class runs for six weeks, from April 19-May 24. For a family of two, fee is \$12 to drop in or \$60 for the series; pay an extra \$3 for each additional person in the family. Email zenlotus860@yahoo.com for more information and to register.

Native Plant Landscaping: Monday, April 22, 4:30 p.m. The Middle Haddam Garden Club will host a talk with Jim Natale of Wilder Gardens LLC in Groton on natural plants and biodiverse gardens that provide habitat for pollinators and birds. The program is open to the public.

A Program on Living With Connecticut's Wildlife: Saturday, April 27, 1 p.m. This presentation by Master Wildlife Conservationist Paul Colburn focuses on how to live with and enjoy such wild neighbors as black bears, Eastern coyote, bobcat, fisher, raccoon, skunk Virginia Opossum, red and gray fox, woodchuck, white tailed deer, birds, bats, reptiles and amphibians.

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.





Coach of Distinction... Coach Fernando Solis is the state winner of the Coach of Distinction award at the fourth annual Big New England Football Clinic Awards in Newport, R.I. Solis is a member of the East Hampton Youth Football & Cheerleading Association; to learn more about the program, visit www.ehyouthfootball.org.

Epoch Accepting Tag Sale Donations

Epoch Arts is about to start accepting donations for its September Tag Sale. Donations begin Saturday, April 27, and will run the second and fourth Saturday of the month, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

In August, Epoch will be open for donations every Saturday, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Please do not drop off donations any other time than these Saturdays or any other place not specified. Donations can be dropped off

in the garage area by Helping Hands, at 27 Skinner St.

Epoch will not be accepting the following items: recliners, couches, headboards, mattresses, bed frames, highchairs, cribs, car seats, baby swings and big baby toys, computers, printers, keyboards, TVs, VCRs, exercise machines, textbooks, encyclopedias, old-style phones, cell phones and computer monitors.



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Bible Study: The group meets via Zoom on Wednesday night from 6:00-7:00. Contact the

Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn at bobette@kahn.com

East Hampton • East H

That's a Wrap!... East Hampton Senior Bowling League recently wrapped up its 2024 Senior Winter Bowling season. Pictured are all the winter bowlers. The 10-week spring season began this week.



The Cap Collector... East Hampton Public Library welcomes youth and adults to share their interesting collections in the library's display case. Drop by the library at 105 Main St. to pick up a form. Reservations occur on a first-come, first-served basis and are at the discretion of Library staff. Pictured is Bruce Carlson, along with his collection of milk bottle caps dating from the 1950s.



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Christ Episcopal Church News

session.

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, priest-in-charge.

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

now accepting discounted early-bird registra-

tions for its summer theater camp for students

in grades 6-12. YPCCA will run daily Monday

This year, YPCCA will perform the musical

Mornings at the camp will be devoted to

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St.,

Lunches: Served Monday through Friday, to

Weekly Activities: Quilting Group: Mon-

on a list if interested in learning how to play;

a.m.; Cornhole: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.

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

Mighty Magnificent Men's Group (MMM):

Wii Bowling: Every other Thursday at 11

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts:

Textile Group: Fridays, 1 p.m.

meet others and share resources.

YPCCA to Perform *Mean Girls*

hearsals for Mean Girls. Young People's Center for Creative Arts is

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.ypcca.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.

Senior Center News & Notes

ily history during this informative session with Kenneth Doney.

Chatham Health Chat: Tuesday, April 23, 10:30 a.m., featuring a discussion on Respiratory Health - Allergies and Asthma, led by a representative from the Chatham Health District.

Nature is All Around Us: Wednesday, April 24, 11 a.m. Lynn Kochiss will lead a talk titled 'Trees are For the Birds."

Trips: 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. Shopping is followed by lunch on your own at a location to be determined. A \$4 transportation donation is requested.

Wadsworth Mansion Tour and Spot of Tea: Monday, May 8, 1 p.m. The mansion's docents will sweeten their accounts of the Wadsworth family story with some goodies and a cup of tea. Leave at 1 p.m. for a 2 p.m. seating. Cost is \$19 and includes transportation.

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.



for more information. New members are always welcome. St. Vincent's School Donations: Donations for the handicapped children of St. Vincent's in Haiti will be accepted through the end of April. For more information or if in need of assis-

tance, contact Donna Hyrb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472 or donnadubehyrb@gmail.com.





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Meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 10:30 a.m. This is an opportunity to meet others and share resources.

Line Dancing by Video: Tuesday, April 16, 10 a.m.

Bike Rides for Seniors: Friday, April 12, 10 a.m., at the Air Line Trail on Smith Street. Get outside with this weekly ride led by Kim Clouser from AirLine Cycles. Bring your bike, helmet and a water bottle. Ride locations change weekly. Register at the senior center.

Family Tree Genealogy Session: Friday, April 19, 10:30 a.m. Learn about your fam-



://:/=l

Honor Society Inductee... Nisha Sidana of East Hampton was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, a collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Sidana was initiated at Sacred Heart University.

East Hampton • East H

Seniors Present Capstone Projects

By London Brazal

The East Hampton High School Class of 2024 is checking off its final graduation requirements with some more fun activities on the horizon.

In 2011, the state Department of Education introduced a requirement for all public high schools to incorporate capstone projects into their graduation criteria. The senior capstone initiative was trialed in the 2015-16 academic year. Since then, completion of a capstone project has become standard for all seniors. In the 2019-20 academic year, the capstone was integrated as a semester-long English course.

Cristin Flannery, an English teacher at the high school, loves to see what students create when given the freedom to explore.

"Many students take full advantage to try something new, possibly out of their comfort zone, or they can "level up" on a passion they already have," explained Flannery. "We teachers love it when we see students really dive in and let this opportunity inspire them." The capstone presentations showcase students' interests, talents and passions, embodying the values of EHHS and acting as a finale to their high school experience.

"The way seniors complete the project is different, but the goal is the same: to take what East Hampton schools have taught them over the years and use those skills to explore, innovate, and inspire their own growth," said Flannery.

This Year's Projects

Project topics for this year ranged from welding horseshoes into art and learning how to make ice cream to teaching others how to backflip and filming a popular TV show parody episode.

"We are always surprised. It's been many years now and every year something new comes up," said Flannery. "We've never had a pinball renovation, or raising baby ducks, or learning how to weld. All of that, and the homemade ice cream was amazing, too."



Much-Appreciated Grant... East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club President Tom Donnelly recently presented a check for \$2,000 to Chatham Historical Society Treasurer Don Burr. The funds will help offset the cost of the HVAC system installed in the museum buildings at 6 Bevin Blvd. The Chatham Historical Society preserves the history of East Hampton through its many artifacts in the museum and organizes periodic walks and lectures of historical interest. During the summer months, the museum is open the first Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m., and is also open by appointment.

CETF Info Table

The East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force (CETF) will have an information table staffed by CETF members at the Lake Pocotopaug Clean-Up Day at Sears Park on Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

This is an opportunity to learn about the CETF and what they are doing to benefit East Hampton residents and receive guidance on accessing the incentives and tax credits for energy efficiency upgrades, solar installations, and electric vehicle purchases.

NEW LOCATION!

An Afternoon of Mahjong

The Friends of East Hampton Public Library are hosting a Mahjong tournament Saturday, May 4, from 12:30-5 p.m., at the library, 105 Main St. All are invited.

Raffle tickets will be awarded for high scores and special hands to put toward the basket raffle. Light refreshments will be served.

