

News Bulletin

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

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Helping the Homeless... Colchester Federated Church recently worked with Hartford Police Officer Jim Barrett (Hartford's homeless outreach officer) to help the local homeless population. Church members spent several months purchasing personal hygiene items, bus passes, and gift cards (and then packaging these items) for Barrett to hand out to those in need. The children of the church also wrote encouraging notes that went inside each hygiene kit. Pictured here is Colchester Federated Church Christian Education Director Nicole Hosford delivering the 106 hygiene kits and gift cards to Barrett.

Colchester Selectmen Fire Finance Director

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen (BOS) last week unanimously voted to terminate Finance Director Mary Williamson, effective immediately.

Williamson had been on paid administrative leave since December.

During a special meeting on April 18, the BOS reviewed an investigative report produced by Malliet Human Resources Consulting, which uncovered "serious violations of public trust" committed by Williamson, according to First Selectman Bernie Dennler III.

The termination represents an extraordinary shakeup in a department that has struggled to stay afloat in recent months, weathering substantial accounting errors and serious pressure to complete an overdue 2022-23 financial audit report. Now, its highest-ranking official has been ousted.

Michelle Marceau – who was appointed earlier this year as the town's new deputy finance director before subsequently being promoted to acting finance director following Williamson's leave of absence – will remain in the position while the town conducts a search for a permanent replacement. Marceau was formerly an accountant for Colchester Public Schools.

The investigative report indicates that Williamson failed to execute the core duties of her position, authorized roughly \$8,000 in additional compensation for herself and utilized healthcare coverage she did not purchase.

The report stated that Williamson's job performance "did not meet the minimum standards for the job, including basic financial controls and compliance."

The report recommended Williamson should be terminated: "From the findings of this investigation, taken separately, or together, it is concluded that Ms. Williamson does not meet

minimum job performance requirements."

Immediately following the meeting, Dennler told the *Rivereast* he was "confident in the decision that we've made and that it is in the best interest of the town moving forward."

"The reality is that a lot of this is black and white," he said. "The fact that you have somebody entrusted with the internal controls of town finances who would circumvent and subvert those controls in order to authorize unearned payments to themselves – that is extremely serious."

When asked if he believes there was anything criminal detailed in the report, and if he would be referring the report to any law enforcement agency, Dennler said, "I think it's a reasonable question to ask given the facts of this situation."

Pressed if he already made a referral, Dennler said he had not, but didn't rule out the possibility of moving forward.

"I believe there needs to be further discussions amongst the Board of Selectmen about how to proceed," he said.

Mark Balaban, who is listed in the report as an attorney for Williamson, did not immediately return a request for comment.

The Allegations

In the official notice sent to Williamson on Dec. 28, Dennler stated the town "learned of allegations regarding your conduct involving purchases made which circumvented the normal budgeting and purchase order process."

Dennler alerted the town's contracted law firm Kainen, Escalera and McHale PC, who engaged Malliet Human Resources Consulting to conduct an investigation.

See *Selectmen Fire Director*, page 29

Portland Officials Review Proposed School Plan

By London Brazal

The Portland boards of selectmen and education gathered on Tuesday evening to discuss updates regarding the school facilities plan, including proposed site plans for one large elementary school.

Officials have been exploring what that school would look like, as well as true costs and alternative options for the potentially decommissioned schools. Ultimately, a project will go to a referendum for the residents to decide after the two boards approve a plan.

Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton acknowledged that the meeting was for the boards to listen to the presentation, not for community input. However, there will be opportunities to speak with Britton and ask questions on Mon-

day, April 29, and Wednesday, May 1, at 6 p.m., at the Portland High School library.

How They Got There

From the 1990s to 2004, the Portland Public Schools were organized into four facilities. Between 2000 and 2005, Portland invested in a new middle school and renovation of the high school. There was deliberation regarding the decommissioning of Brownstone; nevertheless, limitations in district space, such as the deterioration of portable classrooms at Valley View, and the cost of necessary additions to replace them, resulted in the choice to retain all schools. In 2015, the portable classrooms at Valley View were eliminated, and the grades were dispersed across five locations.

Valley View was originally constructed in 1953 with additions in 1958 and 1992. Gildersleeve was built in 1964 with an addition in 1991. Brownstone was constructed in 1931 with the latest addition built in 1992. There have been no major capital investments that require bonding since the last two additions in the 1990s. In some areas, there have been no major upgrades since the 1930s. Due to time and general wear and tear, by 2019, the school community acknowledged the imperative need for substantial capital enhancements across all schools. In February 2020, the Board of Education (BOE) hired Sightlines LLC to conduct a facilities analysis, with the results reported during the subsequent

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East Hampton Town Hall
 Sat. April 27th
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- Hospice services are typically paid for by insurance - True
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SPECIAL PRESENTATION DONE BY:
 Sandra Wood, RN, Hospital & Community Liaison
 Karla Vince, BA, Business Development Manager from ECHN, Visiting Nurse and Health Services of CT



Please RSVP To Mary Babcock
 860.533.2524 or email at mbabcock@arborsct.com

ECHN Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut

RHAM • RHAM

Earth Day Cleanup Recap

On Saturday, April 21, AHM Youth and Family Services, in collaboration with the Hebron Green Committee, hosted the Hebron Earth Day Cleanup Walk alongside more than 20 community member volunteers. From 10 a.m.-1 p.m., volunteers collected trash along Hebron roadsides and parks. In addition to the many garbage bags filled with trash, collectively 436 alcohol nips were collected. Ana Gopian of TriCircle LLC spoke to volunteers

about the different types of paraphernalia found in parks and on streets all across Connecticut and how it impacts our environment. This event served as a wonderful opportunity to educate community members on the impact of microplastics on the environment and raised awareness over concern on the significant amount of Nips bottles and drug paraphernalia found in the community and across the state.

Sparkler App

AHM's Family Resource Center encourages families to download the free Sparkler App from the CT Office of Early Childhood. The app has the Ages and Stages developmental screenings as well as information about child development, parenting tips and activities.

You can access the App from the Google Play Store or Apple App store. AHM's code is Gilead-FRC. Go to playsparkler.org for more information.

For more information or to schedule a screening, contact Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org or call the Family Resource Center at 860-228-0871.

Free Developmental Screenings

The AHM Family Resource Center offers free developmental screenings to anyone with a child ages 4 months-3 years in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia. Through activities and use of the questionnaire "Ages and Stages," AHM will learn how your child is doing in different domains of development (communication, motor, and social-

emotional skills). The screening takes about an hour, and can be done in your home or in the Family Resource Center room at Gilead Hill School in Hebron. After the screening, you will get a copy as well as a sheet with ways to encourage your child's development in the different domains.

Project Grad Signs Now Available

All are invited to show their support for RHAM High School Class of 2024 graduating seniors by purchasing a "Congratulations" sign. These signs are available for purchase at \$20 each. Each sign is an 18" x 24" yard sign with yard stake included. There is a blank space on the sign for you to write your graduates' name on it.

This fundraiser helps support AHM Youth and Family Services' Project Graduation event, a drug- and alcohol-free celebration set to take place June 14 from 10 p.m.-4 a.m. Purchase your Project Grad Lawn signs at ahmyouth.org. From the Menu, select "Project Graduation" under "Events and Fundraisers." will be a raffle of many great items.

Alumni Benefit Event

There will be an Alumni Benefit Event for RHAM Scholarships and Project Graduation Saturday, May 11, at 6 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron – featuring music by the Rockin' HeartBeats. This event is hosted by RHAM Alumni with the proceeds to provide scholarships to RHAM seniors and to benefit RHAM Project Graduation. Tickets are \$25 per person. Blackledge Country Club will serve flatbreads, pastas and snacks, and a cash bar also will also be available. There

Anchor Lodge Scholarships

Masonic Anchor Lodge 112 of East Hampton has announced the availability of the Masonic and George Seely Memorial Scholarships. All applications must be postmarked by May 1. **Masonic Scholarship:** Anchor Lodge will offer up to two \$1,000 scholarships for graduating seniors of the Class of 2024 from East Hampton High School, Hale-Ray High School, RHAM High School or Vinal Technical High School who are furthering their education in a field of the trades, i.e.: carpentry, culinary, wildlife

management, vocational fields, technical fields and agricultural fields. Applicants must reside in East Hampton, Marlborough, Andover, Hebron or Moodus. **George Seely Memorial Scholarship:** Anchor Lodge will offer up to one \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior of the Class of 2024 from East Hampton High School or RHAM High School who is furthering their education. Interested parties should see their high school guidance department for details.

National Drug Take-Back Day

AHM Youth and Family Services will help host a local drug drop-off location at RHAM High School on Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., as part of National Drug Take-Back Day. The goal of Drug Take-Back Day is to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of unused/expired prescriptions and over the counter medications and vitamins. This year, sharps and aerosols will be accepted. "The Chatham Health Department will also be participating Saturday, with helpful information available to share with the community."

Youth Baseball Golf Tourney

All are invited to the RHAM Youth Baseball Spring Swing Golf Tournament on Friday, May 10, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. There is a noon tee-off time. Golf registration includes 18 holes with cart, lunch, dinner and two drink tickets. There will be raffle prizes and silent auction items. You can register a foursome or as an individual; cost is \$600 for a foursome and \$175 for an individual. Register and pay online at www.rhamyouth-baseball.org.

Play and Learn

AHM Youth and Family Services will offer a Play and Learn in the Park Group at Columbia Rec Park on Fridays, May 3-May 31, from 10-11 a.m. each week. This group, for children Birth-5 and adults, will let children enjoy the playscape, crafts, and circle time with a story and singing. The cost is \$35/family for the five-week session. Register at ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home.

Spring Concert

Tickets are now on sale for AHM Youth and Family Services' Spring Concert Fundraiser, which will take place Saturday, May 18, at 7 p.m., in the Joel Rosenberg Performing Arts Hall at AHM, located on Pendleton Drive in Hebron. This year, AHM will host three local musical acts: One Part Harmony, Steve McCarthy, and Key of H.

Tickets are \$45/person, and include appetizers and desserts. Proceeds support AHM's mission of providing mental health and youth development services to children, young people, and families in the community. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/spring-concert.

AHM College Scholarships

AHM Youth & Family Services is accepting scholarship applications from Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough students who are planning to attend college in the fall. Each of the scholarships is needs-based. Applications are at ahmyouth.org/college-scholarship-application. Deadline to apply is May 15. **Erin Garvie Memorial Scholarship:** This scholarship, created in memory of star soccer player Erin Garvie, who passed away in 1998 during her senior year at RHAM, is typically awarded to RHAM High School students who participate in high school athletics.

Paige Houston Memorial Scholarship: This scholarship was created in memory of Paige Houston, who was entering her senior year as an honors student at RHAM High School in 2013 when she passed away. Each year a college scholarship is awarded to a RHAM High School graduate. **William Stelzner Memorial Scholarship:** This scholarship was created in memory of William "Bill" Stelzner, who passed away in 2016. Each year a college scholarship is awarded to a RHAM High School graduate who plans to attend a two-year college and has volunteered in the community.

Evening of the Arts

The music and fine art departments at RHAM High School will hold their annual Evening of the Arts event Thursday, May 30, from 4:45-8:30 p.m., at the high school. The visual and performing arts will be celebrated with a juried art show, performing ensembles, soloists, live printmaking, and photo booth, including a catered dinner from Gina Marie's. Dinner tickets at \$25 per person are being sold only in advance using the order form on the school website; dinner reservations are due by Thursday, May 9. General admission tickets to view the art show and watch performances only will be sold at the door for \$5. There is no charge for general admission for young children, students and seniors. The Evening of the Arts will begin at 4:45 p.m. with guests being invited to peruse artwork, as well as purchase T-shirts designed and made by students. Guests can try out the photo booth or

live printmaking in the atrium to make their own commemorative prints. At 5:45 p.m., guests who have ordered dinner tickets in advance will enjoy a buffet-style catered dinner from Gina Marie's. Guests will be treated to cabaret-style solo and ensemble performances on our small stage during dinner. Visual art show juried awards, donated by Blick Art Materials and Jerry's Artarama, will be presented during the cabaret performances at 7 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., all guests will be invited to the auditorium for the large ensemble performances. Dessert and coffee will be available for the entire evening at the concession stand. For more information, see the flyer and order form on the school website, or contact Nicholas Kokus at nicholas.kokus@rhamschools.org, or Beverley Fisher at beverley.fisher@rhamschools.org.

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Your eyes aren't deceiving you. Gas prices have gone up a lot recently.

According to a story that appeared on CT Insider Tuesday, the average in the state for a gallon of regular unleaded is now \$3.71 – up a whopping 21 cents per gallon from just the week before.

There are a lot of factors at play here – among them being, interestingly, a change in gasoline.

According to CT Insider, there was a recent switch from “winter blend” gasoline – which makes it easier for folks to start their car in cold weather – to the “summer blend,” which causes less air pollution.

And that seasonal blend is pricier.

“The bottom line is that the summer blend fuel is designed to have lower emissions, but is more costly to produce,” Alec Slatky, managing director of public and government affairs for AAA Northeast, told CT Insider.

There's also the simple fact gas almost always goes up in late April and early May. It stinks, but it's true. With the weather warming up and summer approaching, folks are starting to hit the road more – so the gas company execs respond by inflating the prices. Supply and demand; tale as old as time.

Fortunately, there's reason for some hope, CT Insider noted.

Global oil prices have gone down recently days due to developments in the Middle East, where a wider war between Israel and Iran appears to be on hold – at least for now (though hopefully it stays that way).

Regional gas inventories are also up, which may also help prevent future spikes.

Of course, we've still got a ways to go be-

fore we reach record-high gas prices for the state. CT Insider reported that, according to AAA, the state's highest average price on record was \$4.98 per gallon, a mark set June 14, 2022. Prices back then were affected by Russia's still-recent invasion of Ukraine, as well as inventory shortages in 2022 still lingering as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Insider reported.

Are you a fan of pottery? If so, this is for you.

Wesleyan Potters will hold its annual Spring Sale Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine, at 350 South Main St., Middletown. Admission is free.

The sale features handmade pieces from more than 30 of Wesleyan Potters' artists, instructors, staff and students. Shoppers will find an array of pottery, jewelry, and hand-woven items for purchase. Folks can also meet the artisans and view craft demonstrations throughout the day.

According to Wesleyan Potters, “the Spring Sale is the only time when bargain hunters can buy ‘seconds’ at irresistible prices.”

Wesleyan Potters is a nonprofit cooperative guild formed in 1948 to promote learning and development of skill in handcrafts. Classes are held year-round with lectures, exhibits, demonstrations, short-shops and films. Qualified instructors give classes in a well-equipped studio for adults, teens and children.

Proceeds from this sale go directly to the local artists and to the Wesleyan Potters' Fundraising and Scholarship funds. The guild also maintains a year-round gallery and shop. For

Editor's Desk continued on page 7



Helicopter Learning... Recently, Eileen Lastrina's aerospace engineering class got to learn more about helicopter flight and systems. State Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) presented in the classroom to the students on the systems and aerodynamics that make helicopter flight possible. Later in the week, Weir landed the helicopter at RHAM, and the students were able to see first hand how these theories are applied. Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara participated in the ride to the school.

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Thank You for Earth Day Action

To the Editor:

Thank you to all participants of Hebron's Trail Rangers and the Green Committee / AHM Earth Day Clean-Up, which focused on microplastics and litter such as “nips” alcohol bottles being thrown from cars. Participants were very energized to help our environment (and, thereby, ourselves) and such enthusiasm is quite heartening!

Even If you weren't at such an event, don't worry, Earth offers every day as a chance to help and live in greater harmony with nature! Learning about and appreciating nature is of great help, too. One helpful website is itreetools.org. This provides info gathered by the USDA Forest Service. If one clicks on “Tree Canopy Assessment Tools,” one can learn that the value of Hebron's tree canopy is approximately \$3,000,000 a year of benefits by providing carbon dioxide uptake, air pollution removal, and stormwater mitigation! One can even learn the value of an individual tree in one's own yard! And learn so much more.

Thank you again for all you do to appreciate and support nature on this living Earth!

