

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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April 19, 2024



An Epoch Original... Transport to an inner city decorated with graffiti that faces a surplus of crime and feelings of loss. The small cast of 10 is putting the finishing touches on the Epoch Arts original production, T'shuva, which will run May 3-5 at 27 Skinner St., East Hampton. Audience members are encouraged to listen as the characters teach lessons of choices and repentance. See related story on page 23.

Marlborough Residents Respond to Budget Hike

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Marlborough Board of Finance (BOF) held its first public hearing this week on the 2024-25 town budget proposal, allowing residents to provide feedback as they stare down a steep tax increase.

Last month, the BOF set the proposed 2024-25 mill rate at 37.83 — a 3.10 increase that would result in an 8.92% tax bump next fiscal year.

While the slated tax rate is actually a tick below the figure previously drafted earlier this budget cycle (9.24%), it still represents a substantial levy on the community.

For a property assessed at \$250,000, the new tax bill would increase by \$774; for a property assessed at \$650,000, the bill would go up by \$2,013. Accordingly, properties assessed within that range would receive a tax increase in-between those two amounts.

During the hearing — held in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria and virtually via Zoom — many residents complained that the anticipated tax hike was untenable. One senior citizen said he was on a fixed income, and the town was becoming unaffordable.

Ken Hjulstrom, a former member of the BOE, wrote on the meeting's online chat platform that he would be voting "no" at the upcoming referendum on May 7.

"I support the local [Board of Education] budget, but Town Hall needs to sharpen their pencil and give us a more palatable number," he stated.

The bulk of the information outlined during

this week's meeting was relayed by Town Manager David Porter, who acknowledged the drafted budget was a "big ask" and that he was "concerned" with the financial burden being passed along to residents.

Still, he emphasized local officials worked their "darnedest" to minimize the spending increase, calling the proposal "conservative" and "thoughtful." The town manager also defended current services, such as road maintenance, after one resident brought up the abundance of salt treatment this past winter despite the low snow totals.

The town was "not abusing" residents' tax dollars, Porter said, adding that he "stands by his team."

Budget Breakdown

The overall town budget request is currently listed at \$28.07 million — a \$971,700, or 3.59%, increase from current-year spending.

Porter's presentation specifically highlighted town expenditures, which includes a \$6.3 million operational budget — an \$89,700, or 1.44%, increase — along with a \$764,577 capital budget — an increase of \$542,628. Combined, the town earmark is \$7.07 million — a \$632,328, or 9.82%, increase over the 2023-24 fiscal year.

The public hearing did not focus on the RHAM Board of Education budget of \$11.33 million — a \$69,979, or 0.62%, increase — or the local Board of Education spending plan of \$8.74 million — a \$219,396, or 2.58%, increase (That total also includes \$75,000 of capital projects located at the elementary school.)

A second public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the MES cafeteria on May 6 — the day before the townwide budget referendum.

See Budget Hike, page 23

Colchester Workshop Grows Contentious

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Finance (BOF) this week peppered school administrators with questions regarding the 2024-25 fiscal year budget proposal during a contentious workshop.

For over three and a half hours on Monday evening, residents and board members combed through the budget, which was unanimously adopted by the Board of Education (BOE), offering both support and skepticism about the slated spending hike.

Earlier this month, First Selectman Bernie Dennler III and Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III officially presented their respective budget proposals to the BOF.

Monday's forum represented the first opportunity for the finance board to publicly probe the school budget; the initial workshop focusing on the town budget is scheduled for next Monday, April 22.

The BOE requested a 2024-25 budget of \$45.73 million — a \$1,746,724, or 3.97%, increase in spending over the current 2023-24 fiscal year.

While the BOF — which only has bottom-line, rather than line-item authority over the school budget — is likely far away from taking an official vote on the proposal, members came armed with plenty of inquires. At times, the meeting became heated as some officials scrutinized the drafted blueprint.

Democrat Scott Chapman, chairman of the finance board, called for "respect" and "decorum" inside the Town Hall meeting room.

Republican board member Tim Vaillancourt, who had been seeking information from the superintendent, interjected: "[Sullivan] is the highest-paid employee of the town. I believe he can answer a few questions."

Board members and residents tackled a variety of topics, including prior programming cuts, renovations to the BOE's central office, student enrollment and Medicaid reimbursements. But there was considerable debate regarding whether school spending — which accounts for roughly 75% of the total Colchester budget — had swollen too much.

"I would say that it's rather inflated," remarked Republican John Thomas.

He added later that the school district appeared "over-funded" and that perhaps the town budget needed more "padding."

"I look at this budget and I just see a very high number and no accountability after the fact," Thomas said, adding that "we just seem to be a little out of balance."

Coupled with concerns regarding the school budget being too expensive were additional comments about whether the BOE and district have been good stewards of taxpayer funding. Vaillancourt pointed to substantial transfers made within the school budget accompanied by large sums of unexpended money leftover at the end of fiscal years as potentially concerning trends.

"I don't think that people are really understanding of once it leaves here and we approve the budget, that money just goes into this magic well that the Board of Education spends how- See Colchester Workshop, page 26

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I owe a huge debt of thanks to Jonathan Archer, my amazing realtor. Jonathan is patient and kind. His experience and knowledge base kept me from making uninformed choices.

-Maria, East Hampton

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

From the "learn something new every day" department: Today is National Hanging Out Day.

No, it's not a day specially-designed to get together with your friends and just chill out. (Although that's certainly a good idea too.) Rather, it's a day meant to encourage people to dry their clothes outside.

Each year on April 19, Project Laundry

List works with hundreds of other organizations to sponsor this event. This day encourages communities to learn about the benefits, both financially and environmentally, of using a clothesline for drying laundry. According to Project Laundry List's website, clothes dryers account for six to ten percent of residential energy consumption.

Editor's Desk continued on page 5

Bulletin Board

From time to time, I receive input from readers who suggest that if I don't watch out and lighten up on the references to my wife in this column, I'm likely to meet an untimely (or well-deserved, depending on your perspective) end in some sort of suspicious lawn tractor accident or (perhaps more appropriately) a rat poison mix-up.

The reader generally concludes by saying he/she is surprised I've lasted this long.

The fact is, my seemingly unapologetic misogynistic bluster is all a charade. The real me is an unassertive puppet who treats his wife like a veritable goddess and won't go out in the rain without an umbrella.

I thought I'd clear up these misconceptions before passing on what I guess you would call a behavioral survival guide for the modern-day Neanderthal male. I'm not sure where it came from originally, but a reader sent it along a while back. It's sort of like one of those calorie charts dieters use except it applies to relationships—you get points for some things and lose points for others.

Briefly, do something the wife or girlfriend likes and you get points. Do something she dislikes and you lose points. Do something she expects and you get no points. (Sorry, that's the way the game is played. Don't fight it.)

A word of warning: Starry-eyed romantics who believe that unicorns cavort under rainbows in sylvan fields may find the following survival guide unsettling.

You make the bed.....+1
 You make the bed, but forget to add the decorative pillows.....0
 You throw the bedspread over rumpled sheets.....-1

You leave the toilet seat up.....-5
 You replace the toilet paper roll when it's empty.....0
 When the toilet paper roll is empty, you resort to Kleenex.....-1
 When the Kleenex runs out, you use the next bathroom.....-2

You go out to buy her flu medication.....+5
 In the snow+8
 But return with beer.....-5
 And no medicine.....-25

You check out a suspicious noise at night.....0
 You check out a suspicious noise and it is nothing.....0
 You check out a suspicious noise and it is something.....+5
 You pummel it with a six iron.....+10
 It's her cat.....-40

You go to a party and stay by her side the entire time.....0
 You stay by her side for a while, then leave to chat with a college drinking buddy.....-2
 Named Tiffany.....-4
 Tiffany is an exotic dancer.....-10

You remember her birthday.....0
 You buy a card and flowers.....0
 You take her out to dinner.....0
 You take her out to dinner and it's not a sports bar.....+1
 Okay, it is a sports bar.....-2
 And it's all-you-can-eat night.....-3
 It's a sports bar, it's all-you-can-eat night, and your face is painted the colors of your favorite team.....-10

You join a pal for a night out.....0
 The pal is happily married.....+1
 The pal is single.....-7
 He drives a Ferrari.....-10
 With a personalized license plate (GR8NBED).....-15

You take her to a movie.....+2
 You take her to a movie she likes.....+4
 You take her to a movie you hate.....+6
 You take her to a movie you like.....-2
 It's called Death Cop III.....-3
 Which features Cyborgs that eat humans.....-9
 You lied and said it was a foreign film about orphans.....-15

You develop a noticeable pot belly.....-15
 You develop a noticeable pot belly & exercise to get rid of it.....+10
 You develop a noticeable pot belly and resort to loose jeans and baggy Hawaiian shirts.....-30
 You say, "It doesn't matter, you have one too?".....-500

She asks, "Does this dress make me look fat?"
 You hesitate in responding.....-10
 You reply, "Where?".....-35
 You reply, "No, I think it's your butt".....-100
 Any other response.....-20

When she wants to talk about a problem:
 You listen, displaying a concerned expression.....+2
 You listen, for over 30 minutes.....+5
 You relate to her problem and share a similar experience.....+50
 Your mind wanders to sports and you suddenly hear her saying, "well, what do you think I should do?".....-100
 You have fallen asleep.....-200

Jim Hallas

Riverast Hours of Operation

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



Lacrosse Lends a Hand... Over spring break, the RHAM High School lacrosse programs volunteered at the Hartford County 4H Camp. They helped clean up the large property so it will be ready for campers this summer.

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Thank You

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Jeff Ballard and Jim Fitting and the rest of the crew from Andover that are helping make the Andover Community Garden such a success.

Thank you for your care and efforts. They are certainly recognized and I appreciated.

It's projects like this and special people like you that make Andover such a special place.

You are making all Andover resident proud and we thank you.

Dianne Grenier – Andover

DPW Updates

To the Editor:

Fellow Hebron residents, my name is Todd Habicht and I am the vice chairman of the DPW Action Committee. The action committee is a small group of volunteers that has been tasked to provide progress updates for our town's new Public Works facility. The town of Hebron's website is the best way to stay up to date on what's new. Visit www.hebronct.com and click on the green bar at the top that says, "Click Here for Public Works Building Project Updates." Once there you can see the frequently asked questions.

I will be submitting a letter to the editor in the *Riverast* any time there is something new for our residents to see on the town website.

Sincerely,

Todd Habicht – Hebron

1864

To the Editor:

"Y'all, we finally have an answer to the question we've been asking all this time, but they refuse to answer: When was this period that America was so great that you want to go back to, to 'Make America Great Again?' It's 1864. A time when Black people were enslaved and women couldn't vote. A time when politicians observed superstitions about things like the eclipse and earthquakes. A time with LGBTQ folks had to live their lives in quiet shame. A time before child labor laws. That's where they want to take us back to." – Brooklyn Dad Defiant, YouTube, Instagram and X-Twitter.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Cravenly Letters

To the Editor:

Though *Riverast* readers and letter writers may squabble over opinions, at least everyone who writes identifies themselves. We may find opposing views laughable or despicable, but we also know that the senders have the courage of conviction to stand by their work.

Sadly, the same cannot be said for the community at large. East Hampton social media has recently shared a couple of cravenly letters that anonymously target allies and members of the Belltown LGBTQIA+ community. The content of the letters is not worth disclosing, especially since the authors were too cowardly to identify

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themselves. And cowards are exactly who they are. They are attempting to intimidate our neighbors over how they live their lives or operate their businesses. Thankfully, most of the reactions have been a mixture of disgust for the authors and support for the recipients.

East Hampton is about as politically split as a Connecticut town can get. For every pride banner, there seems to be an equal number of MAGA flags. People here are passionate about their beliefs and positions, and that passion lends itself to conflict with those of different points of view.

But we can choose not to drive by houses sporting “Brandon” flags, or to not patronize businesses that display support for communities we don’t agree with. Opinions can conflict without rising to intolerance, which is critical in a small town where everyone knows each other.

The senders of the anonymous letters are not trying to respectfully share an opinion. Their intent is chaos and stoking hate. Regardless of belief or affiliation, the members of our community should reject such cowardice. If the authors are too ashamed to sign their names, we shouldn’t grant them the satisfaction of letting them divide us.

Sincerely,

Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Note: Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said he is expressing his own opinion.

Pattern Recognition

To the Editor:

In what’s become a predictable pattern, the U.S. House of Representatives voted this past week to continue to allow the U.S. government to spy on its own citizens without a warrant. By lumping the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act as an amendment into a larger bill, our representatives voted 212-212 to uphold the status quo and allow for indiscriminate and unwarranted surveillance of any citizen, for any reason. When a vote on a subject as consequential as warrantless surveillance just happens to die along a tie vote you can rest assured that lots of back political horse trading was done in the background to unsure this tie vote outcome. Focus on the optics!

It’s funny how these big votes always seem to fail by the narrowest of margins, but its comforting to know that half our representatives consider our Constitution and Bill of Rights to be nothing more than glorified toilet paper. Don’t these clowns take an oath to preserve and protect our Constitution? Weird.

It seems like the only topics that both political parties can agree upon is the steady erosion of our “inalienable” rights, burying us in unpayable debts, and getting us into more foreign military conflicts. Amazing leadership! God Bless America!

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Commission on Aging Thanks

To the Editor:

The Commission on Aging sends its heartfelt thanks to the 25 volunteers of East Hampton Community Cares, in honor of the East Hampton Chooses Kindness celebration. These volunteers assisted 27 adults who are 70 and over or disabled, by performing 56 free services in the first three months of 2024. Services included rides (often to medical appointments), companionship, either in person or over the phone, yard work including raking and garden preparation, and help in the home. Thank you, volunteers! The program continues to grow! For more information, email me, Eric Rosenberg, at COA-chair@easthamptonct.gov.

**Eric Rosenberg, MD
Chair, East Hampton Commission on Aging**

Help Pick Up Litter

To the Editor:

Portland is a beautiful place and a wonderful town to live in. But when I walk to the bus stop or to school, I see alcohol bottles on the ground at every corner, cigarette butts on the sidewalks, dog poop bags and litter on the street. I even find these things in the stream where I play with my friends and at the park.

This is not how we should be treating our neighborhoods and town!

This spring I am setting a goal to walk to school more. When I walk I’ll be collecting garbage on my way. When I get to school I will throw it away.

I encourage my Portland neighbors to help clean up our community and start picking up litter. Together we can make our town an even better place to live!

Gretta Olive Chenier – Portland

Quilt Show Thanks

To the Editor:

The members of Haddam Neck Congregational Church Quilt Show Committee would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the church’s 2024 Quilt Show on April 13 and 14. From loaned quilts for the exhibit, to donations of fabric, yarn and notions for the event’s Bits & Pieces Sale, quilt lovers and crafters far and wide can always be counted on to support our annual show. Church members spent hours creating and promoting the exhibit, cataloguing more than 100 quilts, cooking and baking for the cafe, assembling raffle baskets, organizing the Bits & Pieces items and publishing the show program, so it is very gratifying to see everyone come to enjoy the event.

Congratulations to East Hampton Quilter Ellen Pettengill, who’s lovely “Wildflower” quilt was the overall favorite among show visitors. Looking forward to our next show in 2025!

Sincerely,
**Haddam Neck Congregational Church
Quilt Show Committee**

Hebron DPW FAQ

To the Editor:

Thank you to Hebron’s Department of Public Works Action Committee for offering residents some clarity on this important project. A Frequently Asked Questions statement was recently posted on the Town of Hebron website. It contains some encouraging information; however, it raises some additional questions.