There is a limit of 40 players; registration fee is \$30. Registration required. This is a fundraiser; all proceeds will go to the Friends of the East Hampton Public Library, a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

For more information, visit the Events page on the library website, easthamptonpubliclibrary.org, or email friendsofehpl@gmail.com. Liam Owen, who told the *Rivereast* about his project in the fall, had vast changes from when it was created. His wiffle ball league originally started with only two teams but as the spring season is soon to begin, there will be a total of eight teams competing. In addition, Owen created T-shirts, stickers, and bracelets and has kept the Instagram page active even in the offseason.

Some capstone projects are inspired by others. Nicky Carl decided to refurbish an old pinball machine because her two uncles would restore old arcade games. She figured it was an interesting idea and said "I should try this!" The unused pinball machine, decorated with members of KISS, was sitting in her basement as it was a present to her mom when she was a kid. Though it was challenging at times, Carl's favorite part was cleaning it and making the machine look new.

Even though Delaney Sullivan is studying nursing at Quinnipiac University in the fall, she decided to pursue her passion for coffee. She said she only started drinking coffee her senior year to help her stay awake while working on assignments but thought it would be interesting to experiment while saving money. Instead of buying name-brand drinks for five to six dollars, she wanted to try and perfect copy-cat recipes that cost less. At the capstone showcase on April 4, Sullivan had samples for people to try and got plenty of positive feedback, even from those who don't necessarily like coffee.

Following newer trends, Anthony Miro started a pickleball club. As a member of the tennis team, he originally thought of it as a way to gain interest in tennis since there were only five members last season. "It was a way to get people interested in as tennis as well. And, this year we have 15 students on the team," said Miro. As the pickleball club gained more traction, Miro applied for a grant from the Arts and Cultural Commission to buy new equipment that would last longer. He is grateful for being awarded the grant and is excited to play when the sun stays out.

David Anderson's interest in computers started in eighth grade when his dad bought him a desktop. He said he learned a lot about building a PC and landed a job with the town's technology department. Anderson's project was to refurbish a bunch of computers and donate them to Epoch Arts to give them a digital art room.

"It was pretty simple, I built the computers at the office since I already knew a lot about them," explained Anderson. "When I got the suggestion to donate them, I was happy to do it."

Walking Tour of Cemetery

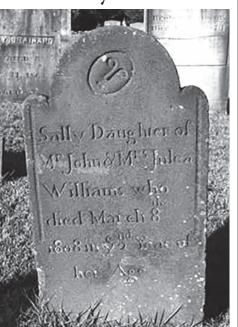
The Chatham Historical Society will host a walking tour of the Waterhole Cemetery on Saturday, April 20, at 10 a.m., as part of its "Explore East Hampton" monthly series of walks. The East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor the event. All are invited.

The walk will be led by Kevin J. Tulimieri, a Hebron resident who is a historian and researcher at Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques in Colchester. Tulimieri has published numerous articles on the subject of American antiques of the 18th century as well as his research on Venture Smith's unique 1805 gravestone and its carver, John Isham of East Haddam.

The Waterhole Cemetery was established in 1793 and the tour will include many Colchester and East Hampton families. Tulimieri and members of the Chatham Historical Society will share many stories about the people who "reside" there. Tulimieri will also explore the work of the remarkable gravestone carvers and the distinctive memorials they created so long ago.

The Walking Tour offers an opportunity for new residents to learn about the history of East Hampton and for lifelong residents to share their recollections and stories with others. Adults and children are welcome.

Directions: From the Stop & Shop in East Hampton: drive 3.3 miles south on Main Street to Route 16. Turn left and travel 4.4 miles southeast on Route 16 past Salmon River State Park and turn right on Waterhole Road. Travel 3.3 miles and park on Bigelow Road on the left because of limited parking by the cemetery.



Pictured is little Sally Williams' gravestone with a sleeping child's face carved by John Isham of East Haddam. It is one of many old gravestones at Waterhole Cemetery. Photo by Tulimeri.

The tour will take approximately one hour. Heavy rain will cancel the walk.

For further information about upcoming walks or the Chatham Historical Society, contact Marty Podskoch, coordinator of the "Explore East Hampton" walks at 860-267-2442, podskoch@comcast.net, or visit https:// chathamhistoricalct.org/event-calendar/





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Honor Society Inductee

East Hampton resident Ailie Daley was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, a collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Daley was initiated at Sacred Heart University. 89 Main St. East Hampton, CT 860-267-8330 AllAboutBlindsCT.com Keeping Sven's Legacy Alive



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NEWS BULLETIN • April 12, 2024

Hebron • Heb

ARPA Funds: Use it or Lose it

By Michael Sinkewicz

With roughly \$260,000 left in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) reserves, the Hebron Board of Selectmen (BOS) continues to gradually spend its share federal funds before the end of the calendar year.

During its meeting on April 4, the BOS approved ARPA funding for two new projects: He-bron Center Signage (\$35,000) and Fire Department Active Shooter Tactical Gear (\$13,600).

While the board has steadily allocated funding for a variety of projects, fears are beginning to creep in that the town is running out of time. Municipalities must have an approved purchase order or contract in place that accounts for every ARPA dollar by Dec. 31.

The funding must be "obligated" by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. Any ARPA funds not used will be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

As the selectmen deliberate on how to ear-

mark its reserves, numerous projects currently under consideration remain "stuck" or without a specific cost estimate to rubber-stamp.

Moving forward, the board will likely hold a special meeting to examine why the town recommended certain initiatives be declined and why others don't appear to be making progress. Republican Keith Petit conveyed that both

the board and community should fully understand why some listed projects, such as parks and recreation upgrades - currently slated between \$70,000-\$94,000 - might not move forward with ARPA funding.

The BOS agreed that every prospective project must have a specific cost estimate, not a range, by its next regular meeting or it will be eliminated - a decision that emphasizes the urgency the board is experiencing.

some movement, then that's fine," Petit said.

Applications for Property Tax Abatements

Applications for property tax abatements are available to Hebron residents.

There is a town ordinance that defers property taxes when those taxes exceed 8 percent of total household income from any source. For example, if the total household income from any source totals \$30,000, the property tax liability would be capped at \$2,400. The abatement would be for any property taxes that exceeded \$2,400. The abatements would apply to the upcoming tax year beginning July 1. Those interested in the program can request

an application by calling the town manager's office. Applications will be mailed upon request. Call 860-228-5971 for more information. The application deadline is May 31.

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 but-

neighborhoods through April 26. Donations

can be dropped off at Ted's IGA or Hebron In-

terfaith Human Services (HIHS) on the day of

Immediate openings are available for children.

Summer camp is offered for children also. For

more information, call center director Jennifer

Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are

Caring Shepherds Social Ministry Group:

Holds regular food pantry days to distribute

food staples, household and hygiene items as

well as Bibles and prayers. For more informa-

tion about donating or participating in food

available at www.clecchebron.org.

pantry days, call 860-228-1152.

Scouts will be hosting drop-off boxes in their

ter, jelly, cereal, tea and coffee

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

Christ Lutheran News & Notes center is open to all children regardless of faith.

the event.

All are invited to worship at Christ Lutheran Church (LCMS), located at 330 Church St., Amston, on Sundays at 9 a.m. Sunday School is offered during the service. People who are unable to attend in person can join online at www. facebook.com/clchebron/live.

Sunday Fellowship/Coffee Hour: 10 a.m., after the morning service.

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 10:15 a.m.