Sincerely,
Ann Zitkus – Hebron

RHAM Jr. Class Fundraiser

To the Editor:

On May 9 (weather permitting) at the RHAM High School tennis courts area, the “Jumping Cow” Ice cream Truck will be there from 2:45 pm til 6:00 pm. Please come and support our Junior class while watching one of our many RHAM sports teams that will be playing that day and have a delicious ice cream cone or sundae. All are welcome.

Thank you for your support.
Jr. Class Advisors
Sharyn Keeney
Sandy Watts

Priorities

To the Editor:

As a Marlborough taxpayer, I am struggling to grasp the 8.92% tax increased proposed for FY24-25.

As a homeowner, I struggle with decisions on what home repairs to do and which ones might need to wait. Last year I spent over \$14,000 on a new driveway, which I had patched and sealed for many years in order to milk every bit of life out of it before giving in and having it repaved.

However, there are many other updates that I would like to do, but which are currently not in my budget, and will have to wait. My windows

Bulletin Board

My old pal Suds McSpatz was ensconced in his favorite booth at our favorite diner wearing—of all things—a maroon-colored bathrobe.

I couldn't help myself. “What's with the bathrobe, Suds?”

He looked at me disdainfully. “It's a robe of office,” he replied.

“Looks more like a plain old bath robe to me.”

“I'll thank you to treat the trappings of my new movement with the proper respect,” he said stiffly. “Only the very highest potentates of the Movement to Service Thyself are permitted to wear the exalted maroon robe.”

“I thought the invention of Viagra resolved that potentate thing for you, buddy.”

“You are not nearly as funny as you think you are.”

“I couldn't be,” I admitted. “No offense, Suds, but what's this Movement to Service Thyself? Some kind of crackpot religion?”

“There's nothing crackpot about it,” said Suds. “What did the Connecticut economy used to be based on?”

“I don't know. Insurance?”

“Manufacturing! Companies used to make things. People used to go to factories and help make real things—airplane engines, clocks, widgets.”

“So?”

“So what's our main industry today?”

“The Connecticut State Lottery? State government? I don't know.”

“Human services.”

“I don't follow you.”

“Nobody makes things anymore. Half the people in this state just run around servicing human needs. And if there's no need, they manufacture one. Do you have any idea how many people make a living putting on puppet shows at elementary schools?”

I was forced to admit my ignorance. “Puppet shows?”

“Sure, they get big bucks for putting on puppet shows about the dangers of cigarette smoking or bullying or why ‘the system’ is actually to blame for the stupid things people do and the crimes they commit, or why you shouldn't drink gasoline while barbecuing chicken or stick a fork in a plugged-in toaster. Then there's that whole sub-industry of grief counselors and parenting counselors and self-esteem counselors...Do you know how much money some of these people make just sitting around leading committees who brainstorm about how to end drug abuse or racism or gun violence or whatever but never actually do anything? Or how about these cultural education types who run around collecting hefty fees for introducing school children to the tradition of the Mongolian lute?”

“A lot of that is nonprofit, Suds.”

“Yeah, it's nonprofit because once they get done paying themselves out of state or federal grant money, there's nothing left. Well, my friend, I want a piece of the action.”

“What's the plan?”

“First I create my own religious movement and bestow upon myself the title of ‘reverend.’ This allows me to avoid taxes, create my own ‘nonprofit’ foundation dedicated primarily to me, and bestows upon me an authority that appears to come from God so I can freely disparage anyone who tries to contradict me.”

“And what exactly is the ostensible purpose of this foundation of yours?”

“To spread good will among men.”

“Sounds expensive”

“What price can you put on world peace, my friend?”

“I presume this means your long-time efforts to get yourself certified as an American Indian tribe have foundered?”

“Sadly, Squatting Buffalo has decided it is time to move on to new and more rewarding endeavors.”

“Indeed.”

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.

RIVEREAST

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are original from 1975 and my boiler is over 25 years old. Would I like to replace those items? Sure! But I can only do what my budget will allow.

The town is proposing a budget that includes a large number of road and culvert repairs and replacements. Just as is the case with my household budget, the town might need to prioritize these items and put some of them on the back burner. Or the town might need to make temporary repairs, as was done with the Hodge Road culvert, until we can address them without blowing up the budget.

Town Hall just installed a new \$350,000 HVAC system. Is that an item that should have been put on the back burner?

And perhaps, if we can get Town Hall's fiscal house in order, and catch up on delinquent audits, we can get into a position where we can bond several projects and spread out the pain.

As for me, I am voting 'no' on May 7. I support the MES budget, but cannot vote in favor of the Town Budget and its long list of capital projects.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

The Problem Isn't the MES Budget

To the Editor:

Given recent attacks on the Marlborough BOE budget, I feel it is important to clarify some information. Earlier this year, two members of the BOS began a narrative that focused on the school budget, deflecting attention away from the egregious BOS budget. Families who actually have children and grandchildren at MES can attest to how well the school is run. I have two children at MES, and they are thriving both academically and socially.

Some people say that funding MES is like "paying for a private school." Fortunately, New England as a whole values education, making for some of the best schools in the country. For argument's sake, let's compare the MES 2022-23 per pupil expenditure of \$18,319 to private schools. The annual tuition for grades K-5 at the Independent Day School in Middlefield is \$31,185, and tuition at Hamden Hall Day School for grades 4-6 is \$33,950. That's a significant difference.

MES already has less elementary administrators than neighboring communities. MES has had two full-time building administrators for 43 years and has had a half-time Superintendent for 15 years. Updating this to the more modern structure of a principal for PreK-grade 2 and principal for grades 3-6 is a budget increase of around \$8,000.

Schools like MES are in large part why property values are so high. Ask parents who have kids at MES – especially those who are not from the area – and chances are they will say they moved here for the school. Enrollment is currently 455 students. The New England School Development Council projects an increase of 94 students in the next ten years, which does not include future construction in town. Given this it's hard to understand why after 43 years members of the BOS are ranting about MES having two administrators now.

Beth Lander Morris – Marlborough

Note: Lander Morris is a member of the Marlborough Planning Commission but said she is speaking as an individual.

Thanks to Top Sponsors

To the Editor:

The Marlborough Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization would like to thank our Platinum Sponsors for the 2024 MES Fun Run! These three local organizations donated as our top sponsors to support the PTO and support the school doing our biggest fundraiser of the year.

Paul's Auto of East Hartford, CT Propane and Petroleum of Marlborough, Rotary Club of East Hampton & Marlborough.

Thank you so much for your support!!

With Gratitude,
MES PTO Board

Happy Earth Day!

To the Editor:

Spring – this time of year with its glorious floral rebirth is a predictable phenomenon which proves to me that there is a natural order in this world which denies change, in spite of global warming. The world may be in turmoil with pending wars but nature is consistent. The abundance and beauty of daffodils and forsythia is like the finale of the Hallelujah Chorus or the last movement of a piano concerto. Enjoy the show!

Ronald McCutcheon – Middle Haddam

Tennis Court Issues

To the Editor:

The unexpected closure of the tennis courts at the high school has made this season very difficult for members of the boys and girls tennis teams. Traveling to Portland to practice each day as well as every match being an away match with both boys and girls competing the same day is a very difficult and frustrating solution. In normal circumstances, each team has six courts and plays four Varsity Singles matches and three Varsity Doubles matches. Any remaining time is allotted for JV players to compete. With boys and girls playing the same towns at the same time, only three matches for boys and three matches for girls can run at once. This makes for an extremely long afternoon and evening for these students. Most times, the buses are not getting back to the school until 7:30-8 p.m.

While I am glad that the school has found a way to keep the season running, I hope that our town will choose to never again use the vendor that resurfaced the tennis courts – their initial work was shoddy and cracking within two years and now that they have been called to fix their unacceptable work, they have decided to disrupt the very short tennis season by telling the town "It's now or never" to get the courts resurfaced. Since the problem was created by their inability to do the job correctly the first time, they should have been forced to wait four weeks and complete the repairs in the off-season.

Sincerely,

Kendra Shogren – East Hampton

Thank You, Georgia's

To the Editor:

Georgia's Restaurant graciously donated a portion of sales to RHAM High School lacrosse programs and we are very appreciative of this support! Thanks to all who supported by eating local!

Betsy Landers, President
Friends of RHAM High School Lacrosse

More Government Lies

To the Editor:

In March 2023, a CNN headline read, "Children and teens are more likely to die by guns than anything else." Last October, the *New York Times* said "The death rate attributable to car accidents fell by almost half, leaving firearm injuries as the top cause of accidental death in children."

That's a lie! If you look at CDC's 2020 accidental death statistics for Americans under age 15, the cutoff point for "children," you'll see that firearms weren't the number one cause of accidental death. Fatal gun accidents didn't even come close to fatal car crashes. If you look at CDC's figures from 2018 to 2020, the most recent time that a full report is available for children under age 15, you'll see that accidental firearm fatalities are outnumbered by motor vehicles 19 to 1. The only way they can claim gun deaths outnumber traffic deaths among children, is by mixing apples with oranges and by mixing accidents with deliberate crimes and classifying everyone under the age of 25 as "children." We must remember to "Flush the Toilet" this November!

Frank Blume – Colchester

Gossip Girl

To the Editor:

On Fridays when I get home from work I often frolic to the mailbox with glee in my heart, hoping this week's *Rivereast* Reader Forum will be even better than last's. I've lived in Connecticut for only a handful of years, but I've already learned to love the weekly political turmoil that takes place in the local newspaper of these sleepy New England towns.

I'm from the south originally. We don't have papers like this, and it's simply way better than Twitter (X). My wife knows I call it (the *Rivereast*) my 'Gossip Girl'. The utter vitriol some people say about each other, I mean really ... why? If having a sharp tongue keeps your mind fresh then by all means. Who am I to stand in y'all's way?

I'm assuming no twenty-somethings are as invested in what you have to say as I have been. I discuss it weekly with Sharon; our secret guilty pleasure is this forum where retired people (maybe soon to be retired people) yell into the ether. Our families will never understand why we love our 'Gossip Girl'. Thank you all for speaking your mind. Thank you, Sharon.

Connor McGovern – Colchester

Why Another Charter Review?

To the Editor:

On April 11, Andover's Board of Selectmen voted to create a Charter Revision Commission. We just had one two years ago. What's so urgent that we need another one already?

The BOS discussed this for ten minutes, with interruptions, two hours and twenty minutes into their meeting (tinyurl.com/bp7yyahu). They talked about logistics, the number of members, timelines, legal requirements, and including the first selectman on the committee. But they never discussed why they were creating this committee. Not once.

That makes me suspect that a majority of the BOS members had made the decision before the meeting, skirting FOI laws. Nine days later, they still haven't posted the meeting minutes, as legally required. It makes one wonder if they would like to keep this as quiet as possible. They did post a notice on Facebook and on the Andover News section of the town website, but this still smacks of hidden agendas.

Are they doing this to try to exert more control over the Andover Board of Education? There is a well-documented rift between the town manager and the superintendent. If this has to do with that, our well-run little school does not need interference from politicians! BOE members are agents of the state. They are chosen by voters and responsible to them, but they are also legally responsible to the state for the appropriate education of our children. Granting control to people without such obligations is a recipe for disaster. Doing it because a local official has a grudge against the Superintendent just makes it worse. Or maybe that's not the reason at all; they certainly have not explained it to us.

If you find this important, please volunteer for the commission. You would need to do so by May 1. Details are at <https://www.andoverconnecticut.org/home/news/committee-members-needed-0>.

Sincerely,

Julia Haverl – Andover

Veterans Ceremony Thanks

To the Editor:

On Jan. 22, Lt. Gov. Bysiewicz and CT Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Ronald Welch hosted a ceremony at Andover Elementary School to honor our WWII, Korean and Vietnam Era veterans. I was unable to attend and apologize for this late letter of recognition for the support and assistance of all the Andover residents who made this event possible.

The scouts of Troop 73 and Cub Scout Pack 124, plus Eagle Scout Jarrett Lundberg, for the care and precision in the Posting and Retiring the Colors; Trooper Sebastian Nesi who provided a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem; Andover Elementary students Jason Murray and Braden Kelle who lead the Pledge of Allegiance; Joann Brooks for her inspiring Invocation, and Community Voice Channel for filming the event, a heartfelt thank you!

Veterans who attended and shared their stories I thank you. Recognition of your service

See Letters, page 6

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

and sacrifice can never be stated enough. I know many veterans were unable to attend the ceremony but be assured I have a stack of 50 certificates I will hand deliver. So, those of you who are eligible for a certificate know I will be by to meet you and hand you this beautiful certificate.

To AES for the use of the gym; Town Administrator Eric Anderson and First Selectman Jeff Murray; and all who helped with refreshments and odds and ends: Carol Lee, Celine Maurais, Roberta Doughtry, Sue Schmidt, Carol Kukučka, and others – thank you!

The service and sacrifice of all service members, past, present, and future is vital to the security of our nation. You all answered the call, did your duty wherever you were sent to the best of your ability and more. No one can take that away from you. Be proud of your service – we are proud and grateful to you.

Susan Camoroda
Andover Veterans Municipal Representative

What Are We Coming To?

To the *Rivercast*:

I went to the Douglas Library in Hebron on April 20th to go down to the study rooms. I was surprised that all the study rooms were locked. I then asked the librarian why all the rooms were locked. She stated that there had been vandalism.

What are we really coming to as people, a town, a state or the world? All it takes are one or two people to ruin it for others.

Susan Heise

Good Planets

To the Editor:

"Good Planets are hard to find now
Temp'rate zones and tropic climes
True currents in thriving seas
Wind blowin' through breathing trees
Strong ozone and safe sunshine
Good Planets are hard to find
Good Planets are in demand
Clean beaches and sparkling sand
Land masses with room to spare
Jet streams and perfect air
High forests and low wetlands
Good planets are in demand
And the mind don't know
If the heart can't see
Let the blind man go
To his destiny
Good planets are rare indeed
Rain fallin' on crops and seeds
Big rivers and good topsoil
Fuel sources from cane to oil
Green gardens of all we need
Good planets are rare indeed..." -S. Forbert

Hebron's 17 Kinney Rd. has high forests and low wetlands, clean water and glacial sands. People work to save this place, before it's lost, to pavement and storm drain waste. How long until a blind reign of pollution, floods locals wells with no solution? Sick water and lost farmland, what do we gain at destruction's hand? Why taint the water we so desperately need? Who fuels this hunger that kills the seed?

Can we stop the bulldozers' gaze, before machines make Earth a living grave? It has now and forever, seemed to me, Earth is still, a pretty good place to be.

What if Earth Day was more like Christmas or COVID shutdown, calm and bright? No planes or trains, no busses or cars, no travel or stores, no classrooms, no bars...just bare minimum emergency personnel only. What if we fasted and used little electricity? What if we suffered, just a little bit, to remind ourselves of the unmistakable importance of treating the planet and each other with respect everyday? What more is there left to say? #save17

Jean Tulimieri - Amston



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Charter Review Committee

To the Editor:

Only a few days remain for Andover residents to submit a letter of interest to join the Charter Revision Committee.

The charter is our local constitution, the accepted law of the town. It is our guide to governing our town and gives "residents" the authority to act in local affairs through referendum votes.

We understand that sometimes change is required, and our charter may need to be revised, but our first question should be "Why?" "Why is the BOS asking for a Charter Committee?" What is the issue(s) they want addressed?

Changes in our charter can alter our town meeting system if accepted. For example, instead of voting at town meetings, a charter could allow the selectmen to assume legislative responsibility and new rules could be enacted by the selectmen without a vote by residents.

It is the job of the Charter Revision members to gather ideas and information from residents.

◆ 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

For more information on advertising your "Happenings" please call 860-633-4691.

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Members must strike a balance between what the community does and does not agree upon. Impartiality is crucial. Parents with young children are underrepresented in committees and at town meetings. Becoming a member of the Charter Committee is a good start. The Committee has a set period to complete the task and is terminated upon acceptance or rejection of its final report.

Innovative ideas, objectivity, and fairness are required for the improvement of Andover. Please submit a letter of interest to the Andover Town Clerk at townclerk@andoverct.org, or drop it off at the Town Hall at 17 School Rd., Attention Town Clerk, by May 1.

*CT State Statutes, Chapter 99 Municipal Charters and Special Acts, Section 7-187 to Section 7-201, explains the rules and procedures for a charter review committee.