Question 1 asks, “What is the purpose of the DPW Action Committee?” The response is clear and offers the most appropriate solution, “The DPW Action Committee has been charged by the Board of Selectmen to help research, communicate, and support the Town in its preparation to bring to referendum, a proposal for an upgraded DPW facility. The focus is specific to

the facility remaining at the current Old Colchester Road location.” As noted in the answer to Question 5, 69% of respondents to the 2023 survey stated the Public Works facility should remain where it has been located for decades. The reasons given in the survey were just as clear as the overwhelming percentage, Hebron residents want to protect and preserve our water, history and farmland.

Question 7 asks about space limitations at Old Colchester Road. The answer states in part, “the original analysis was conducted approximately ten years ago and requires further information, including an updated operational needs assessment...” This updated assessment has not occurred. This raises several significant ques-

See Letters, page 6

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

To participate in National Hanging Out Day, simply install a clothesline (if you’re able to, that is; if like me you live at an apartment your landlord might be less than thrilled), and hang your freshly washed clothes out to dry. Then, share pictures of your clothes drying on social media, using the hashtag #NationalHangingOutDay.

These days, basically every date on the calendar has two, three, four or more special “days” attached to it. Some are whimsical, some are serious, and some are somber. For example, today is also Oklahoma City Bombing Commemoration Day, in remembrance of that horrible 1995 terrorist attack that claimed 168 lives.

According to the website Holidays-and-Observances.com, April 19 is also: National Bicycle Day, Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Action Day, Dutch-American Friendship Day, National Garlic Day, Humorous Day, National Amaretto Day, National Poker Day, Pet Owners Day, and Rice Ball Day. It’s also John Parker Day, celebrating the life of the Revolutionary War captain.

So, there’s no shortage of reasons to celebrate April 19. Or, you know, you could just simply celebrate the fact it’s Friday. That’s always a worthwhile cause.

This sounds pretty fun. The Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society will present “Webster’s War of the Words,” the museum’s signature fundraiser, on Saturday, May 11. The event features an on-site “watch party” at the museum and an online game show, with celebrity contestants engaged in a battle of words and wit. There are several

ways to participate – purchase tickets to the museum’s “Studio Audience Party” or reserve free virtual tickets to the online show.

The Studio Audience Party begins at 6 p.m. and features food and drink with a Wine Tasting with Tilted Bottles, an American blues performance with Ramblin’ Dan Stevens, and a live auction with host Jacques Lamarre. Studio Audience Party attendees will also watch the live broadcast of the game show on the big screen.

This year’s game show include some impressive names, such as: Ben Zimmer, linguist, lexicographer, and language columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*; Mignon Fogarty, founder of the “Quick and Dirty Tips” network and creator of *Grammar Girl*; Tracy Bennett, associate puzzle editor at *The New York Times* and editor of the popular *Wordle* game; David Kwong, magician, writer, producer, and *New York Times* crossword puzzle constructor; and Jessi Grieser, associate professor of linguistics at the University of Michigan.

Whether you attend the event, bid on an auction item, or make a donation, your contribution helps to preserve the 300-year-old National Historic Landmark birthplace of Noah Webster Jr. in West Hartford.

Tickets are currently available to watch the show or attend the party and can be purchased at www.auctria.com/auction/www24. Webster’s War of the Words Virtual Game Show will be hosted on Zoom.

For more information on Webster’s War of the Words, visit www.noahwebsterhouse.org or call 860-502-3247.

See you next week.

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Auction of Antique & other furniture, glass, china, quantity of Paintings, water colors, prints, clocks, Bronze & metal statues and animal statues from homes & estates in Essex and Old Saybrook. Partial listing: Antique drop front desk w/pigeon hole interior, brasses, bracket foot, lawyers 3 sectional bookcase, oak bookcase w/glass doors - back splash - mirror - label Larkins, iron oblong stand - fancy carving w/marble on top & bottom, many iron & brass stands - round & square w/marble inserts, pair 1 drawer stands, small size w.l. glass top stand, pair Windsor arm chairs, single Windsor chair, set 4 Hitchcock chairs (2A-2S), Antique Shaker Rocker #3, Kids Windsor Chair & other small pieces of furniture - Misc.: Oriental china, Majolica leaf, tall crystal vase, decanters, vases, oriental umbrella holder, art glass pieces - swan, vases, Royal Daulton - Lady in Chair w/apples, porcelain figures - parrot, greyhound, people, Qt. of Goebels - animals, birds, etc., gnomes, some hummels, Norwich Pottery Works - #2 jug w/blue bird, #3 crock w/slendened eagle, clocks including mantle, brass, French style, enamel travel clock, stone clock, wall clocks, Westlox alarm clock, brass travel, J. Cramer & Son, small inlaid clock, clocks w/chimes, large table top radio 1950 Blaupunk - Granada 61, Waterford table lamp, pr French crystal table lamps, Barometer, NY ships compass, brass pails, candlesticks, bronze sailfish lamps, metal stork, tall metal herring on base - T Crello, bronzes include duck, 3 dolphins, 2 1/2 giraffe, dog, heavy brass bust of women, Indian statue, small bronzes, tall copper vessel w/spigot, silver plate, semi antique pewter, lg carved oriental wood figures - pair sleeping man & woman - painted, qt. of shore birds, decoys, cement duck, showcase, black boy carring, glass bottles, Barbie - TM Lic@ by Mattel Inc. 1961, clothes, book, catalog, Tammy by Ideal w/book & clothes, Guitar, mandolin, lanterns, hanging Landers Binders Improved, circular hanging scale, small boat motor, costume jewelry, Art - portrait drawing - gilt frame, sm. Antique painting, pt - Wpleck 1897 sailing ship, John Daklin - cows in pasture, V. Bark - large sea scape, M Sniffin - boat - on board, pt "She got your letter", Irving Stillwell - pt - young boy & goat, painting on panel - little Dutch girl, 6 framed tiles - fisherman w/Dutch girl, pt - ducks - Testa & other duck pts, Qt of other paintings, water colors, drawings etc.

See more pictures on: auctionzip.com ID # 14542

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

tions: How can the DPWAC proceed without the updated operational assessment? How will they know what space is necessary and what to design? How will the town know how to staff, equip, train and plan for the future?

In addition to the assessment, the town should investigate outsourcing certain duties. This might include trash handling, tree removal, paving, mowing, and waterway maintenance, such as repairs to swales, culverts and catch basins. This could save money in construction as well as in the annual budget.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri - Amston

A USA Invasion?

To the Editor:

Picture it: A U.S. Navy destroyer stops four Mexicans in a small boat rowing towards Texas. The captain gets on the megaphone and shouts, "Ahoy, small craft. Where are you headed?"

One of the Mexicans puts down his oar, stands up, and shouts, "Gringo, we are invading the United States of America to reclaim the territory taken by the USA during the War of 1812."

The entire crew on the destroyer doubles over in laughter. The captain finally catches his breath, gets back on the megaphone, and asks, "Just the four of you?"

The same Mexican stands up again and shouts, "No Señor, we are the last four. Thanks to your President Biden... the other 21 million are already there."

Frank Blume - Colchester

Proactive Heroes

To the Editor:

As #save17 continues to dive into water pollution, I find myself swamped by stories pouring into my email. I cannot keep up with them. I joined Martin County Kentucky's Facebook page, years ago, and water groups tagged along. Thousands of them, across the USA, are fighting for what now seems to be the luck of the draw, clean water. Amongst the bigger stories, we find the more notable heroes. But really, all land and water advocates are truly patriotic.

Erin Brockovich was the first person on the scene for the East Palestine, Ohio, spill last year. Several political figures may have posted thoughts and prayers but, unfortunately, words won't clean toxins out of soil or groundwaters. We know of Rachael Carson, Robert Bilott and William Warzecha, proactive people willing to put their reputations on the line to help US citizens.

Author Barry Lopez writes about his view of our country in his book America. His opinion mirrors that of myself and my grandfather. The spirit of this nation, any nation really, lies in our soils and natural resources. It's our responsibility to defend them.

Luckily we have local heroes as well. At recent town meetings, for Hebron, I have heard the passionate voices of concerned citizens standing up for what they believe in. One, in particular, likes Burnt Hill the way it is. While Burnt Hill is not on the chopping block, at this time, I found it reassuring to hear people defending land in town. Our land, and freedom of speech, are things worth defending. These alone, still make our town, and country, a special place. I hope that residents will vote in favor of democracy, sound values, open land, clean water and the remaining liberties that we supposedly stand for. Be a proactive hero, #save17.

Jean Tulimieri - Amston

◆ 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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Thank You to the EH Lions Club

To the Editor:
The East Hampton Housing Authority and the residents at Bellwood and Chatham Acres would like to extend our appreciation to the EH Lions Club. They have been so kind throughout the year. Some of the things that they have donated and done are St. Patrick's Dinner, baked potatoes and ham, Thanksgiving dinners, clothing, reading machine, eyeglasses, food share and wrapped toys for the residents Grandchildren for Christmas. Our kindness goes out to you our EH Lions Club with a very big THANK YOU for everything you do for our town and the residents at Bellwood and Chatham Acres.

Sincerely,
David Schumacher,
Executive Director, East Hampton Housing Authority
East Hampton Housing Authority Board Members

Wake Up

To the Editor:
"...so do me a favor do a little research be a little bit of a citizen here and find out what's going on and what's happening...I want to tell you this is a five-alarm fire and your house is burning and you don't know it and I'm telling you the Comstock Act is on the books it's still the law of the United States and it can still be enforced... they are coming after your everything of your life and if you don't understand that if you don't research this if you don't do this if you don't get active..."

"...it's all so insane and it's all happening right in front of you and you know exactly what's going to happen to Trump wins they already have a government in exile they're doing away with the entire Civil Service they're already telling you this and they're going to go to Trump these christian nationalists these anti-sex crusaders these puritans these I don't know what they are and they're going to say we put you in there you can steal anything you want and we're going to take over law enforcement and that's that is highly likely to happen..."

"...you my dear friend watching this and all the people that you love and all the people you care about I'm telling you right to your G--D-- face they're coming after you rather than be scared be active...Wake up." James Carville.

Wake up defined as to cease sleeping. We slept and Roe v. Wade was overturned. To quote George Orwell, "Until they become conscious they will never rebel, and until after they have rebelled they cannot become conscious."

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Manning – Andover

Blame the Messenger

To the Editor:
Colin McNamara has taken offense to my fact-checking his letter by referring to Snopes.

For those who don't know it, snopes.com is the definitive site for checking urban legends. It is also one of the premier political fact-checking sites, although it has plenty of competitors in this, including factcheck.org and politifact.com. When I used Snopes references to discredit Mr. McNamara's post, his response was simply to attack Snopes. That there was infighting and plagiarism among Snopes' founders does nothing

to dispute the organization's current prominent place among fact-checkers.

Snopes is a verified member of the International Fact Checking Network, which means they're known to "exhibit a commitment to nonpartisanship and fairness, transparency of sources, transparency of funding and organization, transparency of methodology, and a commitment to open and honest corrections."

He claims that by labeling stories as false, Snopes (and Facebook) are censoring stories and stifling dissent. No, what Snopes is doing is something called "journalism." Those steeped in right-wing media may not recognize this term, but it's an important way our society discovers and promotes "truth," another word that seems a little fuzzy to them. Facebook, as I understand it, bans little, but refuses to promote provably false dangerous stories. He tries to get snide, critiquing them for debunking a common myth, he misses the point: "Sugar Causes Hyperactivity in Children" is widely believed, but is false according to scientific research.

Two weeks ago, I rebutted three specific claims using references to fact-checkers' articles. That he still disagrees does not say anything about fact-checkers, no matter how much he blames the messenger. But it says a great deal about him.

There is truth; I know it's hard for Mr. McNamara to accept it. He really must learn. The truth is he was wrong, and Snopes demonstrated it.

(References: <http://letters.sauyet.com/#/2024-04-19>.)

Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet

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

Regulations Enforcement

To the Editor:

Thirty+ years ago the Lake Vista project put runoff in Lake Pocotopaug. Five years ago the Town Hall project accelerated runoff; now Edgewater and Lakewood roads projects continue this tradition of runoff without accountability. The Town Council recently passed resolutions approving a "moratorium" on future building until the regulations, and enforcement efforts are reviewed. The TC is also forming a joint commission (TC, IWWA, Lake Commission, P&Z) to review the situation and determine a course of action. While the gestures are certainly positive steps, we need concrete action taken now, not next week, not next meeting. Unfortunately, the immediate threats to the lake continue unabated.

State statute 22a-42c states if 25 people request a hearing by a Municipal Wetlands Agency, then they must have a public hearing. Thirty-six East Hampton residents wrote to officials April 3rd; so far residents have not seen notice of a hearing. While getting the DEEP involved may not be appealing, the tepid response to take aggressive action does not leave many options to immediately forestall environmental decay. Further delays for a hearing will only allow the potentially offending parties to continue destructive practices unabated.

Detailed regulations exist at both the town and state level to address the issues at Edgewater and Lakewood Road. The TC expressed interest in reviewing existing regulations, but what good is accomplished if enforcement continues to be lackluster? Current regulations, while not perfect, are the regulations, and therefore adhered to by everyone, no exceptions. Weak enforcement policy results in flagrant disregard for the

lake, residents, and environment. As a result, contractors will continue to avoid accountability with a smile, knowing full well there is no consequence for their actions.

Town officials must enforce the regulations as written, no exceptions, and stop the destruction of our watershed now.

Bob Yenker – East Hampton

How It All Relates

To the Editor:

Every day we hear of trials and tribulations, at home and around the world. Natural disasters and man-made problems befall us, inconvenience us, annoy us and sometimes kill us. Food shortages, floods and droughts, mudslides, inequalities, disparities in wealth, teacher burn-out, dearth of first responders, beachfront property loss, housing shortages, species extinctions, crowded highways and deteriorating infrastructure, water shortages, supply chain issues, pollution, energy concerns ... the list goes on! And these problems carry costs in the billions of dollars in many cases: collectively, perhaps trillions. Despite the differences between many of these calamities, there is one common denominator: people. Many if not all of these problems would not be problems at all if people were not in the way or directly causing the problem. There are cynics and naysayers who make the point that "these things have happened forever." Indeed they have, but their human scope was so much less. There was not a bloat of humans in the path of calamity. If there were people around, there weren't too many of them. The exceptions to this might be historic plagues and epidemics, because hygiene and medicine weren't available. Now we think we have abundance, until we

See Letters, page 14

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Lions Brewery Tour

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

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

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

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

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

Lions Pancake Breakfast

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

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

and juice.

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.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is broadcast live every Sunday and recorded for later viewing at mcc.marlbroughchurch.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@marlbroughchurch.org for more information.

April 21: The service will celebrate an infant baptism and the reception of new members. Church pastor the Rev. Valerie Seaver will be leading the service. Her sermon title is "How Shall We Live?" After worship, all are invited to Coffee Hour in the Thienes Lounge for light refreshments and a cake to honor the newest members of the church.

Bible Studies are led by Seaver. The morning study meets Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Thienes Lounge; the Thursday evening study meets at 6 p.m. in Seaver's office

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

Drive-Thru Café for Marlborough Food Bank patrons with vouchers is usually held on the last Sunday of each month. The Youth Enrichment Team sponsors a monthly meal for residents at Florence Lord Housing. Second-quarter mission-giving will go the AHM Mental Health Fund.