Early Childhood Center (Daycare): The center offers childcare, preschool and before/ after school in a Christian environment. The

Church of The Holy Family News

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church "Boy Shorts" briefs (M,L,XL,2XL); 13-gallon St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Sattrash bags; laundry pods & dryer sheets; TP & urday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and paper towels; disinfectant wipes, Windex, Lysol weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursspray, and bathroom & floor cleaners; men's & day at 6:30 a.m. Visit holyfamilyhebron.org for women's deodorant; men's razors; pump hand more information. The church office can be soap and body wash; \$15 Stop & Shop gift cards reached at 860-228-0096. Church of the Holy for gas; \$25 Walmart gift cards for client emergencies; and donations by check. Call to arrange Family is a member of the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd. the pick-up of gift cards and to obtain mailing instructions for cash donations. Place donations

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

The board previously reached a consensus that it would need to receive updates or documents regarding outstanding initiatives by its first meeting in June, which would give it ample time to review their viability.

Petit expressed that the town cannot afford to miss out on the opportunity provided by ARPA.

"This is like a tax return from Uncle Sam," he said. "This is money coming back to the town; we need to use every penny.

Although the selectmen did approve two projects at its latest meeting, and it also allocated roughly \$100,000 at one of its meetings last month, Petit conveyed that the overall pace was not quick enough.

"At this point, I'm really concerned that we're going to end up not spending all the money in

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is teaming up with Flying Free Therapeutic Riding Center for a fundraiser. The church will sell foot-long grinders on Saturday, April 27, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The choices are ham, turkey and Italian combo and will include a choice of either provolone or American cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions and choice of condiments of mayo, mustard or oil and vinegar. Included will be a bottle of water and a bag of chips. The cost will be \$12 each.

Advance orders are recommended. Leave

Parks and Recreation News

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering many summer programs. For full program descriptions and to register, visit hebronct.recdesk.com or call 860-530-1281.

30+ Basketball: Drop-in games for all skill levels ages 30 and over. Tuesdays, April 16-June 4, 7-9 p.m., at RHAM Middle School. Cost is \$20 for the session or drop-in for \$3 (cash only) each visit.

Home Alone Safety for Kids: Monday, April 22, 5-6:30 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. This interactive course, for boys and girls ages 8-13, will cover safety concerns parents have when their children are by themselves. Fee: \$45.

Summer Adventure Camp: June 24-Aug. 16, 6:45 a.m.-5 p.m. This is an eight-week program

All are invited to celebrate Earth Day and help clean up the town with the Hebron Trail Rangers on Saturday, April 20.

Hebron Trail Rangers will join the Green Committee and AHM for the Earth Day Clean-Up event at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron, at 10 a.m. After the kick-off, Trail Rangers and volunteers will regroup at the Raymond Brook Preserve parking lot, 175 Church St., at 10:30 a.m., to clean up there and continue onto the sidewalk along Church Street (Route 85) in front of the preserve, heading north.

As folks pick up trash, bagging bottle "nips"

Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following. For full program descriptions, and to register, call the library at 860-228-9312 or visit www.douglaslibrary.org.

Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. Bottled water and popcorn will be provided. Schedule: 4/12: Wish (rated PG); 4/19: American Fiction (R); 4/26: Zone of Interest (PG-13).

Cookbook Club: Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. Each month, read a different cookbook, and choose one recipe from the book to make and share. This month's book is The I Hate to Cook Cookbook and is available near the main desk. Mindfulness for Clarity Workshop: Tuesdays, April 23 and 30 and May 7 and 14. This four-week program will be led by wellness consultant Karen Gomez. Registration; space is limited.

the allotted time," he said. "I think when it's all said and done, I think that the residents when they see the number of projects that failed to be funded and how much ARPA money is left at the end, they're going to say that we were not good stewards of their funds, and that bothers me."

The rest of the selectmen agreed with Petit, including Democrat Tiffany Thiele, who described the town's ARPA funding as a "once-ina-lifetime money."

Republican chairman Peter Kasper also agreed with accelerating the approval process before the calendar year slips away.

"It would be a very poor reflection on this board, and the board before, if we couldn't figure out a way to allocate this money," he said.

Grinder Sale Fundraiser

your order at Flying Free's email, which is Flyingfreetrc@gmail.com. If you have any questions, call Mary at 860-208-4029.

You can pick up your order at the church, located at 30 Church St. Have cash or check made out to Flying Free TRC Inc. available. There will be extra grinders available for walk-ins until they are are sold out.

Flying Free Therapeutic Riding Center is located in North Franklin and offers lessons to children and adults with special needs.

of games, arts & crafts, field trips and more. Registration is underway.

Football Camp: June 24-28, 8-11:30 a.m., at RHAM High School. With RHAM football's head coach Dakota Fleming and the RHAM football players. Fee: \$125. Each child will receive a T-shirt. \$125.

Cheer and Dance Camp: July 15-19, 9-11:30 a.m., at Hebron Elementary School. Cost is \$135. All levels of experience welcome.

Hoop It Up Basketball: Wednesdays, July 3-31, 9-11 a.m., at HES. Cost: \$50.

Building Up STEAM Using Lego: July 15-19, 9 a.m.-noon, at Gilead Hill School. Cost: \$140.

STEAM Works Using Lego: July 15-19, noon-3 p.m., at Gilead Hill School. Cost: \$140.

Celebrate Earth Day with Trail Rangers

separately, the Trail Rangers will identify invasive plants as well as beneficial plants. Time permitting, people can walk inside the preserve, continue with plant identification, perhaps clip back some invasives, and discuss future endeavors and ways to help the earth. Trash bags, made of compostable plant material will be provided.

Please wear gloves and brightly colored clothing, protect against ticks, and consider bringing hand pruners. If you bring young children, please keep them safely in the preserve. Steady rain cancels the event.

10:15 a.m. is Toddler Time for ages up to 3, and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m is Pre-K Storytime for

ages 3-5. Registration is not currently required. Lego Club: Wednesday, April 17, in the children's program room. Build something new, and then have your creations displayed.

Chess Nights: Pickup games are held every Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Community Room.

Knitwits: The knitting circle meets Mondays, 6-7 p.m. Crochet and needle pointers are welcome as well as all skill levels. No registration required; bring your project or questions.

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"If we need to issue an ultimatum to have

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 21.

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.

at 860-228-4211.

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.

of goods in the designated collection box next

to the church's Cry Room. Place large quanti-

ties of donations in the Cry Room. For more

information, call Monica or John McKerracher

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 hsfoodpantry@gmail.com for more information.

4th Wednesday Prayer: Wednesday, April 24, 10-11 a.m. All are invited the fourth Wednesday of every month to bring prayer requests before the Lord.

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.

Life Insurance Presentation: Wednesday, April 24, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., for ages 18 and up. Learn about life insurance options with local insurance agent Mark Macrina.

Medicare Information: Wednesday, April 24, 3 p.m. or 6 p.m. Macrina will discuss all things Medicare. This is strictly an informational seminar; no individual health will be discussed.

Book Discussion: Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m. Yellowface by R.F. Kuang will be discussed at the American Legion, located next door. Copies of the book will be available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk. Must be 21 or over to attend.

Teen Advisory Board: Monday, April 15, 3 p.m. Come say what kind of programs you would like to see at the library. This will also count as a Service Hour for high school.

Children's Storytime is Back: Tuesday at

Jigsaw Puzzles: The library has jigsaw puzzles available to borrow for a three-week period.