Catherine Magaldi-Lewis – Andover

I Pledge Alliance

To the Editor:

Scott Sauyet will not recite our Pledge of Allegiance. He is an elected member of the RHAM Board of Education although he did run unopposed as a Democrat. The RHAM meetings follow "Robert's Rules" and their meetings begin with "The Pledge." Sauyet stands with his hands folded behind his back and listens to his fellow members follow protocol – at least he doesn't resort to taking a knee!! I learned the Pledge when I was in grammar school and I also watched my father who was a World War II hero recite it, so I knew it was the correct and respectful thing to do. In my opinion Scott Sauyet represents Andover – not himself – and therefore he should conform and follow the rules or he should resign.

Next: Alvin Bragg, Manhattan prosecutor, and his election interference charges against former President Trump – charges that he somehow elevated from a misdemeanor to a felony. He has refused a change of venue and now President Trump has less of a chance of a fair trial than the Salem witches. It's a sham and an embarrassment to our legal system.

Also: Joe Biden has brought the working class to their knees with the high "Bidenomics" inflation that affects our daily lives: food, gas (big jump this past week), home heating oil, interest rates, home and automobile prices, and the list goes on. Yet 40% of Americans in a recent poll said this incompetent puppet is doing a good job with the economy.

Finally – for now: Anti-Israeli, pro-Pales-

tinians protesters chanting "Death to America" burning our flag, blocking our streets and bridges, preventing emergency vehicles and first responders from doing their job – all with malicious intent – and where is Homeland Security?

Our country is in turmoil, more so than I've ever seen – and I lived through the Vietnam War, Very divided – and our enemies are watching closely.

Don Denley – Andover

Buzz Words of Political Propaganda

To the Editor:

It is time for sane people to think about the labels political propagandists use to reshape our understanding of basic words and phrases that are part of the national lexicon. They are changed, (often by hyphens) to divide Americans into political camps, shut down free speech and political opposition. The strategy requires human targets. At present, a hot target is "Christian Nationalism."

The idea of Christian Nationalism comes from a book by Steven Wolfe that most people, including Christians, have not read. Wolfe believes that "the progressive media complex" has "steered the U.S. toward a...Global American Empire." He proposes an alternative to total secularism, social and cultural Marxist ideology or theocratic government that prohibits religious liberty. Doug Wilson, an articulate and highly educated author and pastor, defines Christian Nationalists as, "people who believe that our rights are given to us by God."

This belief was actually written by our nation's founders in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that we are endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights and that among these are "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The founders of our Republic understood that human rights exist for the good of all people everywhere. They knew that if human rights do not come from our good God, then they will be dispensed or withheld by humans accountable to no one except other humans such as from governments. These then, will create, distribute and remove rights according to their own moral values or lack thereof.

Eric Manning ("Wake Up," *Rivereast* April 19) is obviously a consumer and proponent of Marxist political propaganda and is afraid that our "inalienable rights" might actually be granted to those he believes should not have them.

Pat Gauthier – East Hampton

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

more information, contact Wesleyan Potters at 860-347-5925 or visit www.wesleyanpotters.com.

Less into pottery and more into the fast-paced thrill of bidding? There will be a 4-H Auction Saturday, May 11, at the Middlesex County Extension Center, located at 1066 Saybrook Rd. in Haddam.

The auction will feature a variety of new and used items, antiques, plants, gift certificates and gift baskets. There will be a food concession featuring UConn ice cream preview at 4 p.m. with the auction starting 6 p.m.

The auction is sponsored by the Middlesex County 4-H Advisory Committee. All funds raised go to support 4-H youth programs in Middlesex County.

For more information, visit 4-Hauction.org.

Lastly, while I know Memorial Day is still a ways off, but I'm a proud son and I just wanted to share the news. My dad, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, is the keynote speaker at this year's Memorial Day Parade in Manchester!

This year's parade will take place Monday, May 27, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The parade route will begin at the Army and Navy Club, 1090 Main St. in Manchester, turns east on East Center Street, then turns west at Nate Agostinelli Veterans Memorial Park, and will conclude at the Center Memorial Park for a Memorial Day program to honor fallen veterans.

And the program is where my dad will speak. (I've heard a sneak preview of the speech, and folks, it's pretty great.)

Hopefully the weather is great that day, but if the parade is canceled due to inclement weather, the Center Memorial Park program will be moved indoors, to The Salvation Army, 661 Main St., and it'll start at 11 a.m.

I know you all probably have your own Memorial Day plans for that day, but if you're free and your town's Memorial Day parade has already happened (Portland and Colchester, I'm looking in your direction...), you're welcome to come on over to Manchester, where you'll see a passionate, well-written speech from a pretty great guy.

Have a great week.

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

★ Proposed School Plan cont. from page 1

summer. The company's assessment revealed approximately \$28 million worth of capital projects required over 10 years.

From late 2021 to early 2023, the facilities study committee was formed to develop a resort relating to the current and future school facility needs. The committee established several priorities including the creation of high-quality academic spaces and buildings designated to maximize school security. In a survey conducted last fall with 1,000 respondents, a majority (56.9%) indicated that consolidating to a Pre-K through 5 elementary school and moving grade 6 to Portland Middle School (PMS) was the best fit. An education specifications plan, required by the state for a grant application, outlines the space needs and addresses the established priorities. Friar Architecture then used the plan to develop models and cost estimates.

Proposed Site Plan

Architect Michael Sorano explained the importance of meeting the state's space standards. He noted how it is a more complicated calculation but, "essentially, when the state reimburses a school building project, they reimburse on square foot per student," Sorano said. The program space chart, with the education specifications plan, is the "treasure map" of how to design the building. The building design presented was not a final draft but was needed to give an accurate cost budget.

Architect Bryce Sens presented a preliminary design for Valley View. To meet current building, accessibility and energy codes, the building would be "renovated as new," and a quarter of the existing facility would be demolished. About 32,000 sq. ft. will be renovated and there would be about 42,000 sq. ft. of new construction. To accommodate the concern of pick-up and drop-off traffic, Friar Architecture created designated areas and buses would get an assigned loop off High Street. Pre-K would also get a traffic loop off High Street and a separate loop for the other grades has an entrance from Hall Hill Road.

Gildersleeve Principal Ryan Walstrom visited three Pre-K through 5 schools with similar student populations to view the logistics. Walstrom said it would be exciting to create Valley View's new culture, climate and identity while upgrading the missions and visions of the school.

In terms of scheduling, it ultimately depends on the number of students and how many classes there are per grade. Hypothetically, the first lunch wave would start at 10:50 a.m. and the last would end at 1:35 p.m. with five waves total. Walstrom believes they have room to combine specific grades and reduce it to three lunch waves if necessary.

He added that the school would essentially be

broken into three sections in the two-story design, calling them "neighborhoods," to keep the ages appropriately grouped.

The other switch, moving grade 6 to the middle school, was conceptualized by PMS Principal Charles Hershon. "A number of towns around us have sixth grade being a part of the middle school," said Hershon. "It enables so many more opportunities for our school and it allows us not to be a place where we are transitioning kids from elementary to middle one year then transition them to high school the next year."

Hershon explained that the middle school has room to fit another grade and all classrooms would be utilized. It fits all students and teachers in dedicated academic spaces without the need for teachers to be on "carts," meaning they bounce around different classrooms.

Projected Costs

The conceptual budget total project costs are estimated to be \$66.13 million. "There is no cheap and easy way out of this. If there were, we would have found them," said Britton.

If the ineligible costs and state reimbursement go through as projected, the local responsibility comes to \$44.44 million but can be anticipated to be lower, Britton said. Ineligible costs, estimated at \$17.93 million, are expenses that are not eligible for state reimbursement until the project starts and the money's use is identified and spent. The state reimbursement is determined by the town's adjusted equalized net grand list per capita. That rating is updated each year but the level is unknown until July 1. Currently, Portland is eligible for 49% reimbursement but they conservatively used a 45% rate, about \$21.67 million of the total project.

By consolidating the elementary schools and moving grade six, the BOE could reduce up to 16 positions. Other reductions would include transportation, utilities and maintenance, lowering the BOE operating budget by \$1.2 million. If the town were to keep all three elementary schools, they would need about \$25.37 million to pay for necessary 10-year capital improvements.

In a side-by-side comparison, the net 30-year cost to consolidate to a Pre-K through 5 school was projected to be \$26.33 million. To maintain three elementary schools, the total 30-year cost was shown at \$102.69 million.

Both boards agreed to host a second meeting after they had time to review the presentation and digest the information. The recording and presentation are available on the school's website, portlandctschools.org, and on YouTube @ [wphannouncements](https://www.youtube.com/wphannouncements).

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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

MIND THE GAP: WHAT IS A DIASTEMA?

A gap between teeth is called a diastema. While it poses no dental or medical threat, a diastema is sometimes a concern for patients for cosmetic reasons. Most often appearing in young children, a diastema usually closes when permanent adult teeth come in. Spaces that are wider than 0.5 millimeters are considered to be a diastema. Generally caused by the difference between the size of teeth relative to the jaw, the condition is often genetic. A smaller tooth means more space between the teeth, most commonly, the upper lateral incisors, which creates a gap between the front teeth. Gum disease can also be responsible for tooth migration as inflammation damages the bone supporting the teeth.

If unevenly spaced, damaged, neglected, or otherwise unattractive teeth are preventing you from smiling, take care of the problem with the help of your dentist. We care how you feel, and we'll work with you to help you achieve optimal oral health and maximum smile power, from cosmetic enhancements to complete restorations to regular dental checkups. For gentle dental care for everyone in your family, please call us for an appointment.

P.S. In many parts of the world, a gap between the front teeth is considered a sign of beauty and attractiveness, and some people choose to widen their gaps to enhance their appearance.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC
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Fantastic Fife... Fife Corporal Josiah Pietruszka and Color Sergeant Ruby Casey received an award on behalf of the Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps at a ceremony on Saturday, April 20. Of nine marching bands and drum corps, the Marlborough Jr. Ancients were awarded first place in the category of Best Youth Marching Band at the New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade in March.

American Legion Flag Retirement Ceremony

On Saturday, April 27, at 2 p.m., Marlborough American Legion Post 197 will host a Dignified Disposal of Unserviceable Flags ceremony. The ceremony will entail inspecting the flags, determining their need for retirement, and gently placing them into a fiery pit. Spectators are invited to observe the burning. The ceremony is conducted as an honorable destruction of tattered, worn, or damaged flags. The event is an embodiment of patriotism, faith, loyalty, and memory of U.S. troops, both serving and laid to rest, the Legion said. In 1923, the National Flag Conference cre-

ated the Flag Code, which states that "the flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing." The American Legion passed a resolution about flag retirement ceremonies in 1937, and it has been an important ritual ever since. According to the resolution passed, "The approved method of disposing of unserviceable flags has long been that they be destroyed by burning." Post 197 is located at 128 East Hampton Rd. (Route 66) in Marlborough.

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

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.marlconchurch.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@marlconchurch.org for more information.

days 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, from the church kitchen, for Marlborough Food Bank patrons with vouchers, will be held from 1-1:30 p.m. on April 28. 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.

Sunday, April 28: The service will be led by singer and songwriter Steve Pozzato, who also serves as church historian and Christian Education team chair. **Bible Studies** are led by pastor the Rev. Valerie Seaver. The morning study meets Thurs-

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@marlconchurch.org.

Spring Fling

American Legion Post 197 will hold its Spring Fling Sunday, May 19, from 2-6 p.m., at the post, 128 East Hampton Rd. Cost is \$15/person or \$25/couple. There will be a DJ, appetizers and a raffle. Tickets are available at the post. Call 860-295-7810 for more information.

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.

Giant Tag Sale

The annual spring tag sale at the Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., will return Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Fellowship Hall and several classrooms will be filled with household and seasonal items, linens, vintage, toys and games, collectibles, framed artwork, electronics, small appliances, clothing, furniture, and much more. Everything is price your own. A bake sale, sponsored by Dorcas Women's Fellowship, will feature a wide selection of homemade baked goods. Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located down the hall from the tag sale, will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

HALL RENTAL AVAILABLE

Located in Marlborough, CT, the American Legion Post 197's hall is available for Parties, Ceremonies, Receptions Meetings, Fundraisers, etc. The hall seats approximately 120 people depending on your desired seating arrangement. The hall has climate control and parking to ensure a comfortable setting for your guests. The post is located 5 minutes off RT 2. **Please call the Post at 860-295-7810 or email AmericanLegionCT197@gmail.com for more info on our hall rental.**

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Seat Of Our Pants returns to Marlborough Arts Center's 4th Friday @ the Arts Cafe on Friday, April 26th at 7:30 p.m. This marks the bands 13th appearance at the arts center since 2012. The band features Marlborough residents Carolyn Brodginiski, Jeff Gorman, and Mark Hall, and Michael Frantzen from Hebron. With their unique instrumentation and rock-infused songwriting, Seat of our Pants (SOOP) is a contagiously fun experience. The arts center is at 231 North Main Street in Marlborough. Doors open at 7pm. Admission is \$10 at the door. The building is handicapped accessible and there is on-site parking. For more information about the arts center and the band, visit www.Marlborougharts.org and SeatOfOurPantsMusic.com

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: Just For Fun ART-ventures: Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., April 30-June 4, at Marlborough Elementary School, for grades K-6. Fee: \$128/resident, \$133/non-resident.

Parents Night Out: Friday, April 26, 6-9 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Drop off your kids in grades K-6 and enjoy an evening out. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Registration fee is \$20 per child/resident, and \$25 per child/non-resident.

Spring Into Yoga - Kids Yoga Series: Ages 4-10, Wednesdays through May 8, 5:15-6 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for ages 4-10. Parent/guardian must attend to observe or participate with their child. Drop-in fee is \$17 per week.

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.

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

Adult Programs: Dog Obedience - Polite Dog Manners: Fridays, May 3-31, 6-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. These are beginner level classes for dogs 5 months and older. Fee is \$120/resident, \$125/non-resident.

Beginner & Intermediate Tai Chi: Thursdays, 1-2 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. 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.

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 Invited to Monthly Sings

On the first Friday of each month, from 7-9 p.m., the group "Marlborough Sings!" meets in the upstairs lounge at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 S. Main St. All are welcome. The next sing is Friday, May 3.

The free monthly sing-alongs are hosted by Seat of our Pants member Carolyn Brodginiski. Songs come from many genres, including

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

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

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.marlborough.lions or email Lions Club member Jennifer Greloch at jenbruhns@gmail.com.

Town Offices Relocated

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

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

For more information, call 860-295-6204.



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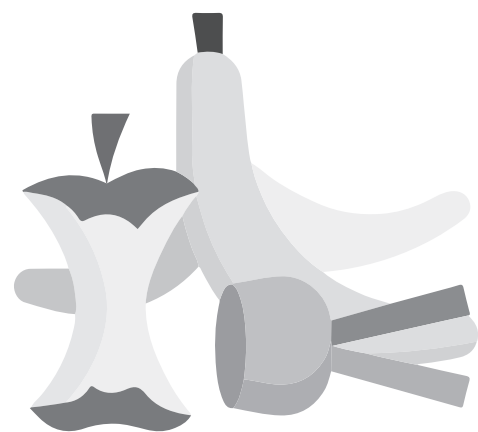
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REG-28-24

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

REG-19-24

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Orus Coffield, left, and Isthmian Levin, right, call a game for kids and seniors bingo at a recent MAEVE RHAM bingo event. This month's event is this Sunday.

MAEVE RHAM Monthly Bingo is Sunday

All area kids and seniors are invited to monthly bingo this Sunday, April 28, from 2-4 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, Marlborough. Hosted by MAEVE RHAM, it is free to play and open to all. Prizes will be awarded.

The kids of MAEVE RHAM take turns calling the games. MAEVE is a national nonprofit, charitable organization that seeks to empower

all who mother in support of one another and their communities. MAEVE RHAM supports those in Hebron, Andover, Marlborough, and neighboring communities.

If you can't make it this time, there is bingo on the fourth Sunday of each month.

For more information, or if interested in joining MAEVE RHAM, email rham@wearemaeve.org or visit maeveham.org.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Alvin LeBlanc, Bill Gilles is deacon John McKaig is deacon emeritus. Heather Mancini is church secretary and can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via email at stjohfisher30@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.stjfisherchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

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.