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

ACA: Meets 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@marlbroughchurch.org.

Grief Share Sessions Starting Up

A Grief Share support group will begin next month at Fellowship Community Church, 24 South Rd.

There will be registration for the group on Tuesday, May 7, from 5-6 p.m. The series will start May 14 and be held Tuesdays from 5-6:30 p.m. until Oct. 15. The group consists of 13 sessions, with each session including video, group discussions and a workbook. You do not need to attend each group in order, and you can join at any time. There will be a Celebration of Life in

memory of your loved one(s) on Tuesday, Oct., as the final session.

Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Is This Normal?" "The Challenges of Grief;" "Grief and Your Relationships," "Why?" and "Guilt and Anger."

For more information, call the church at 860-295-0844, visit fccefree.com and click on the link for Grief Share, or text or call 860-338-1060 with any questions about the group.

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. 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 MarlbroughCTLions@gmail.com. Registration forms are also available at various locations. You can register online at itsyourrace.com; search for Marlborough Lions.

Artists and Artisans

The Marlborough Arts Center is pleased to announce its annual Members' Art Show, scheduled to open on Sunday, May 5 from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m.

All media will be accepted, including paintings, photography, digital art, sculpture, pottery, woodwork, and jewelry. Artist members are invited to bring up to three pieces of artwork to the Arts Center, 231 North Main Street, Marlborough on Sunday, April 21, between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m., or on Monday, April 22, between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.. The entry fee is \$10 for one piece, \$20 for two pieces, and an additional \$5 for a third. Membership dues must be up to date.

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

executive creative director and owner of a small progressive design studio, Spring Hill Studio, LLC located in Northeast Connecticut, halfway between Boston and New York. Rebecca holds an MFA in Visual Arts from The Art Institute of Boston, a Master of Science in Art Education and a Bachelor of Fine Art in Oil Painting from the University of Connecticut.

The Members' Art Show will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1:00 - 4:00 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 on the website: www.marlbrougharts.org.

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

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

Congregate Meals: All meals are served with milk, bread and margarine. Suggested donation: \$3

or what you can afford. Menus are subject to change.

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

Monday, April 22: Free bread and bakery goods from Stop & Shop; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: Swedish meatballs with white sauce, mashed potatoes, Prince William blend vegetables, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; Setback, 3-4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 23: Free bread and bakery goods donation from Big Y; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Tai Chi, 1-2 p.m.; Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne, 3-4 p.m.; Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24: 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: kielbasa with mustard and caramelized onions, paprika diced potatoes, four-way vegetable blend, wheat dinner roll/fresh fruit; Setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-6 p.m.; Nature Trails, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 25: Parkinson's Disease Exercise, 3-4 p.m.

Friday, April 26: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-noon; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. National Coffee Cake Day! Menu: orange juice, baked ham w/ pineapple sauce, Brussels sprouts, wheat bread, coffee cake; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Church of Marlborough, located at 35 South Main St., will hold a Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 5, at 11:15 a.m., in the church sanctuary, for church members to vote to install mini-split air-conditioning/heat units in the sanctuary.

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.

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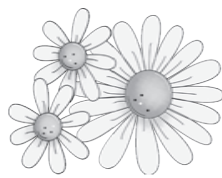
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Native American Storytelling

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 Indig-

enous 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.

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.

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.

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

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

Parents Night Out: Friday, April 26, 6-9 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center (MSC). Drop off your kids in grades K-6. Fee: \$20 per child/resident, \$25 per child/non-resident.

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

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

will be awarded.

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

Adult Programs: Dog Obedience – Polite Dog Manners: Fridays, April 19-May 24, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at MSC. Fee: \$120/resident, \$125/non-resident.

Yoga: Mondays, April 22-May 13, 6-7 p.m., at MSC. Fee is \$50/resident, \$55/non-resident.

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

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

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

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

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



Lions Present Award... For every \$1,000 that the Marlborough Lions donate to the Connecticut Lions Low Vision Center, they can nominate a recipient for the Ambassador of Sight Award. The club recently awarded it to Toyota of Colchester, which over the years has been a consistent sponsor of the Marlborough Lions Club. Presenting this award to Chris Antonino of Toyota of Colchester is Marlborough Lions Club President Megan Lloyd.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Family Faith Formation: Led by Cindy Bryan, this is an active family faith formation program for the church's kindergarten through elementary school population. Deacon Bill Gilles

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

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

Adult Worship Choir: Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. All are welcome to join. More information is on the church website.

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held weekly for Marlborough Food Bank. You may also bring non-perishable food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection is the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

Other Programs and Offerings: For more information on other programs, seasonal offerings, adult faith formation, youth group, book club, OCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit www.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

American Legion Setback Tournament

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

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

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.

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.

MVFD Women's Auxiliary Subway Fundraiser

Bring your family and friends to the Marlborough Subway on Tuesday, May 7 from 4-6 p.m. The Women's Auxiliary will receive 25% of all sales that night. Thank you for your support.

Cemetery 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 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.

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.

COMMUNITY FORUM

TRASH TALK: the Trash Crisis & Organic Waste Solutions



Join Sustainable Marlborough for a community discussion about bringing organic waste diversion, including composting, to Marlborough. With guest speaker Emma MacDonald from the CT DEEP Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance.

MES Cafeteria, April 30 @ 7pm

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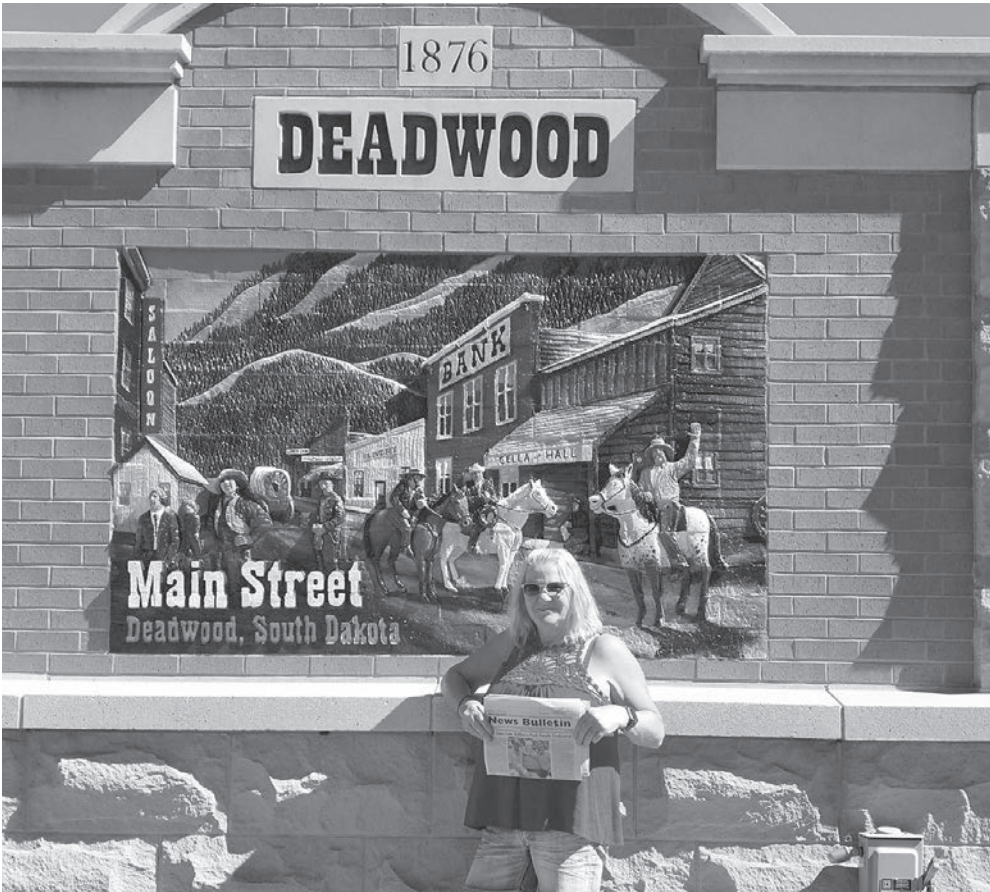
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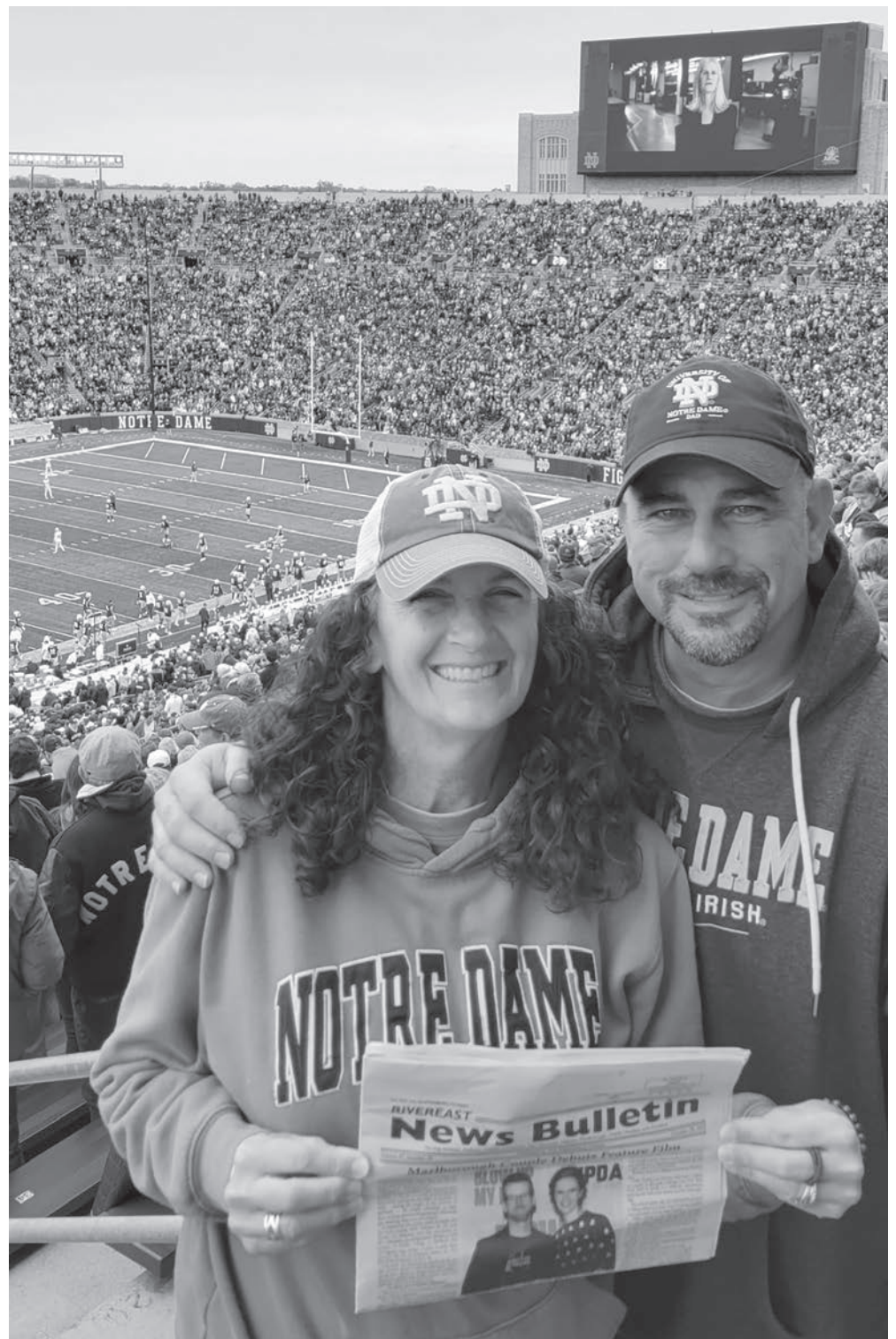
South Dakota Fun... Tracey and Dave Skwiot of East Hampton brought the *Rivereast* along on a week-long vacation to South Dakota.



Budapest Baths... Mary and David Rose of Hebron took the *Rivereast* along on a trip to Budapest, Hungary. Here they are picture of in front of the Szechenyi Baths in Budapest.



Team Tobati... Brenda Semmelrock of Marlborough recently chaperoned her school's community service program for the fourth time to Tobati, Paraguay. Team Tobati from Kingswood Oxford School in West Hartford collaborates with the Ronaldo Macchi School in Tobati to provide help in many ways to local families and schools, including handing out toothbrushes and soccer balls to school children, building sidewalks and planting gardens. Record-breaking heat hit a high of 116 degrees!



Go Irish!... Michael and Karen Miano of Portland traveled to Notre Dame, Ind., last fall, to watch the men's football team play like champions in the iconic Notre Dame Stadium.

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Board of Education Details Deficit

By London Brazal

Many school districts have been facing similar issues: less funding from the state even though the required mandates are increasing.

And it's no different in Portland. At the last Board of Education (BOE) meeting, the assistant to the superintendent for business and financial affairs Stephanie Fragola explained a deficit of funds for the current fiscal year. According to the authorized spending report from March 31, the BOE's budget had a deficit of \$273,000. However, the following week, the district got the news that the tennis courts needed to be redone, adding another \$20,000, making it about a \$293,000 deficit. Fragola said school administration was in a budget freeze, so the only things to come through her last report would be graduation and the tennis courts.

Since the books don't close until June 30, there are concerns about the deficit growing, especially because of the state's excess cost grant. Fragola said administration was notified by the state that more requests came in than funding, causing a reduction in the amount of the dollars going to Portland. "[It's] about \$80,000 less," Fragola said. "That was not great news to get."

In the report from March, the excess cost

funding was \$666,155 but now it is looking closer to \$587,000.

The deficit is centered around student services, special education costs, outplacement costs and transportation. "These are mandatory costs," said BOE chairperson Laurel Steinhauer.

Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton explained that the unfunded mandates come in from the federal and state levels – and that eventually, they add up.

"These are obligations," he said. "We are happy to do them because they're great for kids but at some point...yeah."

Board member Meg Scata furthered that point. "Every district is faced with an increase and we've been up at the legislature complaining about it," said Scata, adding she was surprised that the legislature "didn't go and try to get a supplemental [appropriation] or get something to reduce the burden that the districts are facing."

The district administrators said they do a lot of work to keep students in-house. They have four programs aimed at maintaining peer connections for the children, which benefits both the kids and the organization. However, those children who cannot be accommodated within the

district must be placed elsewhere, causing significant costs without any capped limit. The district has petitioned both the education committee and the legislature to scrutinize these outplacement agencies, which the district said charges "extremely high" fees, ranging from \$300,000-\$400,000 for daily and residential treatment services that the district cannot provide internally.

Scata said other districts are going to the state legislature "shaking the tin can." The special education excess grant reimbursement rate has decreased from 80% to 71% in the last four years.

Scata noted that, following the 2022-23 fiscal year, a new amendment was added that established three tiers of reimbursement, based on the wealth ranking of the municipality. The end result, she said, has not been good for Portland.

"They muck[ed] around with a formula and they changed it," she said. "They said they were going to give us more money and they turned around and they can't give us as much as what

was promised."

She continued, "Where's the fairness? Keep the promise. Even though we may only get \$10,000, it would be \$10,000 more that we don't have right now."

With the tiered formula, Portland is getting a 70% reimbursement rate. When Fragola first started, she said the rate was about 88% but quickly declined.

As stated previously, the books close for the current fiscal year on June 30. Fragola said they are trying to mitigate the deficit as much as they can. "We have to pay our bills. We have to pay the salaries," Fragola stated. She, along with the superintendent, has been looking for ways to close the gap and get the deficit down by finding other funding or moving items around.