Musical Instruments: Learn to play a ukulele, jam on a Djembe drum, sing along while playing the keyboard, or find out what an otomatone is and how to play it. Instruments available to borrow for a one-week period.

Museum Passes: Most of the library's museum passes are available with a "print at home" option from the library website.

Preschool Screenings

The Hebron Board of Education will hold screenings at Gilead Hill School, 580 Gilead St., on Wednesday, May 15, for children that reside in Hebron and are 3 and 4 years old by the time of the screening.

Screens in areas of speech, language, cognitive, and motor development will be provided. Parents will also receive information to assist in fostering their child's growth.

Call the office of the director of educational services at Hebron Public Schools at 860-228-2577 to register your child to participate in the screening, as reservations are required.

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Hebron • Heb

St. Peter's News & Notes

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., holds two services of Holy Communion each Sunday: Rite 1 (no music), 8 a.m.; Rite 2 (with hymns and choir), 10 a.m. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski.

Meetings and Events: Balance Class, Mondays, 10-11 a.m., \$5; Cub Scouts, Mondays, 5:30 p.m.; Buildings and Grounds Committee, first Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Boy Scouts, Wednes-

TTCP News & Notes

The Town Center Project (TTCP) has announced the following items of interest. For more information, visit thetowncenterproject. org, look for the organization on Facebook at facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc, or email ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org.

Town-Wide Tag Sale: Saturday, May 4. Fill out an application and get on the town-wide map, and join your neighbors in supporting TTCP's annual events like Make Music Day Hebron, the Hebron Summer Concert Series, Harvest Moon Festival, the Adirondack Chairs of Hebron, and more. Registration fee is \$35 and 100% percent goes directly back to TTCP programs. Applications can be found online.

Art Show: TTCP is seeking artists to participate in Art On Main, Hebron's juried art show, which will be held Saturday, May 11, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. This outdoor, open air event will

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following. Registration required for all programs, unless noted. To register and for more information, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. The senior center newsletter is online at hebronct.com/town-departments/senior-center.

Congregate Meals: As of April 10, congregate meals are now again Monday through Thursday. Meals are served at noon and with a suggested donation of \$3. The updated menu is available on the senior center website. You must sign up by 9:30 a.m. the day before, or 9:30 a.m. on Friday for Mondays.

Dedicated Transportation Line: There is now have a direct line for senior transportation. The new number to call is 860-228-5977. Call this number regarding transportation appointments or questions.

Movie Monday: The movies start at 12:30 p.m. The schedule is: April 15, Wonka; April 29, The Boys in the Boat. Popcorn provided.

Chatham Health Monthly Presentation: Wednesday, April 17, 2 p.m. The topic is Respiratory Health: Allergies and Asthma.

Live Your Best Life Now: Thursday, April 18, 10 a.m. Middlesex Health will sponsor this discussion on healthy aging, share tips to empower your healthcare choices, and answer your questions.

Weekly Shopping Trips: Fridays. Pick-ups begin around 9 a.m., based on where pick-ups will be. Upcoming trips: April 19, Big Y; April 26, Stop & Shop. Pre-registration is required by the prior Thursday at 10 a.m.

Bernice Barrasso Senior Luncheon: Saturday, April 27, noon, at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds. The Lions will host this free luncheon for Hebron and Amston seniors. The lunch will consist of chicken, potato, a vegetable, and dessert. Deadline to register is Wednesday, April 17. The day of the lunch, go in through Gate A, then Gate 2 by the pond to get to the main building.

Fitness Evaluation/Fitness Planning for the Exercise Room: Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m., through early May. Certified athletic trainer Samantha Freeman will evaluate your current fitness workout, give tips, and help create a plan if you're just getting started. To set-up an appointment, call the senior center. Daily/Weekly Happenings: Some programs have a fee, some are free, and most require pre-registration. Detailed information is in the monthly newsletter or at the senior center. Exercise Equipment Room: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon.

days, 7 p.m.; Vestry, third Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Building Networks International, Fridays, 7:30 a.m.

Outreach: Food Donations: Items for various local food pantries can be placed in the brown donation box outside Phelps Hall.

For more information, visit stpetershebron. com, search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook, or email office@stpetershebron.com.

feature artists from many forms of media. Watercolor, woodworking, oils, ceramics, fibers to name a few. Applications can be located online.

Market Day: Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. TTCP is seeking vendors for its Vintage Market and Art Show. If you have vintage flair, love to repurpose, redesign, reuse, collect old treasures or simply create art out of any media, submit an application. Applications can be found online.

Calling All Musicians - Make Music Day Hebron: Make Music Day is an international event dedicated to the celebration of music. This year's festivities will be held Friday, June 21. All levels of musicians are welcome, and all genres - individuals, family talent shows... your imagination is your only limit. TTCP is looking to line Main Street, bringing back the "Mile of Music." Sign up online to participate in the event.

Zoom; Massage, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Yoga, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Mindful Meditation, twice per month, 11:25 a.m.-noon (call for dates) Movie Monday (twice per month – call for date and title). **Tuesdays:** Knitting/Crocheting/Needle Group, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Hand and Foot Canasta (cards), 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Card-Stamping, 1-2:15 p.m. Wednesdays: Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via Zoom; Yoga, first and third Wednesdays of the month, 10:15-11:15 a.m; RHAM Bingo,

the third Wednesday of each month from 2:30-4 p.m., from October through May. Thursdays: Massage, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sunshine Singers, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3 p.m. Fridays: Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m.; Fun with Stitches Open Quilting Group & Created to Create Open Arts Group, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Bus Transportation to Mobile Food Truck and Food Bank: Every other Tuesday; call the center for dates. Pick-ups start approximately 10:30-10:45 a.m., and the food truck arrives at 11:15 a.m. at the Church of Hope/Red Barn at the corner of routes 85 and 66. Food bank arrival is approximately 11 a.m. Bring your own bags. Must sign up by 10 a.m. the day before.

Senior Transportation: Offered to ages 60 and up and all adult disabled individuals, for medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Transportation available Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance, but 48 hours is recommended - and required for new riders. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the center.

Cards for a Cause

All are invited to Gilead Congregational Church (GCC), located at 672 Gilead St., for a special card-making class in support of the Alzheimer's Association.

On Purple Sunday, April 21, at 12:15 p.m., this hands-on class will be led by the church's own Gayle Sylvester in partnership with GCC's Missions Committee. Registration fee is \$20 per participant. Remember to wear your purple. Contact the GCC administrative office at gcc@gileadchurch.net for more information and to register for the class.

From the Town Manager's Desk

Dear Hebron Residents:

The Hebron Board of Finance will conduct a public hearing on their recommended budget on Tuesday, April 16, at 7 p.m. This public hearing will be held in the Community Room at the Douglas Library. Information regarding the Board of Finance's Proposed Budget is available on the Town of Hebron website. Residents are encouraged to join this meeting and express their opinions. Comments regarding the proposed budget can also be emailed to hebronbudget@ hebronct.com

Hebron will come alive this month with many exciting community events:

· Hebron Green Committee will be celebrating Earth Day on Saturday, April 20th by hosting a roadside clean up event. Kickoff will be at RHAM High School in the upper parking lot. There will be a dumpster located at the Town Office Building provided by the Public Works Department

 \cdot AHM Youth and Family Services will be hosting a Drug Take-Back Day on April 27, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at RHAM High School. For more information, contact AHM at 860-228-9488

· The Town Center Project has begun preparing for the summer's events. There will be a town-wide tag sale on Saturday, May 4, and Market Day on Saturday, May 11, and the popular summer concert series is slated to begin in June. This year the concerts will be held on Friday evenings

· The DPW Action Committee has been meeting frequently to move this project forward. Additional information may be found on the Town's website.