Cemetery Spring Clean-Up

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

Residents are asked to remove any personal items and holiday decorations prior to the clean up. All items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance

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.

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, April 29: 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: barbecue pulled pork on multigrain bun, tater tots, green and yellow wax beans, fresh fruit; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; Setback, 3-4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 30: 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.; Community Forum - Trash Talk, 7 p.m. at Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria.

Wednesday, May 1: 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: 100% fruit juice punch, meatball stroganoff, parslie linguini/peas, 100% whole wheat bread, pudding; Setback, 1-4 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies, 5-6 p.m.

Thursday, May 2: Parkinson's Disease Exercise, 3-4 p.m.; Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.

Friday, May 3: Not Just Quilters, 9 a.m.-noon; Help & Support, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Strength & Fitness Exercise with Mary Henderson, noon-1 p.m.; Congregate Meal, noon. CRT Celebrates Cinco de Mayo! Menu: beef taco/taco shell, Spanish-style rice, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, sour cream, salsa churros; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Setback, 1-4 p.m.

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.

President's List

Addison Brown of Marlborough made the fall 2023 President's List at Central Connecticut State University.

Brown has also been invited to be a lifetime member of the chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma for outstanding scholastic achievements.

Subway Fundraiser

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department's Women's Auxiliary will hold a fundraiser at the Marlborough Subway on Tuesday, May 7. The auxiliary will receive 25% of all sales made between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Arts Center Exhibit at Town Hall

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

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

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

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Middle School Honor Roll

Portland Middle School has announced its honor roll for the ythird marking period of the 2023-24 school year.

High Honors

Grade 8: Jacob Anderson, Marcus Clements, Fiona Graham, Jack Hallinean, Parker Johnson, Miles Matterfis, Ryan Nadolski, Lilah Nolan, Zoey Pires, Erika Tine, Lena Trojanowski.

Grade 7: Charlee Graham, Elena Guilmette, Aeryn Hall, Payton Hawlk, Charlize Landry, Addison Maloney, Mahreen Nahar, Keira O'Brien, Neena Pereira, Teagan Piascik, Kaelyn Trella.

Honors

Grade 8: Ian Binnington, Lucas Bolstridge, Alex Brown, Calvin Celinski, Elijah Eckert, Natalie Farmer, Colin Fitzgibbons, Thomas Gaetani, Da'Najah Gardner, Ellen Hanks, Addison Kierys, Megan King, Terrance Lin, Matthew Maldonado, Colin Martin, Giancarlo Mendez, Brady

Mierzewski, Aurelia Napp, Brooks Oliva, Mya Peterson, Elizabeth Porter, Jason Revicki.

Grade 7: Liliana Agogliati, Emma Agosta, Simone Anderson, Sebastian Barone, Samantha Bransfield Yugcha, Nathan Clark, Rowan Clarke, Nicolette D'Amora, Jackson Hendrickson, William Hunter, Hailee Khim, Cameron Kopytko, Luke Lawrence, Krystof Lukas, Natalie Martin, Lauren May, Mikaela Nemeth, Brennan O'Connor, Owen Pandolfo, Mary Pickel, Olivia Roy, Adele Salafia, Ray Vardon, Zoey Vess, Jackson Vodola, Liam Witschy, Ian Xiao, Rani Zheng.

Grange in Tag Sale

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

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

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

Lawn Irrigation Inspections

Beginning in May, Portland's town inspectors will conduct inspections of irrigation systems on the public water supply.

In order to do this your system must be activated. If for some reason it is not activated, call the Public Works office at 860-342-6733 to schedule an appointment for a different time. If the inspector comes out and your system is not activated, you will still be charged the \$75 inspection fee.

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Ambassador of Sight Award... Over the years, Gano's Power Equipment of Colchester has been a consistent sponsor of the Marlborough Lions Club. For every \$1,000 that the Marlborough Lions donate to the Connecticut Lions Low Vision Center, the Lions can nominate a recipient for the Ambassador of Sight Award. The Lions recently nominated Gano's of Colchester, for its support of the club. Pictured here is Lions President Megan Lloyd (left) presenting this award to Tony Gargano of Gano's.

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‘Persistence and Patience’ – Track Teams Host First Home Meet

By London Brazal

For years, Portland High School track and field athletes have spent their entire seasons “on the road.”

But now, they can finally bask in a home-field advantage.

It’s been five years since the last home meet for the PHS track team. The old track, prone to flooding, was deemed unusable due to deterioration. With multiple away meets, athletes missed the local support and having the student body come out to cheer them on.

On Tuesday, though, the town held a grand opening for its new and improved track – ensuring PHS runners can keep it local for years to come.

Isha Murphy, the head coach for the PHS track team, has been part of the coaching staff for the last 16 years, taking his current role within the last eight. He was excited to bring the community together and thank the elected officials and staff who made the project possible. “Persistence and patience,” were important to the success of the project, said Murphy at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. He wanted to recognize the town of Portland and the “finest athletes” who could showcase their skills on a gorgeous spring day. Cromwell and Lyme-Old Lyme also competed at the meet; including Portland, over 200 athletes were participating in the 18 track and field events.

First Selectman Ryan Curley gave his remarks at the ceremony, saying this was a “long time coming.” When getting the first quote for a new track with the former building and grounds director, Carl Johnson, the pre-pandemic price was about half a million dollars. Curley worked with Superintendent Dr. Charles Britton to secure state funding and Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) and state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) secured \$500,736. After hiring an engineer, they learned the base of the track would need more work and the project required more money than originally anticipated.

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) worked with Finance Director Tom Robinson to find funding to complete the project which resulted in a special town meeting with over 200 citizens in attendance. On March 28, 2023, the BOS passed a resolution to transfer \$700,000 to the track improvement project. The new track, completed by Classic Turf showcases a post-tension base,

an innovative design that extends longevity well beyond conventional asphalt-based tracks. This improvement guarantees a dependable track surface and presents a cost-effective solution for the community. The first selectman extended his gratitude to the public school’s building and grounds director, Bob Shea, for his oversight of the track’s construction.

Britton also gave a speech at the ceremony noting it was an important milestone for the schools. He explained that the track was more than a place to run and walk. “It’s a symbol of what can be done when we work together,” said Britton. He is excited about the new opportunities as students can host home meets and community members can use it to prepare for their own marathons or just to enjoy the outdoors.

Frank Cardona, the vice principal and athletic director of PHS, said the student-athletes were ecstatic to host a home meet. “I’ve also heard from families and former runners that they are happy for our kids,” Cardona told the *Rivereast*. “We believe that not having to travel to all meets and being able to run on a track and surface which is known and comfortable to them is a big advantage.” Principal Kathryn Lawson said a new track benefits all the track teams including the high school, the middle school and the unified sports team but also benefits the PE classes and the community.

Out of all the students on the track and field roster, the seniors were especially excited about hosting their first home meet. Seniors Noah Decker, who throws javelin, and Erik Medvecky, who runs the 4x100 relay and throws shot put, felt surreal and almost weird being at home for the first time.

Decker said that the last time he saw a home meet was when his older brother was a freshman at PHS; the brother is now a junior in college. Decker acknowledged how he was used to packing up early and leaving for the buses during his previous outdoor track seasons. While settling into the new track, Medvecky noted how the team had felt comfortable and the morale was high. He said that winning would be “the cherry on top.”

Ari Hettrick-Rivera, Lily Tabellione and Meghan McPhee are also seniors and run long distance, which they plan on continuing in college. Hettrick-Rivera explained the “good vibes and energy” that the team had coming into the



While traditional ribbon-cutting ceremonies use giant scissors, Portland Middle School eighth-graders and Portland High School seniors ran an opening lap, breaking the red ribbon at the finish line to celebrate the first home meet at the new track.

meet on Tuesday. During the school day, many classmates said how they were going to stop by and cheer their friends on. The baseball team even promised to stop practice and watch, something that was “a big deal.” Hettrick-Rivera said she was excited about the support they would get from the community.

Tabellione recognized how much of a differ-

ence a new track made and the convenience of hosting a home meet. In May, the school will also be hosting the Shorelines Championship. “We always see how far we can go and keep pushing,” said Tabellione. McPhee echoed that point, “It’s challenging but really rewarding in the long run.”

Village District Garden Project Returns

The Portland River-Valley Garden Club and the Portland Economic Development Commission are once again inviting all downtown businesses and property owners/renters as well as other Portland businesses to participate in the second annual Street Garden Project.

This program will recognize those participants that make a special effort to use plants and flowers to enhance the beauty of the community. There are three categories, including in-ground plantings, container gardens, and

professionally designed gardens.

The deadline to register for the Street Garden Project is Saturday, May 11. Plantings should be completed by Saturday, May 25, with judging by club members in June. More information and applications are available through the Portland Economic Development Commission or on the Portland River-Valley Garden Club website, portland-river-valley-garden-club.blogspot.com.

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.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub, under the ‘Community Link’ drop-down. All scholarship applications must be received no later than May 8.

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

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 this is the last weekend to register. All registrations must be received (even if mailed at post office) by Sunday, April 28.

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 online, as well as in the barrel on the front steps of the Ruth Callender 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.

The sign-up period then closes to allow time

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.

Free Paper Shredding

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the East Hampton Water Pollution Control Facility, 20 Gildersleeve Drive.

This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

Horseshoe League Seeks New Members

The Portland Horseshoe League is looking for horseshoe players of any skill level to join for the 2024 season, which will start in late May (date to be determined).

Folks from surrounding towns are welcome also. Games take place at the Horseshoe pits in Bransfield Park on Rose Hill in Portland. The league meets on Wednesdays from 5:45- 8 p.m.

Email Andy Bauer at AndyTBauer@gmail.com if interested. Portland Horseshoes is an alcohol-free activity.

for preparation and printing of the map prior to the May 11 sale. 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.

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is the main fundraiser for the historical society. For more information, call 860-982-1486 or email portlandchisto-ry@gmail.com.






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Plant Sale

The garden clubs of Portland will hold their annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 18, from 8:30-10:30 a.m., in the parking lot next to The Buck-Foreman Community Center on Main Street. (Rain date is Sunday, May 19.)

A large variety of perennials, herbs, annuals, trees, shrubs, and ground covers from members' gardens will be available for sale,

and free gardening advice will be offered. There will be some gently used garden treasures for sale as well.

The Portland Garden Club and The Portland River-Valley Garden Club work to support the beautification of the Portland community as well as promote the conservation of the natural environment.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., offers in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. A recording of the service is posted to YouTube on Mondays by 9 a.m. Bulletins for the service are posted each week at zionlutheran-portland.org.

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

discussion of *The Chosen* video series and meets the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 10:15 a.m.

All are welcome to all worship services and special events. For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email zion.lutheran@snet.net, or visit zionlutheranportland.org. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

First Congregational Church News

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

Worship: Held each Sunday at 10 a.m., in the sanctuary. The worship service on April 28 will be led by Intentional Interim Minister the Rev. Dr. Barry McCarthy and his message will be titled "The Kindest Words." Coffee hour follows the services and is a time of fellowship for all. All are invited to participate in the worship service and coffee hour.

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

Faith Formation program is under the direction of Mary Clark.

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

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

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

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

First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and one for 4-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has announced the following events. Registration is required for all programs unless noted. To register and for full program descriptions, visit the calendar of events at www.portlandlibraryct.org, or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks are optional.

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

Youth Programs: May the Fourth Be with You: Saturday, May 4, 1-2:30 p.m., for grades 2-6. Paint your own *Star Wars*-inspired 3D character. Space is limited.

Drop-In Programs for Preschool and Toddlers: Parachute Play on Town Green: Tuesdays, May 14 and 28, 10:30-11 a.m. Drop-In Playdates: Wednesdays, May 8, 15, 22 and 29, 10:30 a.m.

Spring Into Garden Crafting: Thursdays, 3:30 p.m., May 9, 16 and 23, for grades K-5. Register for one or all three programs. On May 9, design a paper bouquet for a mom or other special someone. On May 16, craft a custom sprout house from sponges and then watch your microgreens grow (Held in partnership with Fire Ring Farms). On May 23, design your own fairy house and landscape.

Family Craft Night: Bean Planting and Clay Pot Painting: Thursday, May 30, 6:30 p.m. Come start your own bean plant from seed and paint a pot to house your bean once it begins to sprout. This project is being offered in conjunction with the One Seed, One Community Project, which encourages community members to learn about gardening by each growing the same type of native plants. Beans and planting materials have been donated by Fire Ring Farms.

Read to a Therapy Dog: Saturday, June 1, 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 3-12 can make an appointment for a 15-minute session to read to an animal buddy.

Teen Programs: LGBTQ Social Group. Wednesdays, May 1 and 15, 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jenn Renk at 860-342-6770.

Sweater Cat Beds: Monday, May 20, 3:30 p.m. June 4 is National Hug Your Cat Day, so celebrate by making cat beds to keep or donate to a local shelter. Bring a sweater if you have one, or we can provide one for you. Registration is required and space is limited.

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

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.

Portland's 'One Seed, One Community' Project: Stop by to pick up your free green bean seeds and growing instructions for one of three "levels" of gardener: Solo Gardener, Grow a Row, and Bed of Beans. Sign up for emails to learn how to grow food and save seeds.

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

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

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

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. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday May 14, 1 p.m. *Bent Road* by Lori Roy will be discussed.



The Webelos of Pack 2 Cub Scouts recently unveiled the new Lost-and-Found Box that they designed for the Portland Recreational Complex. First Selectman Ryan Curley (far right) came down to see the grand reveal.

Scouts Make Lost-and-Found Box

During March, the Webelos of Pack 2 Cub Scouts worked on designing, building, and delivering a Lost-and-Found Box at the Portland Recreational Complex.

As the current oldest scouts of the pack, six fourth-graders (Tucker Parmelee, Trent Morgan, Bernard Pudvah, Alex Fiset, Preston Sterry, and Jaxson Holloway) were able to construct a four-foot long box with a slow closing lid for all the items that get lost or forgotten at the park. The box is meant to provide park users a reliable and protected space to place items they may have found around the park to better

help keep things clean and return items to their owners. The scouts made sure the box would be noticeable with bold lettering and instructions inside the lid. It took many hours after school of trial and error, but the scouts wanted to create something that filled a need within the town.

First Selectman Ryan Curley came down to see the reveal and said he was so grateful and impressed with their workmanship, along with Portland Parks and Recreation supporting the build. The Webelos built this project with all donated supplies and time from Pack 2 parents.

Historic Places & Open Spaces

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. Register in person at the senior center or by phone at 860-342-6760. Light refreshments will be served.

Town Meeting and Budget Vote

The annual Town Meeting to discuss the 2024-25 budget will be held Monday, May 6, at 7 p.m., at the Portland Middle School cafeteria, 93 High St. The budget referendum will be held Monday, May 13, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Portland Middle School.

The Portland town clerk's office is currently issuing absentee ballots for the referendum. Registered voters and taxpayers can obtain an application in person at the office, by calling 860-342-6743, or visiting the town clerk's page

of the town website, www.portlandct.org.

Any applications or completed absentee ballots should be mailed back to: Portland Town Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 71 Portland, CT 06480. They can also be brought to the town clerk's office in person, or left in the election drop box located by the rear entrance of Town Hall. Absentee ballots must be received back no later than 8 p.m. on May 13 in order to be counted. Portland residents can also obtain a voter registration card at the town clerk's office.

Memorial Day Parade – Invitation to Participate

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

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

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

Veterans Memorial Park.

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

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

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

Collection for CT Humane Society

Trinity Church, located at 345 Main St., is collecting new toys, water and food bowls for the Connecticut Humane Society, from now through June 1. There is a collection bin outside the front doors of the church.

Adoptive families are given a "treat bag" when they adopt an animal that contains treats, bowls and a thank you note for adopting the animal. Trinity will be decorating the bags and making "thank you" notes as its April service project.

Trinity is also collecting "soft" dog and cat treats to be included in the treat bag. Please drop these off in the collection bins just inside any church door on Fridays from 11:30 a.m.-

1:30 p.m. and Sundays from 9:30-11 a.m. Please do not leave any treat items outside at any other times.