"We'll continue working with Ryan [Curley] and making sure that we are in close communication with his office around this," said Steinhauer. "It's an unfortunate situation."

Vocal Chords Spring Concert

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

All are invited to this evening of music as MHVC's 90-voice chorus and 10-piece orchestra perform a variety of songs. Music director is Samuel Tucker, and Alan Dougherty is accom-

panist.

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.

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

Italian Night at Zion

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

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

Live music will be provided by Jonny Rox.

Zion's Grace Guild will have several gift baskets available for raffle.

The price for dinner is \$15 for adults, with children 12 and under free. Seating is limited. Proceeds will support Zion's youth travel to the 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.

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 to rural areas.

The Highway Department uses a clamshell bucket attached to its loader, to load piles of brush that are too large for workers to load by hand.

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

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

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

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

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

Organic Community Garden: All are welcome to grow their favorite vegetable, flower or

herb. The garden is located in Bransfield Park on Rose Hill Road. Gardeners can purchase a 10x10 plot for the summer for a fee of \$30.

Kids' Blast: Morning (7-8:15 a.m.) and afternoon (3-6 p.m.) child care is available, for students enrolled in grades K-6 in the Portland Public School system. Call Parks and Rec. for prices and more information.

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.

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.

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.

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Local Band to Perform at Trinity Church

By London Brazal

Seven years ago, the Trinity Episcopal Church created a concert series called "Vital Connections Through Music." As music is considered a universal language, bringing people together no matter their background, members of the church wanted to provide a venue to share music, ideas and stories with the public, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Throughout the year, the church organized approximately six shows. Profits generated from these events were directed towards supporting nonprofits such as the Portland Food Bank, Portland Fire Department, the guide dog foundation Fidelco, the Wounded Warriors Project and Veterans-Backpacks for Life. In the past, proceeds were donated to local, regional and national nonprofit organizations. The concert series raised more than \$2,000 in the fall of 2022 to support Ukraine in its war against Russia.

The proceeds of the upcoming concert will go to the Middlesex Land Trust. The mission of the Middlesex Land Trust is dedicated to safeguarding open spaces in Northern Middlesex County

by identifying, protecting and maintaining significant natural features such as wetlands, scenic areas, critical wildlife habitats, prime farmland and unique geological formations. The trust welcomes donations of land and conservation easements to ensure that these lands remain in open space for the well-being and pleasure of generations to come. Since 1987, the land trust has worked towards its mission. Operating across Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown, East Hampton, Portland and Hadam Neck, the land trust presently oversees the ownership and management of over 1,000 acres spanning 52 preserves.

Before the pandemic, the concert series had a successful run, but it wasn't until the committee rebranded in 2022 when it continued to prosper. The new name, Brownstone Vital Connections, utilizes a common name associated with the venue and expanded performance options. However, the spirit of the series still connects to Trinity's mission of outreach. The main goal is to share the acoustics of the church with the

community and support local singers and songwriters.

Ultimately, the members of the Brownstone Vital Connections committee want to continue their efforts to become an inclusive community space. The present committee has six members: Ray and Rita Phillips, Carol and Jim Hill, Carla Harris and Judy Henderson. With the concert series now going into its seventh year, Ray Phillips reflected, "I have seen the size of our crowds grow as we present more diversity in the music and the causes we support."

In the planning efforts, the committee's goal was to broaden the audience by featuring more bands that appeal to a wider demographic. The committee wanted to shift their focus since the previous approach wasn't yielding sufficient results. And, since the funds are not for the church itself, the committee wants people to support the various causes the money is donated to.

The band performing for the first concert of the series is Portland's own Great Hill Mountain Band, featuring Mike Foley and Luke Guilmette

on guitar and vocals, John Guilmette on drums and Dan Guilmette. The band is celebrating their 30th anniversary this year. Since 1994, they have been playing the greatest hits of country and country rock. The band also will be donating a part of its T-shirt sales to the Middlesex Land Trust.

Community members are invited to enjoy an afternoon of music, dancing and refreshments. The venue is very accommodating for concerts with plenty of space to move around and the state-of-the-art sound system. The members of the church believe the venue is their greatest resource to share with the community regardless of if they attend Sunday service.

The Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 345 Main St. The first concert of the series will be hosted on Sunday, May 5, at 4 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$12 by calling 860-463-6444, or emailing trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$15.

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-

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 portlandct-solidarity@gmail.com.

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.

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 school-institution 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.bluesombbrero.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. Light refreshments will be served. Register in person at the senior center or by phone at 860-342-6760. For more information, contact Brownstone Quorum member Tom Bransfield at 860-538-3607 or Bqriverfront@gmail.com.

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.

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

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 less than 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. Paper 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.

On Saturday, May 11, the society will have a 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.

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

PHS Track Ribbon-Cutting

The Town of Portland and Portland Public Schools will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Portland High School athletic track Tuesday, April 23, at 3:15 p.m. All are invited to attend. Rain date is Wednesday, April 24, also at 3:15 p.m.

The ceremony will mark a significant milestone for Portland High School as it celebrates the completion of its long-awaited athletic track renovation. After years of being unable to host athletic competitions due to the deterioration of the previous track, the school will now welcome athletes and spectators back to its facilities.

Funding for the track was made possible by

the support of state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) and state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32), who helped to secure \$500,736 in state funding. Additional funds were approved by the residents of Portland at a special town meeting held in March 2023.

"We are all thrilled to see this track project through to completion," said First Selectman Ryan Curley. "Having a safe and reliable athletic facility is something that both our students and residents deserve. The Board of Selectmen wishes a successful season to the Portland High School track team!"

The new athletic track was completed by Classic Turf Company, LLC and features a post-tension base, a design aimed at increasing longevity beyond traditional asphalt-based

tracks. According to a press release issued by Curley's office, "this enhancement not only ensures a durable and reliable track surface but also provides a cost-effective solution for our community."

Curley thanked Portland Public Schools Building and Grounds Director Bob Shea for overseeing the track's construction.

Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton added, "The new track is beautiful and opens up innumerable opportunities to support the health and wellbeing of our students and community. We deeply appreciate the support of everyone who contributed to making this a reality for our community."

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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. 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 from the Connecticut Library Association.

Youth Programs: Egg-cellent Adventures: Thursday, April 25, at 3:30 p.m., 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 appoint-

ment for a 15-minute session to read to an animal buddy.

May the Fourth Be with You: Paint Your Own 3D Figure: Saturday, May 4, 1-2:30 p.m., for grades 2-6. Space is limited.

Adult Programs: Monthly Writers' Cafe: Saturdays, April 20, May 18 and June 15, at 12:30 p.m. in the Van Beynum Room. The first hour will be quiet writing time, with the final 30 minutes set aside to chat about your project with fellow writers.

Ukulele Classes: Tuesdays, 5:15 p.m., April 23 and 30. These are free 45-minute beginner lessons for adults and children ages 11 and up. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one from the library. Space is limited.

Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficials: This program, scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, has been canceled. Watch for a new date.

Book Clubs: 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.

From the First Selectman's Desk

Dear Portland Residents:

Spring has arrived here in Portland and with it, a number of great events. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming Kenny Fletcher Memorial Car show and Town-Wide Tag Sale. Below is an update on a number of items going on in town:

School Facilities Project: As you may recall, the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education have been exploring a plan to address its aging school facilities. Friar Architecture has completed their initial design work and will be presenting renderings and cost estimates of a renovated Pre-K to Grade 5 Valley View School at a special joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education on Tuesday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m., in Portland High School Library and Zoom. I encourage everyone attend. Please remember that a final decision has yet to be made.

Brainerd Place: The developer of the Brainerd Place project has resubmitted his requested changes that were withdrawn at the April 4th Public Hearing. These requests will once again go before the Planning & Zoning Commission at a date sometime in May.

Prior to that meeting, the Brainerd Place developer will present, in detail, his proposed changes – as well as his rationale for requesting these changes – at a special meeting of Portland's Economic Development Commission. This special meeting will take place on Monday, April 29, at 7 p.m., in the Portland High School auditorium. The meeting is open to the public and all residents who would like more information on the proposed changes are encouraged to attend. Please note that no decisions of any kind will be made at this special meeting. Rather, the special meeting is intended to serve as an information session for Portland residents and business owners.

Annual Budget: The Board of Selectmen adopted the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget at our April 3 meeting. The budget can be viewed in its entirety at www.portlandct.org/budgets as well as in the town clerk's office and Portland Library. The budget calls for an overall increase in expenditures of 4.62% between the Board of Education and General Government. If approved at referendum, residents would see a 3.11% increase to the current mill rate.

Referendum: The budget now goes to the voters and property owners of Portland, first at an annual town meeting on May 6 and then to be voted on at referendum on Monday, May 13. Polls will be open on May 8 between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. at Portland Middle School, located at 93 High St. Absentee ballots are available in the town clerk's office beginning Wednesday, April 24. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions on the budget.

Jobs Pond: Excessive rainwater has caused the flooding of a number of residences along Jobs Pond. Because of this, the Town has requested Federal assistance through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. Representatives from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service conducted a field review of the current conditions on April 11. This is the first step in a process aimed at securing assistance for those impacted residents. The town remains in regular communication with our state and federal representatives and agencies. We are striving for a swift and effective resolution for this ongoing flooding crisis.

High School Track Ribbon-Cutting: There will be a ribbon cutting for the new athletic track at Portland High School on Tuesday, April 23, at 3:15 p.m. (rain date to be Wednesday April 24, at 3:15 p.m.). The ribbon-cutting will coincide with the Portland High School's first home track meet. All are invited to attend.

Portland Rec Complex: The water has been turned on and the bathrooms are officially open for the season. Thank you to Portland Public Works! As a reminder the splash pad will open in time for Memorial Day Weekend in May.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or comments: by email at rcurley@portlandct.org or by phone at 860-342-6715. Office hours can be made by appointment or by stopping by Town Hall.

Sincerely,
Ryan J. Curley
Portland First Selectman

Historical Society to Hold Membership Meeting

The Portland Historical Society will hold a meeting for membership to discuss proposed bylaw changes on Tuesday, April 23, at 7 p.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

Society members and the public can read the proposed changes, as well as the present bylaws, before the meeting by going to www.portlandhistsoc.com and clicking on "Publications" in the left-hand column. Choose "Proposed Re-

vised Bylaws" to review 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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

Next Week's Programs: Monday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Syncosize II Dance and

Fitness, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Cooking for One with Marilyn, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients – donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); Watercolor Class, 9:30 a.m.-noon (to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com); Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Syncosize II Dance and Fitness, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Bridge, 12:30 p.m. **Thursday:** Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Light aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Special Events: Congregate Meals: Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. Fee: \$3 suggested donation. Seniors (60+) can socialize with other members of the community while enjoying a hot lunch. If interested in attending, ask or call Holly or Judy for an application form-860.342.6761

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

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

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

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

Hemlock Grange Game Night

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

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

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.

Honor Society Inductee

Ella Bankoski of Portland was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, an all-discipline collegiate honor society. Bankoski was initiated at Sacred Heart University.

Correction

In the article last week on the Portland budget, which appeared on page 13, Board of Selectmen member Shaun Manning was quoted as saying the Board of Education spent \$119,000; he actually said it spent \$19,000.

The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

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Rivereast Standout Athletes for April

By Josh Howard

Here are a dozen athletes who were selected Rivereast Standouts of the Week for their efforts through the first few weeks of the spring sports seasons:

Sean Connolly – RHAM High School (Baseball): Connolly pitched a complete game, striking out 16 and surrendering only two hits in a 4-1 win over East Catholic on April 10. Connolly, a senior, has recently decided to play baseball at Salisbury School in Connecticut for a post-graduate year before continuing his athletic and academic journey at Stonehill College in Massachusetts starting in the fall of 2025.

Riley Stolzman – Bacon Academy (Softball): Stolzman shined in her debut on the high school diamonds, driving in six runs on three hits as the Bobcats trounced Norwich Tech 16-1 in the season opener on April 1. Stolzman, a freshman, connected on a pair of doubles and scored a run as Bacon scored a half dozen runs in both the second and third innings to pull away.

Baden Plante – East Hampton High School (Baseball): Plante, a senior, struck out 14 to earn the win from the mound as the Bellringers won a road contest over Shoreline Conference (SLC) rival Cromwell, 14-3, on April 3. Plante also helped his own cause from the plate, connecting on three hits to drive in two runs and score another as the Bellringers broke the game open with a seven-run sixth inning to secure the victory. Austin Bigelow added three RBIs on a pair of hits, also scoring two runs as the team won their first game this spring. East Hampton is next scheduled to host SLC rival Cuginchaug on Monday, April 22 at 4 p.m.

Cassidy Maruschock and Emelia Eckert – Portland High School (Tennis): Maruschock and Eckert teamed up to win the No. 1 doubles match, earning a key victory as the Highlanders defeated East Hampton (4-3) on April 5. Madelyn Varano also won her No. 2 singles match, while Skyra Rascati and Kiley Scott won the No. 2 doubles match and Piper Rettich and Avery Johnson won the No. 3 doubles match. The Highlanders are next slated to host Sheehan on Monday, April 22 at 3:45 p.m.

Chelsea Woods – East Hampton High School (Golf): Woods topped the leaderboard, shooting 38 to win by two strokes, as the Bellringers defeated Hale Ray (169-188) on April 16. Woods, a senior, shot par on seven of nine holes to head a strong East Hampton contingent that also had solid showings from Chase Palmer (41) and Jacob Woods (42). The Bellringers will next host Manchester at Quarry Ridge Golf Course on Monday, April 22 at 3:00 p.m.

Luke Stennett – Portland High School (Golf): Stennett picked up right where he left off a season ago, finishing as the medalist by

shooting a 34, while senior teammate Quinn Lapinski shot a 35 during the Highlanders' 161-165 victory over Coventry on April 11. Stennett, who has finished atop the standings at the previous three state championships, leads an experienced group of golfers that is looking to help Portland capture an unprecedented fourth straight team championship this spring. The Highlanders next host Norwich Tech and Valley Regional at Portland Golf Course this Monday, April 22 at 2:45 p.m.

Chris Lusignan – Bacon Academy (Baseball): Lusignan pitched a complete game shut-out, striking out 10 as the Bobcats blanked Putnam 5-0 on April 9. Lusignan, a senior, provided the security blanket from the mound, while Ethan Creutz and Konnor Tuthill each drove in two runs and Eli Chiaverini scored and had an RBI to ignite the offense. Bacon Academy now heads to Dodd Stadium (home of the Norwich Sea Unicorns) this Saturday, April 20 for a showdown with Massachusetts-based Cambridge Rinde and Latin. First pitch is noon.

Joelle Goralnik – RHAM High School (Lacrosse): Goralnik netted a hat trick, including a dramatic game-winner as the Raptors defeated Mercy 5-4 on April 13. Goralnik, a senior, broke a tie by tallying her third goal with five seconds left in regulation after getting an assist from Hazel Landers, earning the Raptors their first win this spring. Eva Keleher added two goals for RHAM, who are next slated to host South Windsor on Tuesday, April 23 at 4:30 p.m.

Josh Hanna – Portland High School (Baseball): Hanna is off to a hot start this spring, recently smashing a pair of home runs in a 12-6 win over Putnam on April 15. Hanna, a senior captain, scored four runs and connected on four hits that drove in five runs as the Highlanders broke the game open with six runs in the third inning, improving the team to 3-1. Portland is slated to host SLC rival Cromwell at PHS today (Friday, April 19) at 4 p.m.