· I am pleased to report that the Wall Street Sidewalks are being installed. The anticipated completion is expected to be early summer.

Please come out to explore this beautiful town - whether it's to hike at one of the many parks or trails or to enjoy a treat at the various downtown businesses. We are very fortunate to have this wonderful community to call our own.

Sincerely, Andrew J. Tierney Hebron Town Manager

Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 672 Gilead St., has announced the following. For more info, see the church bulletin at gileadchurchucc.updates.church, email gcc@gileadchurch.net, or call 860-228-3077.

Worship: Worship is at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour. Services are also available on You-Tube at www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

This Weeks' Scheduled Events/Meetings: 4/12: Faith and Film Cookout; 4/13: Yoga, 9:30 a.m.; 4/15: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 4/16: AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 4/17: Yoga, 9:15 a.m., Choir Practice, 7 p.m.; 4/18: Prayer Shawl Group, 9:30

Upcoming Events: Prayer Shawl Group: Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish House. All are welcome, regardless of knitting/crocheting ex-

Police News

3/25: Richard Coffin, 63, of 326 Old Hartford Rd., Hebron, was arrested and charged with traveling at a rate of speed greater than 60 miles per hour, operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle, carrying a dangerous weapon, and interfering or resisting with an officer, according to state police.

perience. Faith, Film and Potluck: Rescheduled from April 5, all are invited to a potluck cookout tonight, April 12, at 6 p.m., to celebrate the MLB kickoff with hot dogs, hamburgers, and a baseball movie. The next potluck will be Friday, May 3, at 6 p.m.

Card-Making with Gayle: All are invited on Purple Sunday, April 21, at 12:15 p.m., after worship and coffee hour, for a special cardmaking class to fundraise for the Alzheimer's Association with the church's Missions Committee. Cost is \$20. Contact Gayle to sign up via the church's administrative office (gcc@gileadchurch.net). The next card-making class date will be Sunday, May 26, at 11:30 a.m., with a cost of \$15 and a portion of proceeds donated to the Connecticut Food Bank.

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.



Mondays: Enhance Fitness, 9-10 a.m. via

Tours of Mill Sites

The Hebron Historical Society is offering tours of the Hope Valley/Reidy Hill neighborhood mill sites Saturday, April 20, at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sites are located on private property, covering uneven ground; attendance is limited. Rain date is April 21.

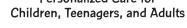
Register for the tour time of your choice and number of attendees by contacting Mary-Ellen at mergonci65@comcast.net or 860-228-9315. Suggested donation of \$10 per adult will be collected at Hope Valley Church, 21 Reidy Hill Rd., where the tour begins.

The final registration date is April 18. No dogs, please.

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In addition to being vastly outnumbered by cars, bike riders are much more exposed. So, even when a rider does something boneheaded, remember—your broken headlight is easier to fix than their broken bones. Take the high road and give bicyclists the space they need to ride safely. Check our website for more road sharing tips.

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Page 29

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.



The Rivereast at 7,500 Feet... East Hampton High School graduates (1982 and 1983) summitted Red Gap Pass in a reunion on a sux-day backpacking adventure in Glacier National Park Montana. Pictured are Todd and Diane Duvall Warner, with **Rick Atwood.**





Moose Men... Portland resident Russ Olson hosted the 43rd "Gathering of the Moose" at Perkins Pond, Sunapee, N.H. With Olson at the annual post-Labor Day gathering are Lee Nordstrom, Steve Wells, Bill Salinsky, Tim Csere, Jim Hill and Bob Heizman.



Budapest Bulletin... Tom and Sue Ladny of Portland brought the Rivereast along on a Viking river cruise on the Danube River, starting in Germany and going through Austria, Slovenia and Hungary. They are shown here in Budapest Castle District at the site of Fisherman's Bastion and Matthias Church, named for the country's most popular medieval king.

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The Happiest Place on Earth... Pictured is Colchester resident Mary Morgan on a family vacation to Disney World in Florida.

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



Obituaries Hebron

Raymond Marie R. Pa-

quette, 86, of Hebron, passed away in the early morning of Tuesday, April 2, at home, surrounded by family. He was born to the late Ernest and Rhenda (Lucier) Paquette on June 30, 1937, in Laconia, N.H.



Raymond served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He married his beloved wife Dorothy Lefebrve in 1960. Ray retired in 1992 from the Internal Rev-

enue Service after 31 years of service. In his spare time, he volunteered as a Boy Scout leader in Wethersfield and became a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus. Ray enjoyed playing golf, bowling and was a lifelong Red Sox fan.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy; children, Karen Paquette of Richmond, Va., Joanne and Bud Rosevear of Gibsonia, Pa., Thomas Paquette of Columbia, Anthony Paquette and wife Lauren of Colchester; 12 grandchildren and one greatgrandson, along with siblings Joe Paquette of Georgia, Andre Paquette, Ernest Paquette, Paula Paquette, all of New Hampshire, as well as many extended family members.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his siblings, Helene Brousseau, Bernard Paquette, Robert Paquette, Paul Paquette, Ann Larochelle, Rene Paquette, Lorette Thibeault, and Marie Julie Paquette.

Calling hours were held Monday, April 8, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A funeral Mass took place the following day, Tuesday, April 9, at The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St., Amston. The burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to Knights of Columbus or CT Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

For online memorials and condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Louise A. Sage

Louise A. Sage, 85, of Hebron, passed away peacefully Tuesday, April 2. She was the beloved wife of Richard Louis Sage for 66 years, both born in New Haven.

Hebron

As a foster child she was welcomed into the family of the late Christopher and Mary Concetta Ranalla of Hamden, and

loved by her sister, the late Frances C. (Ranalla) Vallera of La Jolla, Calif. She was the mother of Christopher Sage and his wife Patti of Monroe, and Sharon (Sage) Stewart and her husband Jerry of Warsaw, Mo. She is also survived by grandchildren Amanda, Evan, Shane and Shelby, and great-grandchild Oliver Stewart.

She worked in the school system for many years first at RHAM (Regional Hebron Andover and Marlborough) High School in the library and as an educational aide for learning disadvantaged students and then as a secretary in the office of the middle school. She also worked at Travelers Insurance starting in the typing pool and working up to executive secretary.

She was a resident of Hebron for more than six decades, living almost her entire life in the same house with her husband Richard until the last couple of years. She was a mom, a 4H leader, an avid gym member and loved her aerobics. She enjoyed knitting and crocheting, being in the goat barn at the Hebron Harvest Fair, and sleigh rides in the neighborhood with her husband and their horse Jack. She was an avid Catholic her entire life and was very active in the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron. She was also an avid reader and loved books, old movies, watching football, and the UConn women's basketball team. Her outgoing personality, smile, and laugh will be sorely missed.

There will be a Catholic funeral service at

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The Glastonbury

Church of the Holy Family at 185 Church St., Amston, on Friday, April 12, at 11 a.m. Burial will follow immediately thereafter at the New Hebron Cemetery on Wall Street.

Marlborough

Carol D. Rihm

Carol D. Rihm (Catt), 84, of Marlborough, passed away Wednesday, April 3, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Carol was born March 19, 1940 in Greenfield, Ind., to the late Edward and Elizabeth (Stipe) Catt. She was the valedictorian of the class of 1957 at Greenfield High School and graduated from

Central Business College in Indianapolis.