Trinity has been hosting monthly service projects for the last year that have included: *Book and Blankets for Children's Literacy*, games for Betances Magnet School in downtown Hartford, Backpacks with games for *Father's Initiative*, and *Valentines for Vets*.

For more information, call Marjorie at 860-262-3251.

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.

East Catholic Honor Roll

Portland residents Delaney Poach and Ryan Farley made the East Catholic High School honor roll for the third marking period of the 2023-24 school year.

Poach earned Honors with Distinction, and Farley earned First Honors. Both are members of the Class of 2026.

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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.

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

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 Trips

Colchester Senior Center, located at 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following upcoming trips. Trips are available to senior center members and their 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.

Boston Casino Trip: Wednesday, June 5, to Encore Boston Harbor Resort Casino. Cost is \$136 and includes transportation, a casino bonus of \$20 in free slot play (subject to change), and a family-style meal at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in Park Square. Register by coming into the senior center.

Trip to Salem & Marblehead, Mass.: Tuesday, July 16; bus departs at 7:30 a.m. Upon arrival you will have a buffet lunch at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem. After lunch, a local guide will join you for a riding tour of Salem and Marblehead with many opportunities to step off the

bus and visit various sites. The trip will end with time for shopping at Pickering Wharf. Cost is \$144/person; sign up by June 16.

The Sound of Music at the Theatre By The Sea: Thursday, Aug. 15, 9 a.m. Travel to South Kingston, R.I., to revisit this beloved musical. Have a preshow lunch at George's of Galilee in Narragansett, R.I. Menu includes choice of baked cod, roasted chicken thigh with mushroom cream sauce or beet salad. Cost is \$176/person. Sign up at the senior center before July 15.

Nubble Lighthouse Trip: Thursday, Aug. 29, departing the senior center at 8 a.m. Head to Ogunquit, Maine. Have lunch at Jonathan's; choose chicken piccata or lemon baked scrod, with salad, vegetable, potato, dessert, and coffee and tea. Then there will be time to shop and browse in walkable downtown Ogunquit. Cost is \$142/person. Register before July 29.

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 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.

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.

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 accept and safely shred your financial records. Cost is \$5 for a bag the size of a plastic grocery bag and \$10 for a box the size of a case of copy paper or case of beer. A bulk price can be negotiated for larger

quantities. 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.

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 29 and May 6. Pick up a kit in the children's department. Themes: 4/29, 3D Flower; 5/6, Tacos.

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 Gvanzon 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. Registration is required; call 860-537-5752 or stop by the Adult Circulation Desk to register.

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.

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.

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.

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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. 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 for shopping prior to the 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.

National Day of Prayer

For the 15th straight year, Colchester will celebrate the National Day of Prayer, themed "Lift up the Word - Light up the World," on the Colchester Green on Thursday, May 2, at 6 p.m. Several area pastors and lay leaders will guide people in prayer for the town, state and country. Community participants will call out to God on behalf of churches, government, safety personnel, national security, education, media, marriages and family, and for local businesses. The National Day of Prayer tradition predates the founding of the United States of America, evidenced by the Continental Congress' proclamation in 1775 setting aside a day of prayer.

In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May. There are over 70,000 events planned in all 50 states organized by 18,500 coordinators. However, only Connecticut coordinates events in every town and has for the past 15 years. To find other town events and times, visit www.nationaldayofprayer.org and go to events. For more information, contact Colleen Bjorbekk, New London County coordinator, at bjorbekkol@comcast.net or 860-537-1609.

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.

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.

On the Green Event

The 44th Annual Colchester on the Green event, sponsored by the Colchester Business Association (CBA), will take place Sunday, June 9 - and vendors are sought. Applications to participate as a business or a local resident selling Tag Sale items is available on the CBA website at www.colchestercba.com.

Landlord Killed After Police Confrontation

By Michael Sinkewicz

A preliminary report and body camera footage were released this week by the state Office of the Inspector General, revealing insight into the circumstances that led to a Colchester police officer fatally shooting a local landlord last week.

The use of deadly force by the department resulted in the death of 33-year-old Jared Michael Billard, the report states. The Office of the Inspector General, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Connecticut State Police Eastern District Major Crime Squad and the New London Judicial District State's Attorney's Office are conducting an ongoing investigation.

On April 18, Colchester Police Officers Kiruluss Wassef, John Zavalick, and Bryan Kowalsky were dispatched to 759 Norwich Ave. at 6:17 p.m., following a report of a "possible disturbance," according to the report.

After arriving to the scene, the officers spoke to a second-floor tenant who said their landlord, Billard, had been "acting erratically since earlier that afternoon," according to the report.

Billard lit a grill on a deck area of the residence and left it unattended, the report states. At approximately 5:20 p.m., Billard began grilling again and "became confrontational with the second-floor tenant," according to the report, and allegedly pushed the tenant and displayed throwing knives.

After officers arrived, they "slowly entered

the basement and commenced verbal exchange with Billard, who was behind a closed door," according to the report. They attempted to speak to him, and then heard Billard "rack the slide of a pump action shotgun," the report states.

In the body cam footage, Billard is heard saying, "Here we go; this is you; this ain't me," before coming out of the basement apartment door and pointing the shotgun at Wassef, who was positioned on the bottom of the basement stairs, according to the report.

Wassef fired one shot that struck Billard in the upper chest area, the report states. Officers administered aid and Billard was taken to Backus Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

The Office of the Inspector General released portions of the body camera footage from officers Wassef and Zavalick, which shows Billard shouting vulgarities and telling the officers to "get out of my property."

The state Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined the cause of death to be "gun-shot wound of trunk with injury to trunk" and the manner of death has been ruled a homicide. A toxicological report was not immediately available.

The Office of the Inspector General released portions of the body camera footage from officers Wassef and Zavalick.

The Office of the Inspector General did not return a request for comment.

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Tina Parsadanov is holding a grand opening celebration of The Color House's new Colchester location on Saturday, April 27.

Grand Opening of Color House New Location

The Color House creative arts studio and gift shop will hold the grand opening celebration of its new location on Saturday, April 27, from noon-4 p.m., at 43 Hayward Ave.

The Color House is a place where people of all ages can come to learn, practice, and explore different forms of visual arts. The Color House offers a variety of creative experiences for visitors. From walk-in paint-your-own pottery, canvas painting, and crafts, to classes, workshops, parties, and several other creative opportunities, The Color House has something for everyone. The studio also features a small gift shop where visitors can purchase unique items, many of which are handmade from local artisans.

AARP Meeting May 7

The next Colchester AARP meeting is Tuesday, May 7, at 1:30 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center. Colchester Hayward Fire Company President Debi Marvin and Judi Didato will explain the offerings of the fire company and the essentials needed for every senior's home emergency kit.

All are invited. Light refreshments will be available.

Ahavath Achim News

Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., has announced the following schedule:

Tuesday: Aggadata class, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m. on Zoom – call for link.

Shabbat Schedule: Friday at 6:30 p.m., live and on Zoom; Saturday morning, 10 a.m.

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

Tina Parsadanov, founder of The Color House, said she is excited to be opening this new location to provide an inclusive space for the community to come together and create. "We have loved serving the Colchester community and this new location will allow more people the ability to access the creative opportunities that we offer," she said.

For more information, visit www.cohoct.com, follow on social media @thecohoct, or email Parsadanov at thecohoct@gmail.com.

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.

Lions Fishing Derby Saturday

The Colchester Lions Club will host its 24th annual Fishing Derby Saturday, April 27, at Lions Pond on Halls Hill Road. The fishing derby is open to town residents ages 6-13.

Registration will start at noon, 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. Free snacks will be available to participants.

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.

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.

Monday, April 29: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Stitch & Fix; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong, Bridge; 12:45 p.m., Setback.

Tuesday, April 30: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Air Dry Clay Jewelry Part 2; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, In the Know; 1:30 p.m., BINGO

Wednesday, May 1: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meetup at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., May Program Registration Opens, Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

Thursday, May 2: 9 a.m., Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, May 3: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit video; 10:15 a.m., Across the Ages @ WJMS; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Ultimate Bingo: Thursday, May 9, 4-5:30 p.m. Admission is \$10/person, which will give you two cards. Refreshments will be served. Pre-register in person with payment by May 7 or until sold out. Space is limited.

Angelo's Stuffed Bread Lunch: Friday, May 17, noon. TVCCA will be closed on this date, so in place of our regular lunch we will be offering Angelo's Bakery's stuffed breads served alongside a tossed salad, a bottle of water and a cookie for dessert. Choose two stuffed bread flavors from

'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.

Polish Dinner Dance

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will host a dinner dance featuring Dennis Polisky & The Maestro's Men on Sunday, May 19.

A polish dinner plate will be served at 1 p.m. consisting of pierogi, golumpki, kapusta, kielbasa, and rye bread with butter. Dancing will start at 2 p.m. and continue until 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Call the club during regular business hours to reserve your seat. Hours are Monday-Friday, 4-10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, noon-10 p.m. For more information, call 860-537-2550.



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Town Approves New Cleanup Program

By Michael Sinkewicz

Just in time for Earth Day, Colchester enacted a new town-wide program last week to help combat litter throughout the community.

During its regular meeting on April 18, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) unanimously agreed to purchase 12 new metal trash bins and launch an initiative to clean up nip bottles lining local roads.

The selectmen allocated up to \$32,000 to run the cleanup plan, and roughly \$14,000 to obtain the trash reciprocals, 10 of which will be placed at the town green with two going to the Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler III said the town couldn't afford either initiative in the operational budget. Instead, the money was pulled from Colchester's allotment of the state's "Nickel-Per-Nip" program, which gives each municipality five cents for the sale of every nip bottle — a mini (50ml) alcohol container — sold within the town's confines.

Since the passage of the program in 2021, the state has sent installments every six months. Overall, from October 2021 through September 2023, \$8.9 million was paid to local cities and towns in Connecticut.

During that period, Colchester has received \$63,386 in total. For the most recent period (April 1, 2023, through Sept. 30, 2023), there were 325,823 nip bottles sold in town, resulting in a \$16,291 grant.

The funding is accessible for each town to spend as it chooses, with the only caveat being the money must go towards environmental initiatives that "reduce the generation of solid waste in such municipality or reduce the impact of litter caused by such solid waste," according to state statute.

Public Works Director Joe Leone provided the board with a proposal to utilize his depart-

ment to help address the nip bottle problem. He recommended that during one Saturday every month, three two-person DPW crews hit the streets to pick up the discarded bottles, and any additional trash.

The program would be open to any public works employee, who would receive overtime pay compensation (1.5x) for the weekend work. Roughly \$3,500 will be allocated towards clean-up tools (vests and spikes), as well as personal protective equipment (vests, gloves and safety glasses) and trash bags.

During a walk from Town Hall to the Youth Center — just over a quarter-mile apart — Leone and Dennler said they found about 30 nip bottles in a just a five minute period.

"We've already sat on the money for a few years," Leone said. "I didn't realize it was such a problem until Bernie and I found a whole bunch that one day."

He added: "It's a big problem and we got to start doing something new."

The town estimates that if upwards of 600,000 nip bottles continue to be sold every year at local stores, Colchester will receive roughly \$30,000 annually. Dennler conveyed that a different approach could be considered by the board in the future, including programs that include volunteers, but the town needs a starting point.

After a year of public works crews sweeping all of the town's roads, Dennler said everyone will have a stronger understanding of the issue and new ideas could be assimilated into ongoing cleanup efforts.

"But at the moment, we're not dealing with it and I'd like that to change today," he said.

An approved collective bargaining agreement will increase public works labor costs by \$113,000 in 2024-25. Still, Leone believes Colchester's wages will not be competitive until the

2026-27 fiscal year under the contract. At the moment, he said roughly 90% of neighboring towns can beat Colchester's compensation levels.

Republican selectman Cliff O'Donal expressed that giving employees an extra opportunity to earn money was a wise idea.

"When you're on the short end of the wages, it's just good business to throw a bone," he said.

Leone recommended the town purchase 45-gallon trash cans that include rain lids and side doors that allow public works crews to easily access the bags. The Barco Cassidy steel cans were the cheapest option with the those specific characteristics, according to Leone.

Dennler said the cans will replace the plastic trash barrels currently on the town green, and the new products adhere to the requirements imposed by the Historic District Commission.

Leone acknowledged that the price tag appears somewhat lofty at nearly \$1,200 per can.

"I'm not sure why these municipal trash cans are so expensive, but it's what's out there; it's what we have to choose from," he said, adding later during the meeting there were "two camps" in town. "There's those who don't want to see us spend this type of money on a trash can and then there's those who feel that this aesthetic fits the appropriateness of the green."

In his mind, the purchase was a worthwhile investment.

"As a symbol of the town, we want our green to look nice," Leone said.

Dennler added the current plastic trash cans blow over and litter spreads across the town green.

"I would like to see this problem fixed," he said.

Recreation Committee Update

After officially appointing the nine individuals (seven full-time members and two alternates) of the new ad-hoc Recreation Needs and Coordination Committee earlier this month, the BOS took its latest action to get the new body off the ground.

During last week's meeting, the selectmen unanimously endorsed a new charge for the committee, agreeing to several general items.

Previously, the BOS simply asked the committee — which was established in February — to evaluate town and school recreational assets. In its one-year lifespan committee will aim to make recommendations on how to best coordinate local resources and identify any gaps with the those assets.

Now, the committee is being tasked with identifying all recreational assets, including fields, trails and parks, as well as any future assets the town may want to plan for moving forward.

Specifically, the charge includes examination of the Bacon Academy athletic complex, and asks the committee to make a prioritized list of projects at that site. And at the top of that task, is a detailed breakdown of the pros, cons, financial costs and public support for artificial turf versus natural grass.

The potential installation of a turf field at Bacon Academy has received widespread community attention in recent months, with numerous residents largely speaking in favor of the initiative during public meetings.

Republican Art Shilosky, vice chair of the BOS, conveyed that the topic has been widely debated at this point.

"You're not going to change people's minds," he said. "They've made up their minds on that particular item."

Democrat Rosemary Coyle added that either turf or new natural grass would require a significant cash investment from the town. Regardless of the ultimate choice, the board needs to be educated on the issue, she explained.

"We need to believe in what we do," she said.

The committee will also examine recreational opportunities, and future concepts as well. Dennler added an item for the committee to make a recommendation on a "coordination mechanism" to help with scheduling the usage of recreational assets, such as local fields.

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. Boys 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 May 22 from 6:30-8 p.m. each night, at

Cragin Library – Norton Room A.

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.



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East Hampton Joins Sustainable CT

By London Brazal

East Hampton is the newest member of Sustainable CT, joining 134 other Connecticut municipalities in the program.

Sustainable CT is a voluntary certification program that encourages, supports and recognizes the efforts of towns and cities to enact sustainable, equitable and inclusive measures within their communities.

Russell Kaplan, the chairman of the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force, brought Jessica LeClair, the senior program director for Sustainable CT, to a Town Council meeting earlier this month to explain what being involved with the program entails. Then, this past Tuesday, the council officially adopted the resolution regarding the town's membership. The resolution authorizes participation in the program and allows the Clean Energy Task Force to initiate the process and serve, via a subcommittee, as the town's Sustainability Team.

While supporting the new membership, Kaplan highlighted one of the organization's goals. "We recognize the natural environment as the foundation for the health and well-being of all people and the strength of the local economy," noted Kaplan.

Kaplan further explained a phrase he recently heard: "empathy for the future." He said it resonated with him, and is particularly thinking about it now, when residents are putting pressure on local officials to help ease pollution in Lake Pocotopaug (see related story on page 23).

"Empathy for future generations, to see things from their point of view, to imagine ourselves in their place, and to plan and act as if their wellbeing is our wellbeing," Kaplan expressed.

Sustainable CT helps advance the overall sus-

tainability of Connecticut cities and towns. It is an independently funded, grassroots, municipal effort, that provides a wide-ranging menu of best practices. Municipalities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them and earn points toward certification. Roughly 80% of Connecticut towns participate in the program including such surrounding towns as Portland, East Haddam and Marlborough.

At the core of the program, there is a menu of actions that communities can choose from since there is no "one-size-fits-all way to sustainability," said LeClair. The municipality can pick and choose actions that resonate with the town and the direction it wants to go in. The 13 categories have hundreds of "subactions" that range from clean and diverse transportation to optimal health and wellness opportunities.