Camden McPeck – RHAM High School (Baseball): McPeck powered Raptors baseball last week, connecting on eight hits and driving in eight runs. McPeck, a senior, cranked a three-run home run in the team's win over Concord in West Hartford on April 15 as the team improved to 4-1. RHAM's early-season victories include triumphs over Berlin and East Catholic and they are next slated to host Coventry today (Friday, April 19) at 3:45 p.m.

Jazlyn Small-Yu and Reina Hill – Bacon Academy (Softball): Small-Yu and Hill had nearly identical and equally impressive stat lines – each hammering a pair of home runs – as the Bobcats beat RHAM 22-15 on April 6. Small-Yu, a senior, connected on four hits, driving in four runs and scoring five more. Hill, a freshman, also scored five runs on four hits and



RHAM High School senior Sean Connolly fanned 16 batters as the Raptors beat East Catholic. Photo credit: Patrick Miller, a current student at UConn and former RHAM High School baseball player.

racked up four RBIs. The Bobcats and the Raptors will rematch this Saturday, April 20 at Bacon Academy. First pitch is 10 a.m.

Dan Fields – East Hampton (Tennis): Fields was victorious in his first ever high school match, easily winning the No. 4 singles match (6-0, 6-1) over Lucas McMillan of Old Lyme on April 1. Fields, a freshman, brought home one of the two victories for the Bellringers in the

season opener, as East Hampton's No. 2 doubles team of Aiden Nolan & Will Bothamley also won. The Bellringers next five matches are on the road, with a trip to Westbrook tonight (Friday, April 19) at 5 p.m.

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

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★ Letters cont. from page 7

don't. People have abused the planet to the point that resources that seemed unlimited a hundred years ago are diminishing rapidly, or extremely difficult to get. There would be far fewer shortages if there were far fewer people clamoring for whatever it is we're short of. Every major global problem has the same basis: too many people.

Some say, "follow the money." I say, "follow the people."

John Barnowski – Colchester

Responsibility

To the Editor:

Monday night, our town manager offered a thorough, well-done explanation to townspeople, carefully reviewing each aspect of the town budget as sent forward by the Board of Finance. He fielded questions and comments, many tough, about the large increase in our taxes, which items are mitigated by grants and saved dollars, what impact various operational issues have on our town.

Two things were not made clear. One, as Town Manager he was the appropriate spokesperson but he is not responsible for the whole budget. Each board develops its own budget. David Porter has no power to accept or veto any of it. He works with members to help shape the town's needs and budget for them, but none of those dollars are under his control-he deserves no blame for our budgets or taxes.

Second, the Board of Education is totally free to make its own budget decisions, and forward them directly to the BOF. Please note, according to a citizen who voiced concern at the meeting, the BOE and RHAM budget accounts for 71% of our budget! The BOE chair spoke about transparency, suggesting the BOE minutes are available to all, the meetings open. True, but misleading. One cannot interact or ask questions- questions are only rhetorical. Our superintendent decided she wanted two principals and a new administrative structure-she went ahead and hired them BEFORE the budget was ever passed by the townspeople, ignoring concerns about the need or desirability of her new plan, which was rubber stamped by her board.

The BOF never even questioned their budget- in fact they were reprehensible to the one member who questioned and dove into facts. Board of Finance, time to scrutinize the BOE budget. Townspeople, come and question at the BOF/BOE May 6th town meeting.

Ann Terezakis – Marlborough

Cowardice

To the Editor:

Some of you will disagree with what I have to say here. Some of you may hate what I have to say. But at the end you'll find a name and ownership of these words.

Multiple members of the East Hampton community have recently received anonymous, vaguely threatening letters claiming to represent "the general consensus of those in East Hampton" that individuals and businesses have "overstepped" their bounds by providing a safe and welcoming environment for marginalized populations. Grammar issues aside (seriously, pronouns aren't new, folks – I'm sure to use lots of them here), the overt racism and homophobia on display in these letters are disgusting and have no place in 2024.

To the cowardly author of these letters, I say this: thank you for reminding us that this kind of hate and intolerance still exists, and for helping to bring a community together around shared values. You claim to speak on behalf of the town, but I assure you that you have badly misread what the "general consensus" of this community is. I, for one, am a proud supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement, an active supporter of LGBTQIA+ rights, and believe that everyone deserves the simple dignity of living a genuine life.

If you truly stand by your convictions and the stances you've taken in these letters, then at least have the courage to own your opinions. If you truly believe that the community shares your viewpoint, why the need to hide behind anonymity?

Your cowardice belies your "consensus."

Jordan Werme
East Hampton Town Council
jwerme@easthamptonct.gov

Note: Werme is a member of the East Hampton Town Council, but is speaking as an individual.



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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.

CYSS News & Notes

Colchester Youth and Social Services has announced the following programs. Unless noted, registration is required for all programs, at www.colchesterct.gov/yss. For more information, contact CYSS at 860-537-7255 or youth-services@colchesterct.gov.

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

Meeting Childhood Challenges: In this program, a continuation of "Supporting Your Anxious Child," parents of children ages 8-12 can come together for a discussion on supportive ways to respond as a parent and to learn methods to navigate childhood challenges. There will be time for questions as well. The program will meet April 24 and May 22, from 6:30-8 p.m.

each night, at Cragin Library - Norton Room A. Registration is required for each date.

After 2: This afterschool program for middle school-aged students meets Tuesdays from 2-4:30 p.m. throughout the school year. This program provides time for kids to have homework help, or just some quiet time to complete their work, small social-emotional learning group time, as well as a safe place to hang out. Registration is required in advance.

Drop In @ the Youth Center: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m., for grades 6-8. In this program, kids can drop in to the youth center for a snack and play some games. You do not need to pre-register to attend the Youth Center. However, students will receive instructions for online registration at their first visit, as they must be registered online to attend again. Call CYSS for more information.

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.

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.

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.

Memorial Day Participants Welcome

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

The parade committee said it expects to have several military units represented, 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

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.

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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 grocery bag and \$10 for boxes the size of

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

Vendors Wanted

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

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

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

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

Senior Center Newport Harbor Cruise

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

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

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

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

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Sunday School: Held during worship from

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

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

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

On the Green Event

The 44th Annual Colchester on the Green event, is scheduled to take place on June 9 on the Town Green and sponsored by the Colchester Business Association CBA. Last year we had around 100 vendors including local businesses and residents. The Color House is a CBA member and will be one of many members who make this event a success. Applications to participate as a business or a local resident selling Tag Sale items is available on the CBA website at www.colchestercba.com.

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.






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Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

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. 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.

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.

Westchester Church News

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 westchestercongregationalchurch.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.

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 westchestercongregationalchurch.org, email westconchurch@gmail.com or call the church at 860-267-6711. Pastor Ron Lake can be reached at 860-428-3460.

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From the State Representative's Desk

As we near the end of the 2024 Legislative Session on May 8, things are beginning to heat up at the State Capitol. Follow me on Facebook @RepDeCaprio or visit my website www.RepDeCaprio.com, for up-to-date information over the next few weeks for more.

Women-Owned Business Day: It was my honor to be a member of the Host Committee for the Women-Owned Business Day event on Thursday at the State Capitol. I had the opportunity to speak with many female entrepreneurs from across Connecticut and the types of businesses ranged from 24-hour daycare centers to human resource consulting services. The women I met were eager to share their business information with me, as well as challenges they face, and the desire to expand.

I want to thank the Women's Business Development Council (WBDC) for hosting this event, and all our women-owned businesses across Connecticut for all that they do for our communities.

Colchester Food Drive: I want to thank everyone across Colchester and our local area for making our Colchester Food Drive an overwhelming success! The food drive brought in \$247 in cash, canned foods, pet foods, and other non-perishable food items, along with personal hygiene items, all delivered to the Colchester Food Pantry. I would also like to thank Stop & Shop in Colchester for being such a great partner to work with over these last several weeks. The generosity of folks in our community was on full display, and I couldn't be prouder to be your state representative. Thank you all for all the help!

State Rep. Mark DeCaprio
R-48th District

Note: The 48th House District covers Colchester, Bozrah, Franklin and Lebanon.

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.

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.

Upcoming Programs at Cragin

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

Children's Craft - Take & Make: Mondays, April 22, 29, and May 6. Pick up a kit in the children's department. Themes: 4/22, Pets; 4/29, 3D Flower; 5/6, Tacos.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Teen Writing Club: Wednesday, May 1, 3-3:45 p.m., for ages 14-20. The library will give you prompts or guidance to help you accomplish your writing goals.

Author Event: Hanna Perlstein Marcus: Thursday, May 2, 6 p.m. Award-winning author Hanna Perlstein Marcus will discuss *Sidonia's Seam Binding*, the last installment of the *Sidonia's Thread* series of books, which continues the story of a mother and daughter who come to Springfield, Mass., with only each other after the Holocaust. This program is sponsored by

Friends of Cragin Memorial Library.

Star Wars Day at Cragin: Saturday, May 4. Pick up a Princess Leia craft, come for a *Star Wars* Storytime at 10:30 a.m., and find all the Baby Yodas hiding in the children's department.

A Court of Fantasy Readers: Monday, May 6, 5:30 p.m. All are invited to this fantasy book club. *Hurricane Wars* by Thea Guanzon will be discussed. Copies of the book are available at the adult circulation desk.

Teen Advisory Board: Tuesday, May 7, 3-3:30 p.m. Check in with your peers and librarians to talk about making the library the best teen space possible.

Fairy Garden Opening: Tuesday, May 7 (rain date: May 14), 4:30 p.m. All are invited, refreshments will be served. The library thanked the Colchester Garden Club and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library for sponsoring this garden.

In-Person Art Night: 3D Ant Craft: Wednesday, May 8, 6-7 p.m. Stop by the children's department to make a 3D paper craft.

Mother's Day Cards: Thursday, May 9, through Saturday, May 11. Come into the children's department to make a card for a mother, aunt, grandmother, or mother figure in your life.

Foodie Fun: Saturday, May 11. Create a treat after watching the videos with this goodie bag.

Success with Hydrangeas: Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. Lorraine Ballato will discuss all things hydrangea, including the recent introductions that have hit the market, their proper care, and the hardy cultivars that perform well despite over-enthusiastic pruning and finicky weather. This program is sponsored by The Colchester Garden Club and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library. Registration is required; call 860-537-5752 or stop by the Adult Circulation Desk to register.

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

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Lions Fishing Derby Next Saturday

The Colchester Lions Club will host its 24th Annual Fishing Derby on Saturday, April 27 at Lions Pond on Halls Hill Road. The fishing derby is open to town residents ages six to 13.

Registration will start at 12 p.m., with the fishing derby starting at 12:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for a variety of categories at the conclusion at 2:30 p.m.

Children are allowed to have only one fishing pole, with one hook or lure, and they must attend their pole at all times. Bait will be available for purchase. Snacks will be available free of charge to participants.

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 barbogzzo@gmail.com or 860-208-4121.

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.

'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.

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.

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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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 Mexi-

can 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.

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Seeds of Hope 5K

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

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

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

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

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

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 administra-

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

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

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Registration deadline has passed. To find out more and to register, visit www.ct-draftrescue.org/geldingclinic2024. Questions can be sent to ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

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.

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 at 10:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. For ages 18 months to 5 years (drop ins and siblings welcome). **Toddler Time:** Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.,

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

Teen Programs: Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons One Shot: Grades 5-7: Wednesday, May 8, 4:30-6:00 p.m. No previous playing experience or past participation required-every program event is a new standalone game in a new world. We will provide basic, fifth edition characters; all supplies included.

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.

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Course 3 Lobster Ravioli Sautéed with Sun-dried Tomatoes, Hot Peppers & Asparagus in a Parmesan Blush Vodka Sauce PAIRED WITH William Hill North Coast Chardonnay

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Vend and Attend 'Bellringer Market' Next Week

By London Brazal

The East Hampton High School Class of 2025 invites community members to vend and attend the first-ever Bellringer Market.

Monica Smith, one of the co-advisors for the grade, came up with the idea of a vendor market because she saw it done successfully in other towns. With many farmers markets around the area, including a winter's market in East Hampton that concluded in March, the idea was perfect to get community members and students to connect. Smith also wanted to do a fundraiser that encouraged community involvement because it is important for students to be active within their hometown.

Lily Keegan, the other co-advisor, explained the hard work the officer board has put into the large event. "We've had to meet with different administrative officials including Steve Fontanella, the director of facilities," said Keegan. Fontanella helped map out the parking lot to maximize spots for vendors while creating a good flow of traffic for people who want to shop.

The officer board consists of five students: Macie Brazal, Olivia DeMartino, Neha Sidana, Ally Jacobsen and Emily Jovel. Their roles are to help plan events and fundraisers for their class. Since it is the first time hosting a farmers market at the school, there have been a lot of learning curves. Since it is a demanding event, they have been planning ways to invite the community through social media and word-of-mouth while researching local businesses that may want to participate. The proceeds of the market benefit the Class of 2025. It helps reduce costs for events

such as prom, the senior trip to Washington, D.C., senior picnic and any other bonding experiences. Fundraising is an important tool to help lower the burden on students, especially when regular costs have been rising.

The board is still looking for vendors to come to the event next Saturday. As of this week, there are 14 vendors that offer a variety of goods. In the food category, there will be people selling homemade goods such as freeze-dried candy and hot sauce. People can also use the market as a time to clean out closets and thrift second-hand clothes. There will also be a student vendor, selling handmade crochet stuffed animals.

The deadline to sign up as a vendor is next Thursday, April 25. One spot is \$25 and the vendor will get two parking spaces to set up. Vendors must bring their own chairs, tables or any other materials they need. Set-up will be from 8-9 a.m. on the day of the market. To sign up, email Smith at msmith@easthamptonct.org or Keegan at lkeegan@easthamptonct.org.

The class advisors also hope this event will become a new tradition. "We'd like this to become an annual tradition," said Keegan. "It's a good way for high school students and community members to collaborate and make connections. For our students, it's important for them to be involved with their community."

The public is invited to attend the Bellringer Market on Saturday, April 27 at the high school from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will also be raffles with different items that vendors have donated and light refreshments for sale.

Film on Rescuing the American Chestnut

On Thursday, April 25, Christ Episcopal Church, located at 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, will host a screening of *Clear Day Thunder*. The 52-minute documentary describes the rescuing of the American Chestnut tree.

The American chestnut once dominated portions of the eastern U.S. forests, from Maine to Mississippi. Numbering in billions, the tree was one of the tallest and fastest growing in those regions. Pollinators depended on the flowers, and wildlife, livestock, and people relied on its nutritious nut. Tall and fast-growing, the tree's wood was rot-resistant and straight-grained, making it an excellent source of lumber.

In the late 1800s a deadly blight was inadvertently imported to the U.S. from Asia as global horticultural trade increased. The American

chestnut had no resistance and in fewer than 50 years the fungus had eliminated it as a mature forest tree, rendering it functionally extinct.

Clear Day Thunder features interviews with scientists, volunteers, and luminaries. Best-selling author Barbara Kingsolver, Rolling Stones keyboardist Chuck Leavell, country music legend Dolly Parton, and former President Jimmy Carter are just a few of the well-known figures committed to this historic conservation effort.

The screening will take place in the parish hall and run from 7-8:30 p.m. Free parking for the event is at the rear of the church on Long Hill Road. Admission is free.