In 1959, she married her high school sweetheart, Thomas Rihm, and they remained married until his death in 1985. After living in Alaska while Tom was in the Army, his job with The Hartford took them to Indiana, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina before settling in Marlborough in 1974.

While her four children were young, Carol was very involved in their activities as Cub Scout den mother, Girl Scout leader, and religious education teacher. Her civic activities included the Democratic Town Committee, Board of Finance, Assistant Registrar of Voters and Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association secretary. She ended her professional career as a realtor for Century 21 after having been the secretary at St. John Fisher Church, accounts payable clerk at Marlborough Town Hall and holding various positions at Liberty Bank.

However, her favorite role was being the matriarch of her family. She adored her grandchildren and could be seen (and heard) cheering on their teams, applauding their performances, and babysitting. She loved setting up puzzles and hunts for her grandkids on holidays, and usually had her Christmas shopping done for the entire family by June. Carol was a diehard Boston Red Sox fan and rarely missed a game on TV. She enjoyed traveling, reading, solving word puzzles, going to the casino, and watching game shows.

Carol leaves behind her son, Dennis Rihm (Marcy) of Glastonbury; her daughters, Rebecca Drury (Carl) of Charlestown, R.I.; Deborah



860-443-8744

(James) of Marlborough. In addition, she leaves behind eight grandchildren: Amanda and Thomas Brahm, Alyssa (Jeff) Kelly and John Drury; Jessica and Tyler Rihm; and Zachary and Riley Harrington. She will also be dearly missed by her nieces, nephews, and friends. She was predeceased by her husband, Tom and her sisters Doris and Nancy.

NEWS BULLETIN • April 12, 2024

Her sense of humor and her candor will be missed by all those who knew and loved her.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday, April 9, at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough. Burial was in Marlboro Cemetery. Family and friends called Monday, April 8, at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association or the American Cancer Society in Carol's memory.

For online condolences, please visit www. mulryanfh.com.

Marlborough

James Jagodzinski Sr.

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother, James Joseph Jagodzinski Sr. "Jim" of Marlborough. He passed away peacefully with his wife of 56 years by his side, Patricia Ann (Malia) Jagodzinski on March 31, Easter Sunday.



Born May 1, 1943, in Chester, Pa., he was one of five children to the late Hedwig (Lawnizak) and John Jagodzinski Sr.

Jim is predeceased by his sister Julia Michaels. He is survived by his sister Nancy Borkowski, his brother the Rev. Msgr. John Jagodzinski, and his sister Mary Sims.

In addition, Jim is survived by his four children, Christopher Jagodzinski and Lisa Kozlowski; James Jagodzinski Jr. and wife Wendy; Jeanne Worthen and husband Scott; Kate Greatorex and husband Bob; and his five grandchildren, Zachary, Autumn, Sean, Shayla, and Lillie.

Jim graduated St. Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia 1961 and went onto St. Joseph's College where he earned a degree in physics in 1965. He had a love of airplanes from the age of 4 years old, and worked on U.S. Defense projects for the Navy during the Cold War. In later years, he worked for Boeing as a Systems Engineer with the V-22 Osprey Program, retiring in 2013. In his early retirement, Jim earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania, in which he had planned to counsel and support veterans with PTSD.

Jim spent countless hours volunteering with the Boy Scouts. He loved camping, canoeing, and all around exploring, while also earning the Silver Beaver award for his distinguished service.

His favorite time of the year was Christmas. He baked cookies with his children and grandchildren, sang carols with gusto, and eagerly visited Christmas light displays with the wideeyed wonder of a child. Other hobbies included: photography, archery, World War II history, and fireworks. Family and friends fondly remember the large backyard parties he hosted. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, ability to connect with others, unlimited good spirit, and abundant generosity.

His wife Patricia was his best friend and soulmate in life, and with grace and strength she saw him through the difficult end stages of dementia. He will be missed dearly; his beautiful spirit lives in the love and humor that he passed along

Swedish PO Box 535 / 184 William St. Portland, CT 06480-0535 Cemetery

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860-537-9611 www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

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Obituaries cont. -*East Hampton*

Donald Frances Sorvillo February 18, 1939 - March 26, 2024

Donald Frances Sorvillo, 85, of East Hampton, passed away Tuesday, March 26. He was born Feb. 18, 1939.

Donald was predeceased by his beloved wife Linda (Lock) Sorvillo, his son Donald Anthony Sorvillo and his grandson Benjamin Sorvillo. He is survived by his remaining

family, including sisters, Rose Colson and Beverly Moore, both of Florida; children, Cynthia Sorvillo Baloga and her significant other Joel Stockburger; and Robert Sorvillo and wife Shirley (Rouleau) Sorvillo; his grandchildren, Neil Baloga, Dr. Craig Sorvillo and his wife Rebecca Fachner, Donald Sorvillo Balsome, Amanda (Sorvillo) Moore and husband Peter, Michael Sorvillo and Angela (Sorvillo) Mazziotte and husband Michael; and great grandchildren Ryan Mazziotte and Caleb Moore. Donald also leaves behind many loving nieces and nephews.

Friends and family will forever remember the many nicknames that Donald freely assigned. He lit up every room that he entered with his contagious smile and sharp wit. He left every room in fun laughter. He loved taking someone's worries away, if only for a few minutes.

Donald served his country in the United States Army. After serving, he and Linda moved their young family to East Hampton where they spent the rest of their lives. He was a well-known business owner of Town Fabrics and Upholstery, later known as Change of Scene. He served East Hampton and many surrounding communities with diligent and reputable upholstery work. He also taught upholstery to adults through East Hampton Parks & Rec.

Donald shared his passion for baseball with the East Hampton community serving as a baseball coach for 15 years beginning with his young nephews in little league, later with his own sons and eventually coached teams of other young men. He was an incredible role model.

In addition to Donald's passion for family and baseball, he and Linda loved traveling the country in their RV. Most weekends were spent in their favorite state park, Fort Dummer in Brattleboro, Vt. Camping began in a tent with young children and continued through retirement.

Setback and pinochle were favorite family pastimes played at every family gathering. Yankees baseball games and NASCAR racing were also favorites and trips to Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun were many. Donald taught his family well how to live two days in every one. His sense of wonder about this world always stayed fresh as if he were looking through the eyes of a child.

Thank you Donald - Brother, Dad, Grandpa, Pop, Great Grandpa, Uncle Don - for leaving this world a better place.

Matthew 25:21 "Well done, good and faithful servant." The words of Jesus when we want to be faithful with the goodness, grace, talents, resources, time and all that he has entrusted to us. Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please share a smile with someone today, in memory of Donald.

TOWN OF HEBRON LEGAL NOTICE

At their meeting on April 4, 2024, the Board of Selectmen declared a vacancy on the Hebron Planning and Zoning Com-mission. The Selectmen designate Friday, April 12, 2024, as the posting date for the vacancy notice. The 35th and final day by which nominations shall be received is Friday, May 17 2024. The Board of Selectmen are now notifying the political parties and the general public of this vacancy. Interested candidates should attend a meeting of the Commission and discuss with the Chairman the frequency of meetings and the time commitment involved.

Portland Nancy Senatro

Nancy Senatro was born Feb. 17, 1946, and passed away Saturday, March 30, after a fouryear hard-fought battle with ovarian cancer. She showed all those close to her how to use positive energy to stay strong and resilient.