Specific actions can include watershed protection programs, arts and culture initiatives and energy use reduction across municipal buildings. Ultimately, the membership allows a town or city to define what success looks like. That could be simply joining to use the program's resources or getting certified and becoming a climate leader. Sustainable CT is a resource that can also help survey what the municipality has done and provide feedback on what was effective versus what wasn't.

Of the 135 registered towns, 58 are certified. Certifications range from bronze to gold and have different requirements. There is another optional certification called climate leader designation. These towns showcase high-impact actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to climate change. One of the largest aspects

of Sustainable CT is the support and technical assistance they provide. There are equity coaches who offer free services to work on the equity actions the town chooses, they can help with workshops and training. Technical assistance partners, including Eversource and CT Rides, provide free consulting services.

Like all registered towns, residents in East Hampton will have access to Sustainable CT's community match fund which provides fast, flexible funding. It is a \$1-to-\$1 matching grant of up to \$7,500, a project total of \$15,000. These projects must be for the public good with no private gain and align with one of Sustainable CT's qualified actions. The matching fund focuses on decreasing the hurdles community leaders face when applying for grants. They are structured to support and boost grassroots efforts that aim to transform the community for good. The community match

fund is broadly organized into four funding focus areas: general fund for sustainability projects, climate change and clean energy amplifier fund, social change amplifier fund, and food waster diversion and composting amplifier fund.

Since 2019, Sustainable CT has invested nearly \$4 million in over 300 community-led projects statewide. The program was launched in November of 2017 and they have completed more than 3,700 actions.

"There's a wealth of good work that's happening across the state," said LeClair.

On the organization's website, sustainablect.org, people can access a map of participating communities and look at their actions for inspiration.

"It's a really neat repository of all the work that you're doing in one place for the public to access and learn from," LeClair said. "It's a great library of best practices."



A History Walk of Downtown East Hampton's Village will be held Sunday, May 5. Pictured here is a view of downtown East Hampton looking northward with the Carrier Block building and Barton Hill Road on the left. This 1940s photo was taken from the Air Line Railroad bridge that crossed over Main Street. Photo by Chatham Historical Society.

History Walk of Village

The Chatham Historical Society is organizing a walking tour of the Village of East Hampton on Sunday, May 5, at 1 p.m., as part of its "Explore East Hampton" monthly series of walks. The walk is sponsored by the East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department.

Jay Hanson, a native of East Hampton and town historian, will lead the walk.

Come and get a feel for how familiar structures located in the center of the Belltown National Historic District have been used over the years. Find out where Hitchcock's Pharmacy was as well as the Buckland and Barton General Store, and Post Office. Learn about Siebert's Opera House, Siegal's Dry Goods, Barton Drug

Store, Bevin's Bell Factory, Louis James' Candy Kitchen, and many more.

Adults and children are welcome; no dogs please.

The walk will begin at 1 p.m. at the Chatham Historical Society's museum complex located at 6 Bevin Blvd. Parking is available by the museum or behind the Center School. The tour will take approximately one hour. Heavy rain will cancel the walk.

The Chatham Historical Society's museum complex will also be open for tours from 2-4 p.m.

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

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.

Police News

4/19: Nicholas Longhitano, 21, of Middletown, was issued a summons for speeding and reckless driving, East Hampton Police said.

4/22: John Reynolds, 68, of Hartford was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, improper use of marker/registration plate, and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

From April 15-21, officers responded to 26 medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes and two alarms, and made 33 traffic stops, police said.

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YPCCA to Perform Mean Girls

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

This year, YPCCA will perform the musical *Mean Girls*, based on the hit Broadway musical, which was in turn adapted from Fey's hit 2004 film. Performances of *Mean Girls* will take place July 18-21 at East Hampton High School. Auditions for the show are held one week before camp begins.

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

hearsals for *Mean Girls*.

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

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

Oil Painting Demo April 27

The next program of the East Hampton Art Association will be held Wednesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at the East Hampton Community Center, 105 Main Street. The guest artist for the evening will be Shauna Shane, a full-time

professional painter who will present a demonstration in oils.

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

Anchor Lodge Scholarships

Masonic Anchor Lodge 112 of East Hampton has announced the availability of the Masonic and George Seely Memorial Scholarships. All applications are due May 1.

Masonic Scholarship: Anchor Lodge will offer up to two \$1,000 scholarships for graduating seniors of the Class of 2024 from East Hampton High School, Hale-Ray High School, RHAM High School or Vinal Technical High School who are furthering their education in a field of the trades, i.e.: carpentry, culinary, wildlife

management, vocational fields, technical fields and agricultural fields. Applicants must reside in East Hampton, Marlborough, Andover, Hebron or Moodus.

George Seely Memorial Scholarship: Anchor Lodge will offer up to one \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior of the Class of 2024 from East Hampton High School or RHAM High School who is furthering their education.

Interested parties should see their high school guidance department for details.

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Center School Goes to Madagascar

The fourth- and fifth-grade students at Center School will perform their spring production, *Madagascar A Musical Adventure Jr.*, this week.

Based on the smash DreamWorks animated motion picture *Madagascar*, this play features Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip hip Hippo and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins.

The students have been rehearsing under the direction of Karen Wanat since January, and have new state-of-the-art stage lighting

funded by the 2023 performance of *The Little Mermaid Jr.*

Performances will take place at Center School on Friday, April 26, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, April 27, at noon and 5 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to performances. The show will run one hour and 10 minutes, including a 10-minute intermission.

Tickets are available online at tinyurl.com/2un9nch4. Advance orders are recommended.

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.

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 charac-

ters 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.

Epoch Accepting Tag Sale Donations

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

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

Please do not drop off donations any other time than these Saturdays or any other place not

specified. Donations can be dropped off in the garage area by Helping Hands, at 27 Skinner St.

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

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.

All Ages: All-Ages Book Bingo: Monday, April 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Shout "Bingo!" and win some new books at this all-ages event. Refreshments provided. Drop-ins welcome.

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 Program: Sock Monster Stuffies! Grades 6-12: Tuesday, May 14, 5:30 p.m. Local artist Pamela Hanks will bring all the supplies you need to make a cute sock monster stuffie. Space is limited.

Adult Programs: Music in the Library: Aaron Spearin Acoustic: Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 p.m. Refreshments follow. Sponsored by Friends of the East Hampton Public Library.

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.

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Air Line Trail Cleanup Day

The East Hampton Air Line Trail Committee Spring Cleanup day will be held Saturday, May 4, from 9-11 a.m.

All are invited to join members of the committee as well as several other town organizations in a group effort for some light trail cleanup. Bring any rakes and shovels you may have to help with cleanup. In the past few years, the focus has been on troubled areas in both directions about 15 minutes walking from Cranberry Bog.

Shawn Mullen, director of the Parks and Recreation Department has described the morning as not heavy labor but "tidying up" by removing fallen sticks, and maybe a limb or two, and smoothing out washouts. The town's Public Works department takes care of anything requiring power equipment or vehicles.

For more information or to sign up, visit www.easthamptonrec.com or show up at Cranberry Bog.

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. Contact the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard at jneelrichard16@gmail.com for information.

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 the month. April 28 is the last day for donations.

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Sunday services at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., are held Sundays at 10 a.m. Bible study precedes the services at 9 a.m., in the Church Hall. Church pastor is Jamie Stall-Ryan.

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.

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: Fridays at 9:30 a.m. through May 24. Cost is \$12 to drop in. Email zenlotus860@yahoo.com with questions and to register.

Pilates: Thursdays at 6 p.m. through May 23. Cost is \$12 to drop in. To register, call 203-592-4448 or abstite@sbcglobal.net

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, venomous and non-venomous reptiles and amphibians.

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

My Favorite Connecticut Hikes: Thursday, May 2, 4 p.m. Peter Marteka, a journalist and avid outdoorsman, will present. Marteka wrote a popular nature column for *The Hartford Courant* for many years.

A Wild Foods Picnic and Talk on Ethical Foraging: Saturday, May 4, at 1 p.m. Come learn about the edible and medicinal plants growing right outside your door. You'll have the opportunity to sample some wild foods dishes (including wildflower spring rolls and dandelion cookies) and learn the tenets of ethical foraging so you can begin to find your own wild foods. Cost is \$15; bring your own place setting including utensils and a cup. Email tensummitst@gmail.com to register or call 860-262-0248.

Free Paper Shredding

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the East Hampton Water Pollution Control Facility, 20 Gildersleeve Drive.

This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

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Arrest Made in December Overdose

A months-long investigation into a December overdose resulted in the arrest last week of a local man, East Hampton Police said. On April 18, Ryan Roussel, 27, of 35 Viola Drive, was arrested and charged with first-degree reckless endangerment and illegal distribution of a controlled substance, police said. On Dec. 20, 2023, members of the East Hampton Police Department responded to a residence in town for a medical involving a

16-year-old juvenile victim. The call was later determined to be an overdose and a criminal investigation was initiated, police said. As a result of the investigation, police said, Roussel was found to have supplied the 16-year-old juvenile with marijuana, cocaine and alcohol, which led to the overdose. Roussel was released after posting a court-set bond, and is due in Middletown Superior Court April 30.

CDHR Celebrates Anniversary, New Barn

All are invited to celebrate the seventh anniversary of Autumn Ridge, the farm for Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR), on Sunday, May 19, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd. Admission is free, and the event is rain or shine. There will be vendors, raffles, wagon rides, and more. Two food trucks will also be on site: Fire in the Kitchen and Rustic Streets. Explore the new barn and witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. If interested in being a vendor, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org/vendorform.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses heading to slaughter. For more information visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue, or email ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

RTC Trade Scholarship Available

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee is accepting scholarship applications for a Trade Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to any high school senior in East Hampton who is planning on pursuing a career in a trade. Trades include: cosmetology, medical and veterinary services, court reporting, welding,

auto/diesel mechanics, aviation and marine services, HVAC, plumbing and electrical services, and more. Students enrolled in public, private or home school educational environments are eligible for this scholarship. For an application, email ehctgop@gmail.com or contact the East Hampton High School guidance department.

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.

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. Applications are due April 30.

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Lifted Up, A Concert of Joy

The music worship event "Lifted Up, A Concert of Joy" will be held Sunday, May 5, at 9 a.m., at Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. The Vocal Choir will be accompanied by June Ingraham, violin; Matt Seymore, drums; Frank Natter and Wayne Visintainer, guitars; and Jan Ulanowicz on keyboard. All are invited. Visit www.hncovenantchurch.org for more information.

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Residents Desperate for Lake Accountability

By London Brazal

Lake Pocotopaug-area residents again gathered before the Town Council this week, pleading for councilors to do something about runoff from nearby construction projects – with one citizen calling the situation “a disaster waiting to happen.”

At Tuesday’s council meeting, resident Chris Osterman noted that it was his third time coming to speak before the body. He provided the council with a list of resources including the town’s zoning map and the zoning regulations. Osterman alleged that logging for a 30.5-acre parcel off Lakewood Road started before an application was presented.

“The issues come from the systemic short funding and lack of proper oversight that continue to contribute to and accelerate the degradation of Lake Pocotopaug,” he said.

According to Osterman, an application was approved on March 19 to begin logging, but he said residents have video proof it started a few days before, on March 14. Furthermore, he

claimed that the application did not follow the proper regulations listed under the Lake Pocotopaug Protection Zone in the East Hampton Zoning Code.

Osterman continued, “More disturbing is that the timber harvest application that was approved on March 19 only included a timber sales agreement between Lakewood Estates and Peter Marlowe Forest Products. It contained none of the requirements set forth in the zoning regulations.”

In a meeting earlier this month, residents claimed the tree-cutting continued after a cease-and-desist was issued.

Osterman went on to ask why the town had approved the related applications when the required documentation had not been filed. Another point he made was about the applicability and scope section of the lake regulations. It states, “All development within the watershed shall be subject to this regulation and applications subject to action by the Planning and Zoning

Commission shall be referred to the Conservation – Lake Pocotopaug Commission and are subject to a Public Hearing.” Osterman said he expects a public hearing and for the Council to conduct an investigation to determine the environmental impact.

Another resident talked about problems of runoff from condominium developments next to the Town Hall. Nick Mougey claimed it “was a disaster waiting to happen.” He described tiered areas with culverts of eroded sod which are unstable and ready to release the silt, dirt and rocks into storm drains that flood.

“I don’t know if it’s complacency. I don’t know if it’s conspiracy but something is at work here,” said Mougey. “This is not making any sense. How many times do we attend meetings, state the obvious, go home, wait for the next meeting?”

Earlier this month, the Town Council passed a motion to encourage the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) to place a one-year moratorium, temporary prohibition of

activity, on all applications for multi-structure development, clear-cut or forest harvest activities within the Lake Pocotopaug Watershed. In the meantime, the motion also urges the Council and the two commissions to review the existing regulations, policies and procedures to determine if any changes are appropriate and ensure the proper enforcement measures are in place. Any applications approved before the moratorium is placed would continue as is.

The Council also passed a motion with various requests. Among the requests was for the IWWA and PZC to study their regulations, research how to enforce them and recommend changes to approve the commissions’ ability to prevent contamination of Lake Pocotopaug.

A joint meeting of the Town Council, IWWA, PZC and Conservation Lake Commission is scheduled for next Thursday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the current regulations related to development and enforcement practices concerning the protection of Lake Pocotopaug.

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 Dominoes:** 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. through May 16; **Cribbage:** Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. – let the center know in advance if you plan to attend; **Mahjong:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon – call also to put your name on a list if interested in learning how to play; **Textile Group:** Fridays, 1 p.m.

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

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

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

Mighty Magnificent Men’s Group (MMM):

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

Art with Karen: Sunday, April 28, 2 p.m. All are invited to this interactive beginner art class. Cost is \$5 for materials. Register in advance at myactivecenter.com or at the senior center.

Bike Rides for Seniors: Friday, May 3, 10 a.m., at Cranberry Bog on Smith Street, East Hampton. Get outside with this weekly ride led by Kim Clouser from AirLine Cycles. Bring your bike, helmet and a water bottle.

Design & Create Dot Paint Mandalas: Thursday, May 8, 1 p.m. Create a colorful mandala using the dot paint method.

Learn the Fundamentals of Ukulele: Friday, May 10, 11 a.m. Learn a new skill with this interactive class taught by Julie Stepanek. No experience needed; ukuleles provided.

Movie Day: Friday, May 10, 1 p.m. *Ocean’s 8*, starring Sandra Bullock, will be shown. Snacks will be provided. The movie is rated PG-13.

Trips: Lunch for Seniors at Windham Tech: Thursday, May 2, leaving the center at 10:15 a.m. Have lunch prepared by the school’s culinary students. Cost is \$17 – tip individually if you choose.

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.

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 Help-

ing 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.

Upcoming Senior Trip

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

The trip will run July 17-19 and will feature a visit to the Old Windmill Farm, a quilt shop, dinner in an Amish home, and reserved seats for a performance at the Sight & Sound Theater of *Daniel*, a story of exile, faith and trust.

On the way home, there will be a stop in Philadelphia, where folks will check out the Na-

tional Constitution Center and the Liberty Bell.

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

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

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Resident Celebrates 100th Birthday

By Michael Sinkewicz

When Hebron resident Dorothy Brehant Taggart was born in 1924, life was a lot different.

There were just 48 states (Hawaii and Alaska wouldn't be admitted until decades later) and President Calvin Coolidge ran the country from the White House while former President William Howard Taft had taken over as the Chief Justice of the United States.

Average house prices were roughly between \$2,500 to \$3,000 and a dozen eggs set you back only 25 cents.

Last week on April 17, Taggart turned 100 years old, joining an exclusive club that few are able to commemorate. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, centenarians account for just 0.03% of the country's population.

Enveloped by family and friends at Gina Marie's restaurant, Taggart celebrated reaching the century mark.

Her sister, Winnie Chase, 90, joyfully swapped stories about her sibling as the group prepared for its rendition of "Happy Birthday."

"She's a ticket," Chase quipped. "Always a ticket."

What's the secret to longevity?

"Good clean living," Chase shared. "She just lived a very simple life, as we did back then. As far as longevity, it's hereditary. My mother and father both lived until they were 93."