Local Artist Display

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

Yocher taught art in Portland Public Schools for eight years and at Wesleyan Pottery in the children's pottery program. She paints in oils, acrylics and watercolors; her medium of choice is watercolors.

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

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

Applications may be obtained from either the East Hampton High School guidance department or by contacting the EHCTGO@gmail.com before May 1.

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.

Two Charged in Fraud Scheme

Two undocumented immigrants living in New York were arrested April 4 after, according to East Hampton police, they attempted to defraud a local resident of a large amount of gold.



Ya Lou Wang

According to police, officers had learned that an East Hampton resident was being scammed by an individual who identified himself as a Homeland Security agent. The "agent" informed the resident of a large debt they owed, which would need to be paid in gold, police said. The "agent" set up a time with the resident for the gold to be picked up, at the alleged victim's residence.

Officers conducted an undercover operation in the area of the alleged victim's residence in an attempt to apprehend the individuals committing the fraud.

When two individuals arrived to pick up the gold, they were both arrested.



Fei Fei Jiang

Fei Fei Jiang, 29, who is living in Queens, N.Y., and Ya Lou Wang, 36, who is living in Flushing, N.Y., were each arrested and charged with first-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit first-degree larceny, police said.

Jiang was unable to post his \$500,000 bond, and Wang was unable to post his \$750,000 bond, police said. They were both presented at Middletown Superior Court on April 5, and, according to the state judicial database, are next due in court May 7.

Police said they recovered and were able to return the excess of \$100,000 in gold in connection to this case to the alleged victim.

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 Thursday, May 23, 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.

Pottery Presentation Next Week

The next program of the East Hampton Art Association will be held Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m., at the East Hampton Community Center, 105 Main St. Guest for the evening will be Portland-based potter Nicole Giglio.

Giglio specializes in wheel-thrown pottery. First exposed to clay in 2011, she fell in love with the way it put her in touch with nature while creating. Giglio pursued pottery as a mostly self-taught artist and has been selling her work and hosting classes through her small business, Fired Elements, since 2021. Her pottery often reflects images and colors found in nature and her goal is to bring the outdoors, indoors; through functional and decorative pieces of pottery.

Everyone is welcome at the East Hampton Art Association programs. The programs are free to members, with a suggested donation of \$4 for nonmembers. All programs are free to students.



Nicole Giglio

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.

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.

Lions Offer Scholarships

The East Hampton Lions Club is offering students 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 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.

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Problems at EHHS Tennis Courts Displace Players

By London Brazal

The East Hampton High School tennis teams have recently been displaced from their home courts without any warnings and now, many issues are making the season highly inconvenient.

Students were finalizing lineups and had a few practices under their belt before leaving for April vacation last week. When some kids went to the courts for challenge matches, they noticed the nets were removed and were confused. The teams soon got disappointing news, they wouldn't be allowed to play on the home courts for the rest of the season. The athletic director Shaun Russell sent out a message saying the construction company that redid the tennis courts in 2021 was coming back to correct the shortcomings of the courts.

Anthony Miro, a senior on the boys team, was never able to have a fully successful home season. During his freshman year season in 2021, the courts were in awful conditions with several foot-long cracks. Only three courts were playable for the team. By the fall, the courts were scheduled to be redone. According to the High School Athletic Fields Building Committee, paving was completed in November of 2021. However, the date for painting the courts kept getting pushed off and wasn't completed until the summer of 2022.

For Miro's sophomore year, the courts lacked nets and lines, leaving only asphalt to practice on. Then last year for his junior season, there were only five players and had to forfeit half of the matches. Baylee Olzacki, a junior on the girl's team, told the *Rivereast* that last year, the

courts were already starting to crack, and by this season, many of them worsened. Like the rest of the team, Olzacki was told it was "now or never" for the construction company to come and redo the courts and will be unusable for the rest of this season. Besides displacing the tennis teams, the construction materials have also taken up multiple parking spots, making students have to park in inconvenient spots or get rides instead.

With short notice of the displacement, the teams were able to find some solutions. The boys team was already in a cooperative with the Portland boy's tennis team and two of their students were commuting to East Hampton to be a part of the program. Now, the 14 East Hampton boys are practicing at Portland with the PHS girls team. The East Hampton girls team will also use Portland as their home court.

One of the biggest concerns is transportation. All students are expected to find their own rides to Portland, leaving most of the responsibility to the parents. Half of the students are underclassmen and most of the students who do have their licenses are not old enough to drive other people. Several parents said they are upset that the school or landscaping company isn't providing bussing to practices.

"It's disappointing that I haven't been able to fully enjoy the courts. This is the second time our season has been disrupted," said Olzacki. She also explained the difficulties of setting up carpools for practices. "Our group chat has been going crazy trying to have other parents drive when a majority of our team doesn't even have a

license." The girls are supposed to be at practice at 4:30 p.m., making it difficult for parents who are still working to transport their kids and a couple of teammates.

Earlier in April, the Portland Athletics Department declared their tennis courts unplayable; however, the contractor was able to fit them in to fill the cracks. During April break, they were supposed to sand and paint the courts. Olzacki said the courts look the same as last year with many dead spots. Dylan Cohen, one of the co-ops from Portland, said that East Hampton was starting to feel like home as if he attended school there. Now that he is back to his home courts, he feels weird and the whole situation is off-putting.

On top of the challenges of getting to practice, game days are also more complicated with bus-

sing issues and the fact that the boys and girls teams will be traveling together. Normally, one team will have an away game while the other stays home. On Tuesday, both teams left school early to get to Deep River for a 3 p.m. match time and did not get back to EHHS until 8:30 p.m. The buses also had to pick up and drop off the two Portland students.

Though the teams are going through a difficult time, many students stuck around even when they were given an out by the athletic department. "It truly sucks not being able to play on the tennis courts," said Miro. "Despite the inconvenience of traveling to Portland for every practice and having reduced practice time, I believe in our Bellringer resilience. We are determined to overcome any and all obstacles and will keep pushing forward."

Police News

3/29: Luis Fernandez, 53, of 55 N. Main St., was issued a summons for third-degree criminal mischief and sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

4/1: Brent Tardie, 51, of Weston, was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

4/8: A 15-year-old male juvenile of Portland was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast, taking a motor vehicle without permission and operating a motor vehicle without a license, police said.

4/10: Mark Barton, 56, of 26 Bevin Blvd., was

arrested for violation of a protective order, interfering and failure to be fingerprinted, police said.

4/11: Katelyn Richardson, 34, of 10 Julia Terrace, was arrested and charged with third-degree criminal mischief and third-degree criminal trespass, police said.

4/16: Zachary Russenberger, 28, of 9 N. Maple St., was taken into custody pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

From April 1-14, officers responded to 34 medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and 14 alarms, and made 34 traffic stops, police said.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

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

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

Fiber Arts: Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery, etc. All are welcome.

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

Family Yoga series: A new Family Yoga program begins Fridays, April 19 to May 24 at 9:30 a.m. at the Historic Middle Haddam Library. Cost is \$12 to drop in or \$60 for the series. Email zenlotus860@yahoo.com with questions and to register.

Pilates: A new session of Pilates with Mary

Henderson begins Thursday, April 18 at 6 p.m. Cost is \$10 for the six week session or \$12 to drop in. To register call 203-592-4448 or abstite@sbcglobal.net

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.

Save the Date: Erin Day will lead a discussion about Wild Food and Ethical Foraging on May 4, at 1:00 p.m.

Mahjong: Is starting up again. Players of all experience levels are welcome. Please contact the library for more information.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

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

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton & Portland. No commercial or business waste allowed. Visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste/ to learn more.

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.

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.

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

Bible Study: The group meets via Zoom on Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. Contact the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn at bobette@kahn.com 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 assistance, contact Donna Hyrb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472 or donnadubehyrb@gmail.com.

DCF Foster Info Event

Sat., May 4th, 3-5pm

at Hope Church in East Hampton

Have you ever thought about becoming a foster parent?

Join us for a casual meeting to learn about the fostering process and how you can make a difference in the lives of CT kids.

Refreshments served!

For more info, email Carrye at cburr@cthope.com

RE4-19-24

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RE11-3-23

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RE11-6-20

Epoch Original: *T'shuva* Opens Soon

By London Brazal

The arts-for-youth nonprofit, Epoch Arts has been preparing for its spring original mainstage theater production titled *T'shuva* as opening night approaches quickly.

Typically, Epoch's spring Mainstage theater production starts rehearsals in February, with the play opening in June. This year, however, due to scheduling issues, the original two-act play was written "very quickly" in December and January, director Elizabeth Namen explained. The earlier timeline this year also pushed the playwrights to get the whole story written by auditions, which Namen said "doesn't typically happen."

Epoch's annual mainstage productions are meant to challenge students to look at current worldwide problems, brainstorm possible solutions and be change agents for their peers and community. Along with the script, the music, set and costumes are also original.

The title of the show was chosen during rehearsals since Emma Peltier's character Jayden says the word three times in the show and the meaning is one of the main themes throughout the piece. *T'shuva*, or *teshuvah*, is a Hebrew word meaning repentance. Its literal meaning means to return, and Namen described it as turning around and walking away as a way to change directions.

T'shuva takes place in a graffiti-covered inner city that has fallen to crime and hate. Teens face daily struggles of anxiety, fear, addiction, loss and search desperately to find true friendship and love. When a former leader returns to the city, she is faced with a city that has changed. As she steps up to the challenge, the citizens must

choose who they will follow and at what cost. Namen said some characters change and others don't. "Not everyone is going to follow suit, just like in real life," said Namen.

The show doesn't have a specific location but takes place in the inner city, something that many East Hampton residents can't relate to. *T'shuva* also doesn't have a "when." Peltier explained that the issues in the play can be applied to the past and most likely the future. "It could fit on any time frame," said Peltier.

In true "Epoch" fashion, the show doesn't necessarily have a specific genre and deals more with the character's backstory and their stories. "We do it more for the cast than the audience," explained Namen. The directors help teach the cast members about challenging topics. Then, the students can show and teach the same lessons to the audience. "It's a different type of theater, it's more out of the box artistically."

One of the biggest challenges for this particular show is the fight scene. Since the cast's ages range from 12 to 24, some members are more experienced than others. "It's one thing to remember the specific actions we have to perform, but to also perform those movements" is even more challenging, said Peltier. Namen furthered that point saying it can be difficult to learn how to stage-fight for the first time. "For this show, we mixed up personalities," said Namen. "One member that typically plays a nice and hippie-esque character is now mean and cold, holding a knife."

Last year's play was much bigger with about 20 people. With a cast of 10, the directors went into writing with a simpler approach. Since it

is smaller than normal, the cast members feel more connected to each other and it is easy to work with one another. Namen described the camaraderie between the performers and how the kids jump in and take a chance at their creativity. "I'm super proud of these guys. They take what is written and act their hearts out," Namen commented.

The cast of *T'shuva* wants people to put away their phones and be present while watching the show. As Kathy Sanderson, the assistant director, explained, people are used to binge-watching entertainment and shut off their brains.

"We want the audience to be active, not turn their brain off and to 100% listen," said Sanderson. Namen added that she hopes teenagers will come to see the show because it's important for them to learn about the issues and may find some relatability in the show.

The show's run time is under two hours and there will be a 15-minute intermission. Performances for *T'shuva* will be on May 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. and May 5 at 2 p.m. at Epoch Arts, 27 Skinner St. Tickets are \$12, and are available at the door.

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

* Budget Hike cont. from page 23

Throughout the night, Porter provided additional context to help frame the budget increase. He provided data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showing how cumulative inflation has increased over 15% since July 2021. Over the same time period, the town's mill rate would have increased by 5.86% — if the proposed 2024-25 proposed mill rate is adopted.

Following the pandemic, Porter said the Board of Selectmen tapped into federal relief funds to help alleviate the tax burden on residents; the mill rate over the past two fiscal years actually decreased, Porter explained.

However, while residents felt inflationary pressures on their households, the town also faced costs escalations with its own services, Porter conveyed.

While the anticipated year-over-year tax increase appears substantial, with inflation taken into account, along with the additional town mill rate history, Porter contended that the budget proposal was modest.

If the proposed level of funding is not endorsed by the community, Porter said a broader conversation needs to take place to allow residents to discuss what services could possibly be trimmed or eliminated to bring forward an acceptable tax rate.

Hundreds of hours of work by the local boards went into crafting the spending blueprint, he said, adding that the town budget total was something they "do not taken lightly."

In a joint letter signed by members of the boards of selectmen, finance and both school boards, recently published in the *Rivereast*, officials pointed to additional factors that boosted the tax rate, including a decline in revenue.

Middlesex Hospital received an exemption for its buildings, which equates to a tax loss of \$67,070 for Marlborough — although that amount was partially offset by six new homes, according to the joint-letter.

In addition, officials stated the net assessed value of motor vehicles decreased by \$2.76 million, resulting in an \$89,529 tax loss, and the town is also expecting to receive \$135,700 less in state funding this year. Although collections rates are high, local residents and business owners collectively fail to pay up to \$450,000 in taxes each year, according to the joint-letter — creating another revenue gap.

When asked during the hearing if there's a proactive strategy to claim the overdue taxes, Porter explained that the town writes strongly-worded letters to individuals who don't submit their bills, which accrue interest as well. If someone remains noncompliant, it's rare for drastic measures to ensue, such as seizing property.

"That's awful," Porter conveyed, adding that due process must play out.

But while the shortfall is noticeable, the town still accounts for back taxes in its projections; this year, he said around \$150,000 would be received.

'Nothing Easy About It'

The overall capital expenditure for 2024-25 is slated at \$5.5 million. However, when combined with the three school capital projects, taxpayers are only on the hook for \$839,577, or 15% of the total cost. Town reserves would cover 21% (\$1,164,439) and grants account for 64% (\$3,496,823).

Porter listed numerous projects, many of which are either entirely, or partially, funded through grants. The major budget driver: culverts.

The town is looking to replace the culvert crossing South Buckboard Road costing \$1.2 million; half the expense will be canceled-out by a state grant. Another culvert on Johnson Road would be repaired, rather than replaced, at a price tag of \$525,000.

Both upgrades are overdue, and Porter indicated many culverts nearly date back to World War II.

"They were not meant to last forever," he said.

"We're pushing it."

While the projects — and their associated costs — are tempting to push off to a later time, Porter expressed that the culverts could fail, causing significant damage and traffic disruption.

"This is an issue we need to deal with promptly," he asserted.

Both projects represent the beginning of a widespread capital overhaul; Porter identified several other culverts throughout town that are due for repairs in upcoming fiscal years.

Porter conveyed that along with successful grant applications, the town's debt service payments will continue to decrease in the immediate future. Borrowing money will likely become a tool the town can wield to address major capital projects moving forward.

In his comment to the finance board, Hjulstrom advised that some currently scheduled initiatives should be postponed until they can be bonded, lessening the tax burden on residents this fiscal year.

Porter said delaying projects tied to state funding could result in the town losing the money altogether.

For now, it's unclear what officials would target if the budget was rejected at referendum.

When asked if he was prepared for that scenario, Porter said, "Yes, I've done some thinking."

But he added that specific details have not been fleshed out. According to the town charter, the BOF must submit a revised budget to a referendum no later than three weeks after the initial budget referendum failed.

Former selectman, Amy Traversa, who served as the interim town manager until Porter was appointed last summer, expressed during the hearing that budgeting is a difficult undertaking.

"Nothing easy about it," she remarked, adding that Porter did a "good job" and had a "good presentation."