She is survived by her loving husband of 32 years, Daniel Senatro; daughter, Melissa Ghent and husband Thomas Ghent (Portland); daughter, Rebecca Chassie and husband Derek Chassie (Fort Mill, S.C.); grandchildren, Maxwell Chassie, Sadie Chassie, Ashley Ghent, Tyler Ghent (wife Emma Ghent); sister, Kathryn Martin, Berea, Ohio; twin brother, Arthur Edward Thompson (Tom) and wife Lynn Thompson (Deptford, N.J.); and nieces and nephews.

Predeceased are her parents, Arthur Edward and Judy Thompson.

Nancy grew up in Westfield, N.J. She loved spending her summers with her sister, twin brother, and cousins on Lake Estling. Nancy was a University of Connecticut graduate with a B.S. in physical therapy. She was a PT for over 40 years, and she enjoyed rehabilitating her patients. She earned a master's degree in healthcare management and held a leadership position at Middlesex Hospital.

Nancy treasured her many friendships, including the Craft Club and Book Babes from Portland. She enjoyed golfing in Old Saybrook with her family and friends, and loved walking the pool, yoga, and playing mahjong with her girlfriends in Indian Land, S.C.

Nancy was married to Dan Senatro for 32 years. They resided in Portland, and later years in Old Saybrook, before settling in Indian Land, S.C. They spent many years traveling all over the United States in their RV. They enjoyed the waterfront and had vacation homes in Cape Cod and Lake Winnipesaukee, N.H. In recent years they enjoyed their site in Fort Myers, Fla. Both were alumni and fans of UConn and enjoyed watching the basketball games together. Nancy loved their dogs and raised TJ and Abby together.

Nancy's pride and joy are her two daughters, Melissa Ghent and Rebecca Chassie. The girls always had the best time on their shopping trips, doing jigsaw puzzles, sharing books, sitting in the sun, and reminiscing about the younger years.

Nancy's greatest blessings call her Nana. Max, age 12 and Sadie, age 10 were blessed to have their Nana live nearby and be a huge part of their life. Nana taught them how to blow raspberries as babies, dye Easter eggs, bake Christmas cookies and gingerbread houses, build snowmen... She played for countless hours with them. She was there for every milestone. Most recently she would be on the sidelines of soccer and baseball games being their biggest cheerleader. Her greatest gift was being their Nana.

Nancy had a strong faith and was a member of Faith Presbyterian Church Indian Land SC and she gave back to her community and church through various volunteer activities.

A service was held at Faith Presbyterian Church, Indian Land S.C., on Thursday, April 11. There will be a celebration of life in Portland in the summer; more information will be communicated.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to either Levine Cancer Institute or Faith Presbyterian Church. Contributions to Levine Cancer Institute should be made in memory of Nancy Senatro to the Advancement Fund: fundraise. atriumhealthfoundation.org/give/256549/#!/ donation/checkout.

Colchester

Kimberly I. Perkowski

Kimberly I. Perkowski, 47, passed away after a brief battle with cancer on Friday, April 5, with her family by her side. She was born in Norwich on May 16, 1976, to Henry and Judy (Sanborn) Perkowski Jr.

Kim grew up in Yantic and was a 1994 graduate of Norwich Free Acad-

emy. She received her bachelor's degree in 1998 from Eastern Connecticut State University in sports and leisure management.

After graduating, always having a spirit for adventure, Kim moved to Maine to live in a cottage on Sebago Lake with a friend. While their time in the cottage was short, Kim remained in Maine, living in Windham, Lewiston, and the Casco Bay area, finding work as a YMCA lifeguard, daycare worker, and medical office assistant. It was in Maine that she started her training to become an EMT and volunteered for the Freeport Maine Fire Rescue.

Upon returning to Connecticut, her caring, compassionate nature and desire to help others led her to various jobs in the medical field. For the last nine years, she found joy in working as the night shift unit secretary at the Middlesex Hospital Emergency Department, where she had the honor of working with an amazing group of coworkers whom she considered friends and family.

Raised in a family of first responders (fire, EMS and medical), she was called to serve her community. Kim was an 18-year member of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company as an EMT, a position that she loved. She recently received a CPR chain of survival ribbon in October for a CPR save along with receiving EMT of the year for 2023.

Kim loved to travel and enjoyed exploring

new places, whether it was a day trip, weekend getaway or an excursion overseas. She especially loved to plan trips with her travel buddy Dianne. One year ago, she crossed another thing off her bucket list when her and Dianne traveled to Australia and New Zealand and climbed to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. She liked to attend plays, musicals, and comedy shows. Kim loved children and adored spending time with her friends Courtney and Nick Poirier and their children Grace and Logan, whom she called her niece and nephew. Kim will be remembered for her warm personality, smile, humor, and generositv.

Kim is survived by her father Henry, sister Jodi Savage and brother-in-law John Savage of Voluntown; her aunt and uncle Cindy and Mark Carchidi Sr. of Lebanon; aunt Susan Sanborn of Norwich; and numerous cousins.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Judy; maternal grandparents, Amzi and Frances Sanborn; paternal grandparents, Henry and Irene Perkowski Sr.; and uncle, Edward Sanborn.

Family and friends are invited to attend calling hours at the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m.-noon. A celebration of life service will follow at noon at the funeral home.

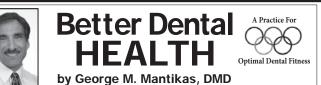
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in her memory.



HEALTH CARE SERVICES







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The human mouth has over 10,000 taste buds, located in the papillae, the tiny bumps primarily found on the surface of the tongue. Each papilla has hundreds of tastes buds, which contain the taste receptors. Saliva carries taste substances to the receptors and throughout the mouth. The sense of taste is a vital part of the body's nutritional intake process. A loss of taste is usually caused by one of two primary disorders: parageusia, a changed perception of taste quality (diminished), or phantogeusia, a perceived constant taste present such as metallic, bitter, or salty. A dental health professional can evaluate whether the taste loss is the result of an oral health issue or an indication of other underlying medical issues.

Our philosophy is not only to treat dental needs, but more importantly, to educate our patients on all aspects of their oral care. To this end, our mission is to provide open and free communication and the highest standard of care in an environment of health, mutual understanding, and respect. We offer complete general dental care for the healthiest, sunniest smiles possible. P.S. Taste buds regenerate themselves approximately every ten days.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC



All residents of Hebron who are registered to vote are eligible Letters of interest or questions may be addressed to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248 or call 860-228-5971. 1TB 4/12

Housing Opportunity Committee

The Committee will examine housing opportunities including afford able 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@marlborughct.net. 2TB 4/5, 4/1 The Ridge • 142 East High Street • East Hampton, CT 06424 860-267-6666 • www.DrMantikas.com

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LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center, 17 School Drive APPLICATION #Z-03-24 - 314 Jones Hollow Rd (Applicant) Kirsten DellaRocco (Property Owner) Construction of Accessory Building APPLICATION #Z-04-24 - 86 E Hampton Rd (Applicant) Farm on Carter Hill (Property Owner) 2024 Public Events APPLICATION #Z-08-24 - 303 So Main St (Applicant) Chateau Le Gari (Property Owner) Public Music Festival Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building/Land Use Department at the Town Hall ahead of the public hearing ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 4/12, 4/19

Town of Portland

Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that guarterly bills are due and payable April 17, 2024. Payments not made in full on or before May 17, 2024 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date

Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the charge. Please contact the Water/Sewer department if you do not receive your bill at (860) 342-6735 or by email darce@portlandct.org Please feel free to leave your payment in the drop box located to the right of the back door at the Town Hall, which is located at 33 East Main St., Portland, CT or by mail at the address listed below. Town of Portland Water/Sewer Dept. P.O. Box 71 Portland, CT 06480-0071 Cynthia L. Gotta, CCMC Town of Portland Collector of Revenue

3TB 4/12, 4/26, 5/10

Having a Tag Sale? Reach more than 75,000 Homes For Just \$15

A Week (Now through May 15)

Your Tag Sale ad will appear in:

 Rare Reminder, mailed Thursdays to 40,500 homes in Newington, Wethersfield and Rocky Hill/Cromwell

The Glastonbury Citizen, mailed Thursdays to 5,700 paid subscribers in Glastonbury

Rivereast News Bulletin, mailed
 Fridays to 27,500 homes in Portland,
 East Hampton/Cobalt/Middle Haddam,
 Marlborough, Hebron/Amston,
 Andover and Colchester

Just e-mail us at

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

Residents in the Sewer District in the Town of Marlborough are notified that Benefit Assessment bills are due to the Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority (MWPCA), April 1, 2024

The last day to pay without interest is May 1, 2024. Delinquent bills will be charged 1.5% interest per month reverting to the due date of April 1 or 18% per year. Minimum interest is \$5.00. Checks must be made out to MWPCA. Sewer bills cannot be paid online.

Payments may be paid at the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street or mailed to MWPCA Collector, P.O.Box 29, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT. 06447. There is a Drop Box, checks only – NO CASH, to the left of the Town Hall door. Normal office hours for the Tax Office are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Tuesday 8:30 am to 7:00 pm and Friday 8:30 - to noon. Respectfully submitted.

Barbara Lazzari

Tax Collector

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

3TB 3/29, 4/12, 4/26

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

Payments received May 2, 2024 and later, including payments postmarked May 2, and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statues 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before May 1, 2024 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.

As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.

Please make checks payable to: Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online at www.mytaxbill.

net/easthampton Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.

Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.

Respectively Submitted, Scott Clayton

Public Utilities Administrator

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH **BOARD OF FINANCE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING** LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

1. 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 Opera-tions & Capital Budgets, and Town Debt Service Payments. 2. To Present & Discuss the termination of Capital Non-Recur-

ring 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=pQIAjYQ8o3uvTK gmhJUoceeG9a8PPF.1 Meeting ID: 833 5901 8802 Passcode: PNBD9M 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/u/kbpAUxp2nz 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 Nastri, Chair 2TB 4/5, 4/12

TOWN OF COLCHESTER

A certified list of party-endorsed candidates for the Republican and Democratic Party in the town of Colchester for participation as Delegates to the convention(s) of said Party specified below are on file at our office at 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT. Democratic Conventions: State Assembly, Congressional, State Senate, State Party Republican Conventions: State Assembly, Congressional, State Senate. State Party Dated this April 3, 2024 Gayle Furman, CCTC, CMC

1TB 4/12

1TB 4/12

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing and regular meeting on April 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Room 117 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider and decide the following: 1. PZC-23-016: David & Melissa Baribault, 33 High Point, Gravel

Path, Shed and Stairs in Conservation Easement. Map 02C/Block 9/Lot 12/8 – Application Denied.

2. PZC-24-002: West High Enterprises, 195 West High Street, Site Plan Review for Construction of a Commercial Building in C Zone. Map 12/ Block 36/ Lot 3 – Application approved with conditions. Further details of these decision are available in the Town of East Hampton Land Use Office.

Kevin Kuhr, Chairman

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 23, 2024, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

1. Petition 2024-07 - Petition of the Town of Hebron to revise Section 5.F.8 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations to regulate light posts greater than 14 feet in height, amend Section 5.F to recommend athletic field lighting compliance with DarkSky International guidelines and controls to limit illumination beyond scheduled activity, to recommend bulbs with warm color temperature, and to avoid motion detection <u>2. Petition 2024-08</u> – Petition of Tracy Hart (Donacki) and Craig Donacki to construct a 30' x 26' accessory structure at 19 Maple Ave that exceeds the cumulative total of 1,200 square feet pursuant to Section 3.E.3.4 and 2.D.2 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, Amston Village District.

Planning and Zoning Commission Apr 23, 2024, 7:00-10:00 PM (America/New_York) Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://meet.goto.com/387722693 You can also dial in using your phone. Access Code: 387-722-693

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https://meet.goto.com/install Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 10th day of April 2024. Frank Zitkus, Chair

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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 Árterial 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 (RÚ)

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

2TB 4/5, 4/12

1TB 4/12

NOTICE OF INTENT TO **DEMOLISH STRUCTURES** TOWN OF COLCHESTER OFFICE OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL

Notice is hereby made of intent to demolish one (1) structure at 84 Stanavage Rd, Colchester, CT, Assessor's Map MBL# 02-04/002-002 Information regarding the intended demolition may be obtained from the Office of the Building Official, Municipal Office Com-plex, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT, 860-537-7285 – Monday thru Friday – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday evenings until 7:00 p.m.

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-heeldogtraining.com.



EMPLOYMENT

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FULL TIME OFFICE HELP: Small local company offering a full time clerical position. Candidate must be able to multi-task and be well organized. One of the primary duties includes assisting in the development of project sales quotations. Other duties may include phone answering, filing, order entry & expediting. Training provided. \$20-\$25 an hour DOE / Plus benefits! Apply in person at: Yost Associates 224 Eastern Blvd, Glastonbury. M-F 8:00-5:00. Positively no phone calls.

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2TB 4/12, 4/19

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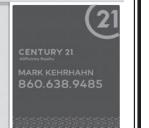
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Town of Marlborough Part Time Building Official

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 ap-plications is 12:00 p.m., Friday, April 19, 2024. Town of Marlborough is Equal Opportunity Employer 2TB 4/5, 4/12

EMPLOYMENT

Part Time Speech Pathologist

Andover Elementary School currently has a part time Speech & Language Pathologist opening for the 2024-2025 school year. Qualifications

Certification/License: Appropriate Connecticut State Certifi

cation for subject/grade level. Education: Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university. Master's Degree as per state requirements. **Experience:** Student teaching, practicum, and/or state-ap-proved preparation. Experience working with children is desired.

To Apply: Applicants who wish to apply should go to the school website to locate a copy of the application and submit a copy of their Resume, Certification, Transcripts, and three (3) current letters of reference directly to the Principal: Taylor Parker, 35 School Road, Andover, CT 06232, or via email to: parkert@ andoverelementaryct.org.

8TB 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31

FREELANCE REPORTERS

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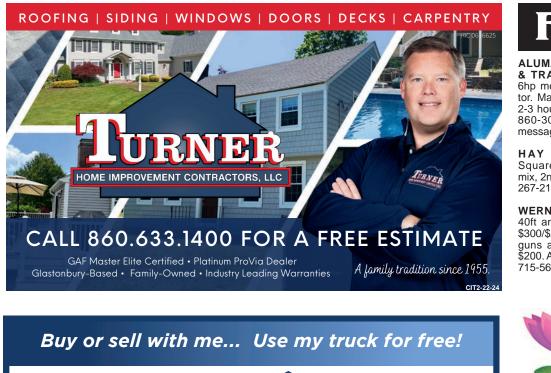


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