She conveyed that Hebron has continued to evolve, recounting a town that was once a predominately open acreage. The five siblings grew up on a small farm, a lifestyle seemingly becoming more rare today.

"We never would've thought that there would be million-dollar homes built in Hebron," Winnie recalled. "It was a rural community."

Occasionally her sister — who everyone re-

fers to as "Dottie" — would get into mischief. Their childhoods were also thrust into the Great Depression, forcing them to contend with unstable economic conditions.

"We survived," Chase remarked. She added, "Any way we could."

Dorothy Taggart raised one son, Daniel, who recalled that his mom never complained much about the circumstances they faced while growing up.

"She used to always say that in her family, they didn't know there was a depression going on because they raised all their own food and didn't really want for much," he explained.

A Hebron native, Dorothy Taggart largely remained in the same zip-code, aside from a few stints in nearby communities, such as Columbia, where she taught and raised her family. Since 1975, she's stuck in Hebron.

"It's where her roots are," Daniel Taggart, 71, conveyed.

He expressed that his mom always lived life to the fullest and enjoyed a variety of hobbies, including quilting, spinning yarn, painting and writing poetry, which she was able to get published. Her faith was always a central focus, which also led to decades singing with the choir at the Church of Hope (formerly First Congregational Church of Hebron).

"She thinks very young," Daniel Taggart said, offering valuable advice. "She's been blessed with very good health."

He described his mom as "industrious" and asserted she has a "strong-willed strong personality."

Growing up, Sara Cross was a student in Dorothy Taggart's Sunday school class and later became a close, life-long friend.

"Dottie has been in my life ever since I was

a little girl," Cross said. "Here she is; it's incredible."

Cross cast Taggart as a "no-nonsense" instructor who knew exactly how to instill meaningful lessons for those around her.

"She has the lord in her life in a big way," Cross said. "She taught me many things like how to grow up to be worthwhile person."

Her impact on students was monumental: "She just inspired you as a child growing up."

Fittingly, Taggart also taught second and fifth grade at the Horace W. Porter School in Columbia, following in her mother's footsteps, according to Chase, who said her mother also taught.

Daniel Taggart described his mom as a strict teacher, but as someone "who also took personal concern toward her students," as evidenced by the number of individuals who continuously reached out as adults.

Many residents may recall that Dorothy Taggart played an integral role in restoring the historic World War II Civilian Observation Post in town. According to a posting by the Hebron Historical Society in February 2012, the post has been at the Church of Hope for many years, which wasn't its original location. In 1942, it was built and moved to "Post Hill" on the Robinson Farm due to the land's higher elevation, the HHS stated.

Taggart received letters from the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force Museum revealing that the Hebron's building— known as "Freeman Observation Post #52 — was actually the last known civilian observation post in existence.



Dorothy Taggart recently turned 100! Family and friends celebrated with her at Gina Marie's restaurant.

The building was used for storage, and restoring the post became a "bucket list" item for Taggart, the historical society said. She cleaned the inside and collected memorabilia from residents, the HHS added.

Taggart conveyed that his mom was made an honorary member of the Rosie the Riveter Association for her work.

Douglas Library News & Notes

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

Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. Bottled water and popcorn will be provided. Schedule: 4/26: *Zone of Interest* (PG-13).

Chair Yoga: Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. Karen Gomez will lead a class of yoga poses with the support of a chair. Registration is required as space is limited.

Children's Storytime: Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. is Toddler Time for ages up to 3, and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. is Pre-K Storytime for ages 3-5. Registration is not currently required.

Chess Nights: Pickup games are held every

Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Community Room.

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

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

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

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

Church of The Holy Family News

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

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: Church of the Holy Family collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Due to limited storage space, only the following items can be accepted: men's & women's crew & quarter socks; men's boxer briefs &

women's "Boy Shorts" briefs (M,L,XL,2XL); 55- and 13-gallon trash bags; laundry pods & dryer sheets; TP & paper towels; disinfectant wipes, Windex, Lysol spray, and bathroom & floor cleaners; men's & women's deodorant; men's razors; pump hand soap and body wash; \$15 Stop & Shop gift cards for gas; \$25 Walmart gift cards for client emergencies; and donations by check. Call to arrange the pickup of gift cards and to obtain mailing instructions for cash donations. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Juneteenth Celebration to be Held June 15

The Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) is sponsoring its third annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 15, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., in collaboration with Hebron Parks & Recreation Department's Hebron Day.

A variety of performances, as well as educational, interactive and fun activities will be offered for children, youth and adults. They will be held in and around the historic Peters House, at 150 East St.

During the event, attendees will learn about the lives of local formerly enslaved residents -- including Cesar Peters and his family of Hebron. Descendants of Cesar Peters will perform a short play about his life.

Other performers will include EvaE Peart and Nia Arts, a West African drumming and dancing troupe (audience invited to participate); Lisa Clayton Singers; Hartford Poet Laureate Frederick-Douglass Knowles II; and storyteller Raouf Mama. Sisters by Sisters: Joined by the Cloth, a quilting guild celebrating culture, color, design, and tradition through an African American perspective, will display quilts and share the history of quilts and quilt-making among the Black community.

Absentee Ballots for Budget Vote

Absentee ballots for the Hebron budget referendum are available at the town clerk's office, located at 15 Gilead St. Office hours are Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. For information, call 860-228-5971.

The Hebron budget referendum will be held at the Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St., Hebron, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7.

Kids' activities will include a Story Walk with the book, Juneteenth for Mazie, written and illustrated by Floyd Cooper; face painting; arts and crafts; and more.

Families can also take a narrated bus tour of several sites in Hebron where Black Americans lived and worked and tour the Peters house. Presentations by State Archeologist Sarah Sportman and other local historians will take place, and materials will be on display, in the Peters House.

Vendors from Black-owned businesses will be on site with products ranging from chocolates and other treats to jewelry to bath products.

Juneteenth is a national holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It marks the day in 1865 when a Union Army general arrived in Texas with 2,000 soldiers and informed over 250,000 Black Americans enslaved in Texas that slavery had been abolished following the conclusion of the Civil War. This was two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had declared that "all persons held as slaves ... henceforward shall be free."

Funding for CoDE's Juneteenth Celebration was provided The Greater Together Hebron Community Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; Town of Hebron (Parks and Recreation Department); William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund; FOX61 Make An Impact Foundation; Hochberg Committee for Holocaust and Human Rights Education; St. Peter's Episcopal Church; Century 21 AllPoints Realty; Hebron; Northeast Family Federal Credit Union; Hebron Travel; and individuals.

Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, serving the towns of Hebron, Marlborough, Andover and Columbia and surrounding communities. Its mission is to build more diverse, equitable and vibrant communities. For more information, visit www.code-diversity.org.

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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

This Week's Scheduled Events/Meetings: 4/27: Bryan Lewis Memorial Service, 11 a.m.; 4/28: Confirmation Escape Room, 5:30 p.m.; 4/29: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; 4/30: AA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.; 5/1: Yoga, 9:15 a.m.; 5/1: Choir Practice, 7 p.m.; 5/2: Prayer Shawl Ministry, 9:30

a.m.; 5/2: Deacons, 7 p.m.

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

Faith, Film and Potluck: Friday, May 3, at 6 p.m.

Favorite Ladies Tea: Saturday, May 4, 2 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Bring your favorite lady, a sweet or savory treat to share, your favorite teacup, and an accessory to swap. Tea will be provided. For more information, contact the GCC administrative office (gcc@gileadchurch.net).

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

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

Journey Group: For grades 6-12. The mission of the group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Meets every other Sunday directly after the service; lunch is provided. Next meeting: May 5.

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

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

One-to-One Confidential Christian Care:

Provided by Stephen Ministry to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office. The church is currently running an in-depth training for people who feel called to serve others in this way. Call the church office if interested.

Fellowship Luncheon: Fiesta fare will be featured at the luncheon on Sunday, May 5, following the morning service. All are welcome.

The Power of Forgiveness: Friday, May 10, 7-8:30 p.m. All are invited to a night of testimony given by Robin Farnsworth, an award-winning author and speaker.

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

Bucket of Blessings: The church's outreach team collects snack-type food and monetary donations as an offering for local first responders. To get involved, email jessicalbain@gmail.com.

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Annual Earth Day Cleanup a Success

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Hebron Green Committee held its annual town-wide roadside cleanup event last weekend to mark Earth Day, picking up nearly 450 nip bottles and other litter throughout the community.

Despite the rain early Saturday morning, members of committee, along with AHM Youth and Family Services and the Hebron Trail Rangers hit the streets to collect the miniature bottles (50ml), which pose a threat to local ecosystems.

“The nips in past years has been the thing that has shocked us the most,” said Kaitlin Hershey, chairman of the Hebron Green Committee. “The nips are the alarming part because that means people are drinking and driving.”

The yearly event — this time coming two days before Earth Day, which was Monday, April 21 — is largely intended to engage the community and alert them to a widespread issue.

“Awareness is the biggest thing we’re trying to spread with this event,” Hershey conveyed. “And now we can figure out how to solve it.”

To further its cause, the Green Committee partnered with AHM, who will help educate residents, including visits to the local school districts. Tomorrow, April 27, the group is organizing a Drug Take Back event at RHAM High School from 10 a.m to 2 p.m to allow for a safe way to dispose unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications and vitamins.

“We’re working with AHM to focus on the root issue,” Hershey explained.

Ashlee Parks, a prevention coordinator at AHM, expressed that most people are unaware of the nip bottle or drug litter in their community.

“They’re not looking for it,” she explained, adding that when “something happens, you’re like, ‘not my town.’”

Hershey interjected: “You’re so insulated here. There’s no town that this is not touching.”

Ana Gopoin, founder and executive director of TriCircle — an organization that provides resources for individuals, families and communities affected by the disease of addiction, according to its website — joined the cleanup effort as well.

Currently, she’s pursuing an initiative to walk through every town across the state, picking up a variety of trash, including nip bottles and vaping products. During one round-trip walk of 2.6 miles in Andover, she found 424 nips.

For her, the work is far more than just a clean-up event, and people need to “talk about the symptoms that we’re picking up off the ground.” Everything from food, cigarettes and lottery tickets may have an underlining concern, Gopoin explained. She’s also found heroin and fentanyl wrappers, indications of serious drug use throughout local towns.

“I think there’s going to be a huge shock factor when this information is shared,” Parks added.

Hersey asserted: “You just don’t know until you’re on the side of the road.”

In 2021, the state enacted a “Nickel-Per-Nip” program that provides each town with five cents

Preschool Screenings

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

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

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

Scouting for Food

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

This year’s collection is being held in memory of former scoutmaster Mark Sabia. All are asked to donate unexpired, non-perishable food items and household products. The most-needed items are pasta, canned meats (tuna, chicken, Spam), Campbell’s Chunky Soup, Progresso Soup, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, tea and coffee.

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

for each nip bottle sold within its confines, with an installment delivered every six months.

The only caveat was that municipalities spend the money on environmental initiatives that “reduce the generation of solid waste in such municipality or reduce the impact of litter caused by such solid waste,” according to state statute.

From October 2021 through September 2023, \$8.9 million was paid to local cities and towns. During the same period, Hebron has received a grand total of \$28,458.

Over the most recent six-month interval spanning from April 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023, there were 159,250 nip bottles sold in Hebron, resulting in a \$7,962 payment.

Last November, the Board of Selectmen entrusted oversight of the funds to the Green Committee, who launched a “three-pronged approach,” that includes community-based education and clean-up efforts, assistance and support for food recycling efforts and support for the community at large.

Part of the puzzle involved partnering with AHM, who specializes in the educational component.

Each town has allocated the funding differently, Hershey explained, and some have purchased nip vacuums or recycling bins — something she believes doesn’t effectively tackle the problem.

“None of that is solving anything,” she asserted, adding that it was “putting a Band-Aid on it.”

One idea that would combat nip bottle litter would be a ban on the product. However, this week *CT Insider* reported that potential state legislation that would’ve allowed individual towns to ban nip bottles was stalled, and would not be brought to a vote this year.

“There’s just so many people that will fight it,” Hershey said.

State Rep. Steve Weir (R-55) — whose district includes Andover, Hebron and Marlborough — participated in the cleanup event last year and once again chipped in this past weekend.

“This is near and dear and it was eye-opening,” said Weir, a Hebron resident, who added he sees considerable litter while jogging through town. “When you’re here and actually picking it up piece by piece and filling the bag, you’re going, ‘This is substantial.’”

Weir conveyed that nip bottle litter was “disturbing,” especially under the presumption that they’re being tossed from vehicles.

“But as a state representative, I’m usually for less regulation, so I’d have to give it more consideration,” he said regarding a potential state ban of the product. “But I do recognize it’s an issue.”

Trail Rangers

Hebron’s Trail Rangers — a volunteer group overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department — was collecting litter around the Ray-



The Hebron Trail Rangers and other volunteers got together last weekend to celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up litter throughout the community. From left are Trail Rangers Ann Zitkus, Carolyn Aubin, Sue Kirk, David Rose, Frank Zitkus, Joanna Chester, and state Rep. Steve Weir (R-55). Not pictured are Trail Ranger Greg Howard (already far down Church Street picking up trash!) and Hebron Parks and Recreation Director Craig Bryant, who also attended the event.

mond Brook Preserve and Church Street on Saturday.

Ranger Frank Zitkus, the chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission and member of the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee, said his group does guided walks and works to remove invasive species from local trails. For Earth Day, the rangers were doing their best to assist the Green Committee with removing nip bottles.

“There’s a tremendous amount of garbage everywhere unfortunately,” he said.

David Rose, a Ranger and member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, said the group’s goal was to raise public awareness for open space. The town’s ongoing efforts, including to expand parking near local parks and trails, has been beneficial, he explained.

“The town is becoming generally much more aware of trails and their potential,” Rose said. “The downside, of course, is then you get more people coming out and then you get predominantly young people who don’t perhaps have the social conscious and are more happy to litter.”

The Rangers recently received a \$3,500 grant from the Hartford Foundation, and moving forward, the group aims to become an official 501(c)(3) organization, which will make it easier to apply for, and receive, future grants. Since

its inception over two years ago, the Rangers have made steady progress and have roughly 50 individuals on their email chain. In order to keep earning funding, local participation is essential.

“We have to show traction,” Rose said. “We have to show that there are people who are willing to engage. So far, it’s going great.”

Craig Bryant, parks and recreation director, conveyed that the Rangers are “the eyes and ears for my department.”

“They’re the ones out on the trails,” he said. “If there’s any issues, they’re sending them my way.”

One of largest impacts of the Rangers, Bryant added, is local education.

“They’re making people aware that these open spaces do exist.”

Rose expressed that the town is “budget-constrained,” making it challenging for staff to monitor every recreational assist, which allows the Rangers to step and do their part.

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Loving Liverpool... On a recent trip to England and Wales, Liverpool football fans Annmarie and Rob Daigle of Andover visited Anfield Stadium to watch a Liverpool vs. Manchester City match, which ended in a 1-1 tie.

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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




Yellowstone Fun... David and Deb Boone of Hebron are shown here with the *Rivereast* at the entrance to Yellowstone National Park!



The Bulletin in Barbacoas... Paul Miller of Colchester brought the *Rivereast* with him to Barbacoas, a district of Puriscal, Costa Rica



Puerto Rican Lunch... Jane Muskatallo and Jeanne Bishop, both of Portland, are pictured here headed for lunch in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico..

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April Birthdays... Andover Seniors Young At Heart celebrated April birthdays with cake and ice cream at the meeting April 3. Pictured are Phil Mayhew and Susan Camoroda. Photo by Mary Duval.

Norton Fund Scholarship Available

The Andover Norton Children's Fund Commission is offering a scholarship to an Andover high school senior to help finance their post-high school education. The scholarship through the deadline of May 1.

The digital link to the scholarship applications can be found on the Andover town website, the Norton Children's Fund Commission Facebook page and the School Counseling

Scholarship Information Page of the RHAM High School website. You can also email charnelson14@gmail.com for a link to the application.

Applicants must be a resident of Andover, a graduating high school senior, and must be attending an accredited two- or four-year college/university or a technical school post-graduation.

Tag, Bake Sale for Seniors

Andover seniors will host a crafters, vendors, tag and bake sale on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Andover Elementary School, 35 School Rd.

Funds raised from the sale go to the senior luncheons program.