School Budget Discussion

While the BOE budgets were not the focus of conversation this week, residents still raised questions about school spending, which makes up the largest slice of the overall budget.

Some residents have questioned whether the school district needs to employ two principals to run Marlborough Elementary School.

With longtime principals Dan White and Kim Kelley departing at the end of the school year, the district already announced the hiring of Paula Graef and Kristen Trahan as co-administrators.

However, residents have pointed to a dip in student enrollment and have wondered if one principal could adequately run the district, which would result in sizable savings.

Superintendent of Schools Holly Hageman asserted it was "never considered" a viable option.

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

At the public hearing, Kerri Barella — chairman of the local BOE — attempted to field questions about the school budget, but cautioned residents that the decision regarding the administrators was already finalized.

"It's water under the bridge," she said, adding that the BOE already reached a consensus and hired the two individuals.

The decision was also vetted by the BOE, who kept the funding.

During a prior interview, the finance board's chairman, Michael Nastro, indicated that school personnel decisions should be made by educators.

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

The chairman said he has "strong confidence" in Hageman's judgment.

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

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 "re-

side" there. Tulimieri will also explore the work of the remarkable gravestone carvers and the distinctive memorials they created so long ago.

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.

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/>

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

Weekly Activities: Quilting Group: Mondays, 9 a.m.; **Setback:** Mondays and Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.; **Mexican Train Dominos:** Returns Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. — new members welcome, but preregistration required; **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m., in person and via Zoom; **Cross-Stitch & Embroidery with Shannon:** Tuesdays, 2 p.m. — Bring projects to share and work on together; **Yoga with Kitch:** Wednesdays at 1 p.m. through May 15, and cost is \$20; **Tap Dance:** Thursdays, 11:15 a.m. **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. — let the center know in advance if you plan to attend; **Mahjong:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon — call also to put your name on a list if interested in learning how to play; **Textile Group:** Fridays, 1 p.m.

Wii Bowling: Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.; **Cornhole:** Every other Thursday at 11 a.m.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: There are two groups; one meets Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., and one meets every other Thursday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Groups meet in-person.

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

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

meet others and share resources.

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."

Poetry Fun with Center School Students: Thursday, April 25, 11:30 a.m. The senior center writers' group will work with fourth-graders from Center School on creating poems in celebration of National Poetry Month. The group will present their work after a pizza lunch.

Design and Create Class: Thursday, April 25, 1 p.m., featuring a class on Origami creations using decorative paper.

Bike Rides for Seniors: Friday, April 26, 10 a.m., on the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Mastrianni Place, Plantsville. Get outside with this weekly ride led by Kim Clouser from Air-Line Cycles. Bring your bike, helmet and a water bottle. Ride locations change weekly.

Trips: 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.

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Resident Remembered for Volunteerism

By Michael Sinkewicz

Longtime Andover resident John Handfield, who passed away last month, was fondly remembered for his relentless community activism and kind nature.

Handfield, 73, was known for constantly volunteering and taking on local jobs — specifically repairing stone walls, a particular passion and hobby of his.

His work didn't go unnoticed; the town will recognize Handfield with a brick outside of the new community center — an honor it bestows upon residents who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the community.

"He's one of our most outstanding volunteers," said Scott Person, a member of the Andover Board of Selectmen. "He was a rare individual."

Handfield refurbished countless stone walls, always pitching in at local cemeteries while chipping in with additional landscaping projects throughout town. His commitment was consistent, and he maintained certain areas in Andover for many years.

After spending hours away from home, almost on a daily basis, Handfield would apologize to his wife of 15 years, Lois, for his absence.

Her response to him was always simple: "I'm so proud of what you're doing. I think it's beautiful."

"He was kind," Lois recalled this week. "He was gentle. He was a good person."

While many residents likely recognized and saw Handfield working, Lois believes his labor

might've escaped many in the community.

"I don't think they realized the impact he had until he died," she said. "He didn't brag; he just did it."

Handfield worked at Pratt & Whitney for over 20 years as a package specialist before shifting to landscaping and delivering oil. In his retirement, he liked staying busy, according to Lois.

Their property was built by Handfield and one of his friends, Lois said, and it features a brook — one of their favorite spots.

Ultimately, landscaping became his main hobby, both at home, Andover and places he traveled.

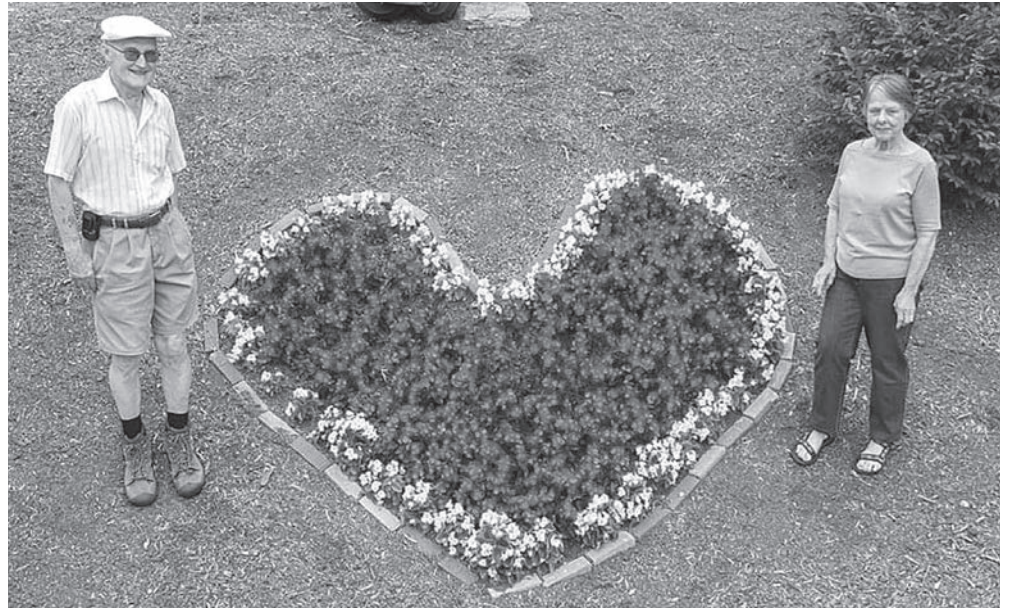
"He had the time and it was such a nice thing to do," Lois said. "He put his whole self into it. It was a passion of his."

You wouldn't find any weeds in their yard, according to Lois — something Person confirmed: "He had the best yard. There was never a leaf."

According to his obituary, Handfield grew up in Franklin with seven brothers and sisters and graduated from Norwich Free Academy in 1968.

"Anyone that has ever visited John's home in Andover, with its contoured landscape, meticulous lawns, multiple stone walls and flower beds, and a covered bridge spanning a wandering brook, can attest to his skills," the obituary read.

Lois would assist him with projects, including planting flowers on the bank of the Andover museum. Lois recalled that her husband would be handling large rocks, and would go through



Longtime Andover resident John Handfield, who died last month, had a love of landscaping. He's shown here with his wife Lois at one of their lovingly-crafted flower gardens.

countless pairs of gloves. In an attempt to make them last a bit longer, they'd apply gorilla tape outside the fingers.

In recent months, Person said that Handfield rarely talked about his health, despite not feel-

ing his best.

"He never complained about it to me," recalled Person, who said he knew Handfield for around 10 years.

Pasta Dinner

The Andover Elementary School PTA is hosting a pasta dinner fundraiser on April 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Andover Elementary School cafeteria. Tickets are \$10 each or \$8 each for AES staff, seniors, military and first responders.

Tickets can be purchased at the school office by cash, check or venmo @andoverelementary-pta. The PTA will also be selling tickets for raffle prizes at the dinner and is looking for donations. Please contact celeste.willard@andoverpta.org for donations or questions.

Chili Fest Save the Date

The Andover Democratic Town Committee 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 will 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.

Andover Historical Society

The Andover Historical Society will open its Museum of Andover History for the first time this year, Saturday, April 20th, from 4 to 6 p.m. New items are continuously being added to the display, so if you haven't visited in a while, stop in and see what is new. The museum is located in the Old Town Hall on Monument Lane.

Huge Sale

Andover seniors will host a crafters, vendors, tag and bake sale on Saturday, April 27th from 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. at the Elementary School gym, 35 School Road, Andover, CT. For information, please call Cathy at 860-916-6122 or Carol at 860-742-7305 X2. Money raised goes to feed our seniors.

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.

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. 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.

Sheena the Therapy Dog

Sheena the Therapy Dog and her owner, Jenifer Nadeau, will return to the Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6, on Saturday, April 20, at 11:30 a.m.

If you have, or are, a kid and like to read, Sheena wants to listen. If you can't make it this weekend, Sheena will also be at the library Saturday, May 18, also at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, call the library at 860-742-7428.

Olde Andover Burial Ground Vacancy

Any Andover Elector interested in serving on the Olde Andover Burial Ground Committee should send a letter of interest to; Town of Andover - Olde Burial Ground - 17 School Road - Andover, CT 06232 or email; townclerk@andoverct.org. Due date for letters is May 13.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

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

Shopping Dates: Manchester: 4/30. Willi-

mantic: 4/23. Call Palazzi for transportation.

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.

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.

Of Birds & Stars

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, will hold the program "Of Birds & Stars: Exploring the Wonder of Bird Migration in Connecticut" on Tuesday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m.

Meredith Barges, co-chair of the Lights Out! Connecticut initiative, will lead the program. Learn about the secret lives of migratory songbirds, the long-distance journeys they make twice each year to Connecticut, and why they need dark skies to navigate.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Susan Boulanger

Susan Elizabeth (Brack) Boulanger, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and sister, passed peacefully at home on Easter morning, March 31st, 2024. She was 77.



Born in Middletown, CT, and a lifelong resident of East Hampton, she was the eldest daughter of the late Arthur Brack and Agnes (Hannah) Brack. She is survived by her husband, Paul Boulanger, of CT; daughter Lisa Boulanger, spouse Carlos Brody, and son Mateo Brody, of NJ; her younger sister Christina (Brack) Sloan and husband Mark Sloan, of CT; and her niece Monique (St. Laurent) Hazlett, spouse Tom, and their children Logan and Molly, of CT. She also leaves many cousins, and many friends both lifelong and new, including her visiting nurse, Charlene.

Susan was a special education teacher in the Connecticut public schools for 32 years. This year she celebrated her 77th birthday and her 55th wedding anniversary.

She loved her family and friends fiercely. She relished her role as mother and grandmother and was incredibly proud of her daughter and grandson. She enjoyed going to the beach, traveling, writing, and spending time with friends and family.

In lieu of sending flowers, please plant a little something in her memory. We are planning a celebration of her life in the early summer.

Portland

Rosemary Sanstrom

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved sister, aunt, and great aunt, Rosemary A. Sanstrom on April 10th. Rosemary was in her new home in Norwich surrounded by her loved ones.

Born on October 27th 1942, to the late John and Grace (Plati) Auterino, raised in Hartford, she attended Buckley High School. After high school she worked at St. Francis Hospital for over 30 years then retired. Rosemary is pre-deceased by her brother, Vincent John Auterino. Rosemary married her soulmate, the late Robert P. Sanstrom on October 2nd, 1981. Rosemary and Bob were famous for their Christmas and summer parties on the farm in Portland. So many great memories! Rosemary was always ready for fun and adventure. When they became snowbirds the adventures continued.

She will be missed by all her friends and family especially her "one and only" sister Donna van Ryswyk and her B.I.L. Adrianus van Ryswyk, her nephews and their wives; John Scott Auterino, Travis and Amanda Conrad, Adam and Liza Auterino, Justin and Cassie Conrad, Erik and Kerri Conrad, Daniel R. Sanstrom and her great nephews; Andrew, Justin Jr., Aiden, Nikko and her great nieces; Annabelle Grace and Penelope Rose.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, April 19, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland on Friday from 8:30 until 9:30 a.m. Burial will be in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Andover

Ray T. Mentzer, Jr.

Ray T. Mentzer Jr., 90, of Andover, beloved husband and sweetheart of Barbara Spillman Mentzer, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 28. His wife and friends were by his side.



Ray was born Nov. 12, 1933, and was the son of the late Ray T. Mentzer Sr. and Dorothy Frazier Mentzer. It was not long before the family moved to Havertown, Pa., where Ray attended school, graduating from Haverford High in 1952. While there he played the clarinet in the marching band and for a short time his favorite, the snare drum. Playing Haverford basketball with great teammates and winning the Philadelphia Suburban 1 championship was extremely gratifying to him. A highlight of Ray's overall educational experience was a year at Lawrenceville Prep in New Jersey. He continued to play basketball and was thrilled to help bring home the New Jersey State Prep championship.

In 1956, Ray graduated from Princeton University with a degree in clinical psychology. He particularly enjoyed rowing with the lightweight crew and, again, playing the clarinet in the marching band. As a member of Cannon Club, he roomed with 11 suitemates, establishing many lasting relationships. After Princeton, Ray went on to earn his doctorate at Purdue University in 1961. He took his first job as a clinical psychologist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Brockton, Mass., providing assessment and treatment services. Once again he made lifelong friendships with colleagues.

Ray always wanted to help the most people possible. This motivated him to take on the role of founding executive director of Self-Help, Inc., an anti-poverty agency located in Brockton, Mass. It was here in the summer of 1968 that he met an eager volunteer Head Start applicant named Barb. From Massachusetts, Ray moved to Connecticut in the early 1970s to help build another community service organization from the ground up. He was the first executive director of Wheeler Clinic, a community health center located in Plainville. It currently provides behavioral and specialty health care for all ages in 30 locations.

Barb followed Ray to Connecticut and, after a 25-year "whirlwind courtship," he married the love of his life in 1993. Ray and Barb cherished each day together, and theirs is a forever love.

Time with family and friends was dear to Ray's heart. Traditional gatherings for Christmas in Danville, Pa., and visits to his parents' home in Ocean City, N.J., brought him much joy. His one-on-one time with his cousins as they were growing up was a priority for him. He listened, comforted, guided. These same skills would serve him well years later when engaged in a small private practice. To friends who were struggling he gave encouragement and lightened their load with humor.

Ray loved his dogs, delighted in hand-taming chickadees, and worked diligently at organic gardening. He always had great admiration and respect for military veterans and actively honored them for their service to our country. In 2006, God blessed Ray mightily when he met Ashley Camp, a young man who became like a son to him and Barb.

Ray is survived by his devoted wife, Barb; numerous cousins of the Vincent, Masteller, Curry, Fry, and Cope families; Ashley Camp, his wife Vallen, and their baby, Juniper.

In celebration of Ray's life, a service will be held Saturday, April 27, at 11 a.m., at First Church of Christ in Wethersfield. In lieu of

flowers, donations in Ray's memory may be made to Tunnels to Towers Foundation or Shriners Hospital.

The family would like to thank administrative and nursing staff of the Manchester Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center for their good-natured, skilled and caring attention to Ray's needs and comfort during his stay with them.

For online condolences, visit www.dillonbaxter.com.

Colchester

Alma Albert

Alma Albert, of Colchester, passed away peacefully on April 4, 2024, at Apple Rehab in Colchester, CT, where she had been recently residing. Her beloved family was attentively by her side. Alma was 83 years old.



She was born on February 26, 1941, in Ft. Kent, ME, a daughter of the late Baptiste and Eva (Plourde) Theriault. Alma married her beloved husband, Philip Louis Albert on August 8, 1961. The couple settled in Colchester where they made their home and raised their family. Alma was a very proud homemaker, caring for her family and home where friends were welcomed like family. Alma enjoyed visiting with ladies in the area as the Avon representative for over 40 years. As a devout Catholic, Alma was a parishioner at St. Andrew Church in Colchester. She had a caring and generous heart, and she showered her love on others. Alma was known to use her talent at crochet and knitting by making blankets and other items for cancer patients.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her husband of 62 years, Philip. Her children and their spouses, Janet (Roger) Kizer, Carl (Laurie) Albert, and Gary (Jim) Albert. Her grandchildren, Michael Hutchins and Karen (Phil) Powers. Her great grandchildren, Rileyann Solomon, Ella and James Powers. Her siblings, Sylvia Colson, Ida Clavete, Amanda Bouley, Aurel Theriault and Joel Theriault and many extended family members and friends. In addition to her parents she is predeceased by her brother, Sylvio Theriault.

Calling hours were held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester on Thursday April 11, 2024. A Mass of Christian burial took place the following day, on Friday, April 12, 2024, directly at the St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Avenue Colchester, CT. She was laid to rest in the New St. Andrew Cemetery on Gillettes Lane in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Alma's memory may be made to the Colchester Hayward Fire Company, 52 Old Hartford Rd Colchester, CT 06415. For online memorials and condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

Hebron

Thomas C. Meli

Thomas C. Meli, 76, of Hebron, passed away peacefully Wednesday, April 10, at home, surrounded by his family, after a period of declining health. He was the beloved husband of Theresa Meli for 48 years. He was born in Hartford April 25, 1947, the son of Charles Meli Sr., and Pasqualina Z."Pat" Meli.



Tom graduated from Hartford Public High School in 1967. He worked for the City of Hartford as Head Lifeguard and water safety instructor for 10 years. During the Vietnam War he was drafted into the Army Reserves from 1969 to 1975 and loved serving his country. He left many legacies behind, including being a proud and patriotic U.S. Army veteran. Tom was a longtime member of the American Legion Post 95 of Hebron. Recently he worked several years for Monaco Ford.

Tom was a beloved and integral life member of the Windham Fish and Game Club where he was head of the kitchen committee for many years. He was also a member of the CARBS of Hartford. He was a member of the Andover Congregational Church and also a longtime volunteer at the food pantry. In addition, he was a member of the Hebron Sunshine Singers.

Tom dedicated 50-plus years to the art of Kyokushin Karate. He trained under Shoshu Shigeru Oyama accomplishing branch chief and the rank of 6th degree. Shihan Tom won the 1988 Mas Oyama Grand Championship Tournament in New York City for Kata. He also fought in many Kyokushin tournaments, achieving two ten-rounders victoriously. He was instrumental in keeping Kyokushin schools active in Connecticut.

He is survived by his children, Sandra and husband Blaine Hart, Doreen Meli, Thomas Jr. and wife Gina, Shannon LaPenta, Richard LaPenta, Josie Carlisle and husband Paul, and Nicole Lockwood; his sisters, Joaneen Soucy, Dorothy Normand and husband Richard, Carmel Meli. Tom also leaves 13 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his sisters, Patricia Mancini, Florence Meli, and brother, Charles Meli Jr.

Special thanks and love to Laurie Ashworth, Nikki Lockwood, Josie Carlisle and grandchildren Sierra and Patrick for their devoted help with appointments and care for Tom.

There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, June 8, at noon, at the Windham Fish and Game Club, 267 Jerusalem Rd., Windham. A fundraiser will be held on the same day of said celebration of life to help cover with unexpected costs.

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East Hartford facility — Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

Annual Town Budget Meeting and Budget Referendum
Town of Portland, Connecticut
The Annual Town Budget Meeting
will be held in person at the Portland Middle School-Cafeteria, 93 High Street
Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM, EDT
The Budget Referendum
will be held at the Portland Middle School-Band Room, 93 High Street
Monday, May 13, 2024 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, EDT
Contact Town Clerk's Office for Absentee Ballots

Pursuant to Section 1201.4 of the Town of Portland Charter, the Annual Town Budget Meeting and the Budget Referendum shall be held at the above noted dates, places and times to consider and act upon the 2024-2025 General Fund Operating Budget as adopted by the Board of Selectmen at its meeting of April 3, 2024. The recommended budget for FY 2024-2025 is \$40,050,813. The recommended amounts for the major budget functions are highlighted in the following table.

General Government	\$1,715,092
Public Safety	\$2,584,820
Public Works	\$2,617,500
Planning and Development	\$211,509
Health and Human Services	\$404,405
Portland Library	\$795,800
Employee Fringe Benefits	\$3,635,105
Risk Management	\$246,000
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT:	\$12,210,231
EDUCATION:	\$24,743,521
Debt Service	\$1,538,272
Sundry	\$1,558,789
TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES:	\$3,097,061
TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET	\$40,050,813

The estimated mill rate would be 34.30, an increase of 1.03 mills over the FY 2023-2024 mill rate of 33.27. The estimated mill rate is subject to adjustment based on approved State of Connecticut Budget revenues to the Town.
The budget is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office located at 33 East Main Street, the Portland Public Library located at 20 Freestone Avenue, and on the Town's website www.portlandct.org
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 15th day of April 2024
Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

2 TB 4/19, 4/26

LEGALS

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

At its April 11, 2024, meeting, the Hebron Conservation Commission took the following actions:
Petition 2024-03 – Grayville Road Over Jeremy Brook, 126/129 Grayville Road, Town of Hebron. Replacement of Bridge Superstructure – **approved**, with the following conditions:
1. Regarding protection of the amphibian / reptile species indicated in the area by the DEEP NDDB, the applicant will post protection notes and implement the protection measures to be noted in the plans.
2. Incorporate DEEP Bureau of Fisheries guidance, if any, into the project plans.
3. Emplace a suitable protective tarp under the bridge during the construction process and reflect the foregoing measure in the project plans.
4. Contact the Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent prior to construction / emplacement of Sediment and Erosion Controls.
5. The project will be regularly monitored by the Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent, the Town Engineer, and the Public Works Department.
6. The applicant will ensure proper cleanup of the area upon completion of the project.
James P. Cordier, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent
For: Thomas Loto, Chairman, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/1c337b25379f1ecb346730a2a4196122dede637f88ca31f3afd4af41b21bc9> TB 4/19

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.
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
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122
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Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 15th day of April 2024.
Frank Zitkus, Chair TB 4/19

TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on April 16, 2024, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2024-3097 - Lake Hayward Rd; Richard Malchow - Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 02-12-01A-001; Proposed single-family home with excavation, filling, and erosion & sediment controls within 75' Upland Review Area. - **APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS.**
Dated April 16, 2024
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair TB 4/19

Foreclosure Auction

The Town of East Hampton Social Services Department will conduct a foreclosure auction of contents from one of its storage units located at 80 Industrial Park Access Road, Middlefield, CT on May 3rd, 2024 at 9am. TB 4/19

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission took the following action at their Regular Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 7:00pm on the following:
Petition 2024-05 – Petition of James R. Celio to amend the Hebron Zoning Regulations, Section 3.F.2.4, to permit single-family dwellings in the Commercial Technology District. Denied.
The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting can be seen using the following link:
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/ef6d4b7d0839f229050d4920e69b782763f6776d4865a13a3fbbcd402d5cc0d3> TB 4/19

TOWN OF ANDOVER LEGAL NOTICE

The Electors and Citizens qualified to vote in town meetings in the Town of Andover are hereby notified that a Special Town Meeting with a Public Hearing for the Town of Andover will be held in the Town Office Building Community Room – 17 School Road – Andover, Connecticut on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the following purposes:
1. To choose a Moderator for said meeting
2. To see if the Town will approve a Boundary Line Agreement between the King Family on Burnap Brook Road and the Town.
3. To see if the Town will approve a Boundary line agreement between the Hawes Family on School Road and the Town.
4. To see if the Town will approve a STEAP grant for improvements at Veterans Memorial Field. This grant requires a minimum of a 20% Municipal Match. The town will use existing funds in the Multiuse Building Fund as the town match. The town match is \$150,000. This will be partly monetary and part labor in kind by Public Works.
5. To see if the Town will approve the purchase of a new John Deere 6119M Roadside Mower with a boom flail by Tiger Bengal High Mid mounted boom with a 50" flail head. Purchase cost for an in stock demo unit is \$203,874.41. If we order instead of purchasing in the stock unit, it will be \$212,856.00 with a minimum 300 day delivery. Per the Board of Finance motion, we are only financing the mower not the equipment trailer which we purchased outright.
6. Hold a Public Hearing on the following proposed ordinances:
6. To see if the Town will adopt any of the following ordinances:
a. An Ordinance authorizing the town to fine persons who violate any town zoning regulation, with due process protections for any alleged violator.
b. An Ordinance authorizing the town to fine contractors and property owners who excavate in the town ROW without seeking or obtaining a permit or posting the required bond, with due process protections for any alleged violator.
c. An Ordinance authorizing the creation and filling of alternate positions on the Commission on Aging.
Full copies of these proposed ordinances are available on the Town Website andoverct.org or in the Town Clerk's Office
7. Adjournment TB 4/19

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

NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY

Please be advised that the Town of Portland, Connecticut, shall conduct a sale of surplus property online. The address of the auction site is govdeals.com. The surplus property is being sold in an "as-is" condition without express or implied warranties.
The online auction will be held starting in late April 2024 until various end dates throughout August 2024, and the surplus property being sold is as follows: Public Works equipment, Public Works and other town vehicles, Town and BOE computer equipment and cell phones, Town/BOE office supplies/ furniture/equipment, BOE exercise equipment, and BOE cafeteria equipment. See the GovDeals link on Town's website www.portlandct.org for additional information.
All bidders must pre-register with GovDeals at govdeals.com. The Town of Portland, Connecticut reserves the right to accept or reject any bids submitted.
Submitted by: Tom E. Robinson, Finance Director
Dated: April 19, 2024 TB 4/19

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center, 17 School Drive.
APPLICATION #Z-06-24 – 1 Kimberly Way (Applicant) Matthew & Kristen Gomez (Property Owner) Construction of Accessory Building/Accessory Dwelling Unit
APPLICATION #Z-07-24 – Greylock Property Group, LLC (Applicant) Terramuggus LLC (Property Owner) 156 & 163 No Main St, Special Permit – 48 Unit Multi-Family Development
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
2 TB 4/19, 4/26

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

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.
PZC Application #23-15: Proposed Amendment to the Portland Zoning Regulations. Change to section 9.17.1 to change to the maximum number of 2 bedrooms to 30% were 55% is currently allowed. To add a maximum number of 16 residential units per historic building restored. To remove text from section 9.17.5.M.2 "For good cause shown, and following a public hearing, the developer may secure relief from this requirement as a modification to the approved plan provided that the Commission is satisfied that conditions beyond the control of the developer will prevent the execution of the schedule of development as approved." Application of Ben Srb.
Dated at Portland, CT this 17th day of April 2024
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission TB 4/19, 4/26

"PET OF THE WEEK"



Lester, 2 years old, is amazing. But that doesn't mean that he's the perfect cat for everyone. Lester, who lost a leg due to injury, hasn't yet figured out how to climb easily. He is still sensitive and nervous about things like getting stepped on or knocked into. So, we are recommending that he not go to a house with small children or dogs or aggressive cats. Lester also needs somebody who will be patient with the fact that he is going to take a little more time to feel comfortable in new situations and with new people.

Meet **Diva!** She is a whole lotta dog in a 9 lb package! Diva is the life of the party and is a 3-year-old Maltese/Shih Tzu mix who loves people. She is a smart, energetic little firecracker that needs daily exercise and mental stimulation – no full-time lap dog or couch potato slouch here! Diva is looking for a home that will continue her training and show her structure and routine. She is overweight and needs a home committed to helping her to lose weight. Diva wants to be the only dog in her home please.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETS

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES: starting soon. Offering Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Need and Want; CGC/Therapy; Scent Work. Over 25 years experience. Michelle Larson, Paws-N-Heel DTC, 860-267-6040. paws-n-heeltraining.com.

GENERAL

ART CLASSES: Landscape painting and drawing. All abilities welcome. individual attention, small groups. studiotchet@gmail.com.

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REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

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RENTALS

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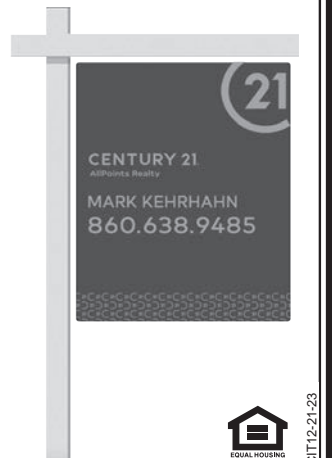
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DEPENDABLE PART-TIME CARE WORKER: with reliable transportation and flexible availability needed for afternoon and evening shifts for totally paralyzed young adult in Portland home. Full training provided. Some lifting required. \$18.25/hour. TEXT hours/days you are available to 860-558-9697.

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.

MECHANIC WANTED PART-TIME: for sixties car hobbist. Call Rich 860-881-4745.

P C A / D R I V E R NEEDED: Part-time to start with possibility of becoming full-time, flexible/variable hours. For appointments, shopping, errands, cleaning, cooking and personal care. Excellent driving record. Time & half for holidays. Bi-annual stipend for online health insurance, if full-time. Weekly pay through payroll company, union position. \$18.25/hr. Background check and drug test required. 860-949-7016.

SEEKING AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC: for immediate hire at fast growing shop in Middletown. Strong mechanical aptitude and troubleshooting skills. Must be able to diagnose and repair mechanical issues and be deadline and detail oriented. Ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment. 2-3 years automotive experience preferred. Diesel experience is a plus! Must have your own tools. Call George 860-346-5551.

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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.
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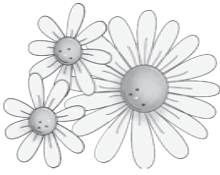


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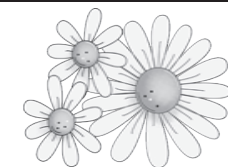
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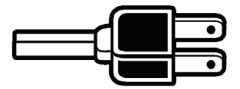
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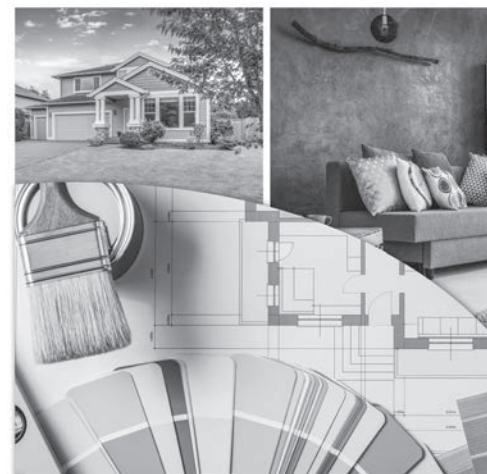
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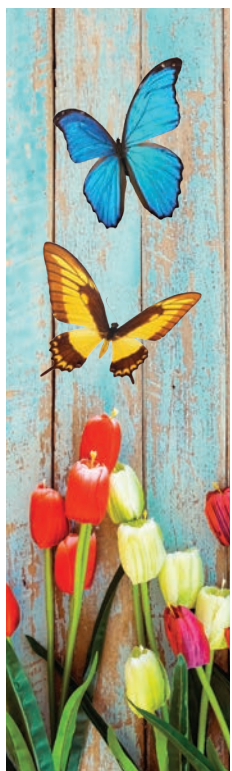
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