For information, call Cathy at 860-916-6122 or Carol at 860-742-7305 ext 2.

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.

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.

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.

Mother's Day Tea

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Mother's Day Tea on Saturday, May 11, from 1-3 p.m. The tea will include an assortment of teas, a basket raffle and homemade delicacies.

Admission is \$10. Reservations are required; leave a message with the number of seats you would like to reserve at the church office, at 860-742-7696. Annual Town Meeting & Budget Referendum Voting

Committee Members Needed

The Town of Andover is looking to form a Charter Revision Committee.

If interested in serving, please submit a letter of interest to the Andover Town Clerk at townclerk@andoverct.org, or mail or drop it off to the Town Hall at 17 School Rd., Attention Town Clerk.

Letters of Interest must be received by May 1.

Burial Ground Committee 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 Rd., Andover, CT 06232, or email it to townclerk@andoverct.org.

Due date for letters is May 13.

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.

★ Selectmen Fire Director cont. from page 1

Dennler said during the interview that a third-party was sought so the town "could get an independent report that could give the public confidence in the facts of the situation." The BOS voted to waive the attorney-client privilege, allowing the report and all relevant documentation to be publicly accessible.

The report outlines five broad articles as justification for terminating Williamson, who was appointed the town finance director in February 2023.

Article one pertains to failing to complete the responsibilities of the position. It states that Williamson failed to balance payroll cash accounts in a timely fashion, post revenue in a timely fashion and perform bank reconciliations in a timely fashion. In addition, the report states that Williamson "may have misstated her professional finance background" when applying for the position.

In article two, the report alleges that Williamson improperly accounted her own compensation for unused vacation, holiday and personal time hours between Nov. 12, 2023, and Nov. 25, 2023.

For the Dec. 1 payroll date, Williamson allegedly "submitted a signed timesheet showing 80 hours of straight time worked," which she signed along with Dennler, according to the report. "However, you were paid for 80 hours of straight time, plus 120 hours vacation, 8 hours floating holiday, and 8 hours personal time," the report states.

Records indicate that a payroll assistant entered the time as submitted, but that Williamson's user account was used to modify the submission to add the additional time, according to the report.

The investigator concluded that Williamson paid herself an additional 136 hours, resulting in \$8,022 in gross compensation.

"No documentation was found authorizing this additional payment," the report states.

According to the report, Williamson told an accountant in the finance department she was "buying back vacation."

"Neither the Town Employee Handbook nor the Administrative Collective Bargaining Agreement allow current employees to buy back Vacation or Personal Day time," the report states.

Article three alleges that Williamson circumvented the town's purchasing policy by authorizing purchases last year for the fire department that were not approved by the town fire chief.

"No documentation was found indicating that Ms. Williamson sought or received approval from Chief Hoffman, or his assistant Ruby York, before processing the three purchase orders and purchasing the equipment," according to the report.

Article four relates to Williamson not paying the employee portion of the health insurance contribution. The report states that Williamson requested her benefits reinstated in May 2023, and used her benefits in 2023, and had no deductions taken in 2023.

The final article highlights IRS payroll tax issues. Last August, the IRS sent notice to the town finance department regarding the "underpayment of employee tax deposits" by the town. That notice included a warning that the town could owe \$5,054 as a failure-to-pay penalty, \$28,429 as a failure to make a proper tax deposit penalty, and \$5,904 in interest charges, according to the report.

The town continued to receive notices and met with the IRS last month to correct the issues. The report states that Williamson did not alert the first selectman of the issue, which was only discovered after she was placed on administrative leave.

The report states that Williamson was contacted beginning in January and three in-person interview dates were scheduled, but she refused to participate.

According to Dennler, Williams was served a notice informing her that there was a pre-disciplinary hearing, which would allow her an opportunity to answer for allegations and for the BOS to consider other information and facts before rendering a decision.

"She chose not to participate, so, as we warned her, we made a final decision without her participation," Dennler said.

Williamson filed a complaint with the state Board of Labor Relations, contending that she should have union representation, and the report acknowledges that there is a dispute over whether she is a member of the Administrative Collective Bargaining group.

While Williamson could not be reached for comment for this story, she told the news outlet Connecticut Inside Investigator, "I can't attend a hearing without union representation, so I was unable to defend myself." She added that she felt

it was "not coincidental" that the selectmen held the pre-disciplinary meeting before her hearing in front of the state labor relations board, which was scheduled for this past Monday, April 22.

Ultimately, Inside Investigator reported, Williamson disputed the allegations.

Discrepancies in the cash balances were "part of the reconciliations not being done when I took over and historically late and incomplete prior to my arrival, as documented in our most recent audit," she told the outlet.

Williamson also said that the vacation payout was approved by the prior first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos, "long before he left." The fire department equipment, according to Williamson, was approved by the fire chief and that she was unaware of the IRS notices because "that was being handled by the board of education," according to Inside Investigator.

Dennler: Investigation Not Political

Dennler stated that a union dispute first emerged in May 2023 because the Municipal Employees Union Independent (MEUI) contract recognition clause makes reference to a position called "finance director."

He continued by stating that the position was not the head of the finance department and during the mid-2000s, the individual served under the town's chief financial officer when there was a joint finance office with the school district.

When the town bifurcated the finance offices in 2022, a new job description and a new position called "director of finance" or "town finance director" was established, according to Dennler.

"It's a little messy," he said.

Assertions were made about the position's union status last year, and into the new administration. However, Dennler said the MEUI came to the "same conclusion."

"This is a different position," he explained. "It might have a similar name, but a position isn't a title; a position is its duties. This was clearly a new and different position than was admitted to the union in 2001, and based on its duties, it was exempt. The town did not modify its contract with MEUI to exclude the position of finance director."

As far as the timing of the BOS meeting, specifically in relation to the labor board hearing this week, Dennler said the board "could not delay addressing given the seriousness of what was alleged."

When asked if Williamson's termination was retribution for actions taken during the previous first selectman's tenure, Dennler refuted that claim.

Williamson had played a role in unearthing documents and information that led to a formal complaint being filed by Bisbikos, a Republican, with the state attorney general's office last year regarding alleged misconduct by Town Clerk Gayle Furman, a Democrat.

Dennler, a Democrat, said that when he took office, he told Williamson he was aware of "political concerns and that there was speculation in that office about what would happen when the administration turned over."

"I told her that my goal here is for everybody who sits in their seats currently to be able to their jobs effectively," he said. "Whatever happened politically could've been water under the bridge. And those political issues are not the subject of this investigation."

The genesis of the investigation happened when the human resources director brought forward allegations, he said.

"I believe that I have been extremely fair and cautious throughout the process to make sure that it was independent, to make sure that Ms. Williamson has opportunities to respond, to provide facts, to make sure that we didn't make a knee-jerk reaction," Dennler said. "Unfortunately, when we started pulling on these threads, we found a lot more than we originally knew we were going to find. But that report is not political."

Regarding any future litigation resulting from the termination, Dennler conveyed that he wasn't worried.

"At the end of the day, I am confident that the Board of Selectmen and the town of Colchester has done the right thing for the interest of the taxpayers of the community and we will stand by that decision," he said. "Whatever comes next, the report demonstrates why this action had to be taken."



Obituaries

East Hampton

Ronald J. Reid

Ronald James Reid, 86, of Cromwell, passed peacefully into God's loving arms on Sunday, March 17, at home. He was born Jan. 27, 1938, in Bristol, to Vernon and Evelyn (Ruthemann) Reid, who predeceased him.



Ron grew up in West Haven, the second of 3 children. He was known for eating the cherries off his grandmother's cherry tree as well as eating raw clams he dug up on the shore, spoiling his appetite for dinner. After high school, Ron enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served aboard the USS Albemarle throughout his enlistment. He retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft after 32 years as a video producer in the Visual Communications Department. He had a passion for photography that went beyond his day job. He took beautiful nature photos and after his retirement he enjoyed selling his work at craft fairs.

Ron was an avid Boston Red Sox fan and was grateful that he saw them win four World Series championships in his lifetime.

Ron married the love of his life, Diane Day, on June 6, 1959, in New Haven. They lived in East Hampton for 58 years, where they raised their three children. Together they served as National Executive Couple in the Episcopal Marriage Encounter. Ron was a warden in a number of Episcopal parishes, as well as a Eucharistic minister and a Stephen minister. He also served as chaplain of the USS Albemarle/USNS Corpus Christi Reunion Association.

Ron & Diane moved to Covenant Village in Cromwell in 2021, where he made many new friends.

Ron is survived by his wife, Diane; his beloved children, William (Linda) Reid of Colchester, Edward Reid East Hampton, and Amanda Bell (Jimi) of Wethersfield; grandchildren, Trevor (Becky) Reid, Joshua Reid (Julie), Alexa Augeri (Brian), Nicholas Reid and chosen granddaughter, Courtney Houle (Andrew); great-grandchildren, Luke, Carson and Jacob Reid, Findley and Maddie Houle.

He is also survived by brother, Richard Reid of West Haven, and sister, Carol Concilio of North Haven.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the angels of Middlesex Health Hospice who not only took care of Ron, but lovingly supported his family. Special thanks to Angela, an HHA from Middlesex Hospice who had a special rapport with Ron. Finally, special recognition to his daughter Amanda who worked tirelessly as his primary caregiver during his many illnesses over the past six months and especially during his days in hospice care.

Internment, with military honors, took place at the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. A

memorial service will be held at the Church of the Holy Trinity, 381 Main St., Middletown, on Saturday, May 4, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Church of the Holy Trinity, 381 Main St., Middletown, CT 06457 or to Middlesex Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

East Hampton

Laurice Joy Geysen

Laurice Joy Geysen, 47, of West Palm Beach, Fla., formerly of East Hampton, passed away Wednesday, April 17, at Hartford Hospital. Born Oct. 8, 1976 in Hartford, she was the beloved daughter of Louis John Geysen and Carolyn Bonnie (Strong) Geysen of East Hampton.



Laurice was a 1995 graduate of East Hampton High School. She earned her associate's degree from Johnson and Wales College in Charleston, S.C., a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central Connecticut State University and her MBA from University of Connecticut. Laurice had been employed by United Technologies Corp. as a financial analyst with full military clearance, working on the Joint Strike Fighter Unit. Following an early retirement for health reasons she devoted much time to genetic and DNA research and invested in real estate with much wisdom.

Laurice enjoyed cooking and developing new recipes. She loved animals, especially her service dogs, Karmah and Drake. Laurice was a passionate person who was drawn to the K-kopelli and the spirit of family and music. She wanted to bestow the gift of cheer and love to everyone she met.

Besides her parents, Laurice is survived by her sister and best friend, Janna Danco and her husband Stephen of Glastonbury, and her two dear nephews, Samuel and Greyson. She also leaves her aunts, uncles and cousins, as well as the friends whose lives she touched so deeply.

Family and friends are welcome to visit at 10 a.m., with a memorial service to follow at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, at the Church of Christ, 595 Tolland Tpk., Manchester. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family in Skinnerville Cemetery in East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Big Dog Ranch Rescue, 14444 Okeechobee Blvd., Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470 or to CT Renaissance, 1 Waterville Dr., Suite 202, Shelton, CT 06484.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Alice Louise Mitchell

It is with profound sadness that I share the passing of my beloved mother Alice Louise Mitchell (Crocker) of Portland.



Born on the 4th of July 1934 in Derby to Henrietta and John Crocker, Mom is survived by her daughter, Karen Rubistello, son-in-law George, and granddaughter Katie and her husband Nick Ferranti of Lake Peekskill, N.Y. She is also survived by her loving grandson Joseph Mitchell and his wife Elizabeth of Westerly, R.I. Mom was also blessed to have a great-grandson Mason Mitchell, a very special niece Lynne Mitchell of Port Au Persil, Canada and her dear friend Rebecca Robinson.

Sadly, she is predeceased by her husband, my Dad, Richard, son Scott and daughter Robin. She also lost her older brothers, Donald and Jack Crocker, many years ago.

Mom grew up in Shelton. She was the 1952 Shelton High School salutatorian. After high school, she worked in the medical field at Griffin Hospital before marrying my dad in 1956. Mom and Dad moved to Portland in 1961 buying a house on Delores Road. Mom loved Portland. In the early years she was helpful in setting up the new library at Gildersleeve School, a member of the local garden club and an active member with the women of Trinity. Mom baked many desserts to share at all the church occasions.

Over the past year she lived with us in New York as she battled congestive heart failure. We felt blessed to have her here with us.

Mom will be buried with my Dad, Scott and Robin in the Lutheran Cemetery.

East Hampton

Julie Dale Gervasi

Julie Dale Gervasi, 58, passed away Sunday, April 14, with her family by her side, after a courageous battle against Crohn's disease. Born Oct. 8, 1965, to Marilyn Leigus Slater and Sydney Dale in Middletown, Julie was survived by her husband, Vinnie Gervasi of East Hampton; stepdaughter, Kerri Wilson and her daughter Kaley of Higganum; mother, Marilyn Slater of Killingworth; stepfather, Richard Slater and his wife Donna of Wallingford; her sisters, Deb (Bill) Bensenhaver of Rockfall and Cindi (Stephen) Pietrzyk of Killingworth; her nieces, Sara, Charley, Samantha and Kailey; and nephew Steven and his wife Michele.



Julie graduated from Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham in 1983 and was well-known for working many years at Guida's Restaurant in Middlefield. She also worked at Lloyd's Restaurant and Pizza King, opening it up for breakfast for a short time. She loved the restaurant business and made many great friends through that process. Julie then moved into the security field and moved out to Las Vegas where she spent years having a blast working at the Venetian casino and meeting celebrities, politicians, and making so many more friends. After having enough of Vegas, she came back home and worked in security at Colt Manufacturing and ESPN for a time.

Julie's smile was infectious, and you felt blessed to be in her presence. She was quick with a kind word, stubborn beyond belief, and loyal to a fault. She loved her pets, and her fam-

ily and friends so much, and never lost her sense of humor.

The family would like to thank the caregivers and health professionals from Middlesex Hospital's South 7 for their kindness and compassion.

Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, crohnscolitisfoundation.org.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

David Finkelstein

David Finkelstein of Portland passed away at home Monday evening, April 22. David was the loving husband of Myra (Eisenstein) Finkelstein with whom he shared 53 years of marriage.



Born in Bath, Maine, to the late Jack and Sara Finkelstein, he moved at a young age to Portland, Maine. David is a graduate of the University of Maine where he thrived in all aspects of college life. He started his teaching career in northern Maine and then moved to Connecticut where he met Myra. For 35 years he was a history and driver's ed instructor at East Hartford High School. After retirement, David was a van driver for the Portland Senior Center as well as a school crossing guard at Gildersleeve School.

Besides his wife, David is survived by his two sons, Paul (Eileen) and Jamie (Shivali), all of Rhode Island. The light of his life were his four grandchildren: Emma, Jay, Lily and Ashton, all of Rhode Island.

Some of David's fondest memories were the annual February family vacations in the Caribbean, spending time in Maine, bowling, making and sharing his homegrown strawberry and blueberry jam, and the frequent phone calls to the grandkids to hear the results of their school events. He could also be heard talking to the 'grands' on the value of an education, savings, and a stock tip or two, all the while glowing in their accomplishments.

He also leaves his sister Joyce (Roger) Pulaski of Naples, Florida.

David could be found going to tag sales on

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Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the Rivereast Standouts Athletes of the Week for the week of April 8-14:

Neha Sidana – East Hampton High School (Softball): Sidana scored five runs and drove in two more on a pair of hits as the Bellringers defeated Portland 24-7 to earn their first victory of the season on April 17. Sidana, a junior captain, helped power an offense that scored 13 runs in the top of the first to take a commanding lead before cruising to the convincing conference victory. Sophomore Sophia Long added four hits and four runs, while senior captain Madison Reola scored three runs and had two RBIs and junior captain Allison Jacobsen tallied three hits, driving in three runs and scoring two more. The Bellringers next host Hale Ray today (Friday, April 26) at 4 p.m.

Troy Johnson – Bacon Academy (Lacrosse): Johnson scored seven goals as the Bobcats beat Stonington 13-6 on April 16. Johnson, a sophomore, powered the offense which also got two goals and three assists from Ethan Lovetere. Goalie Chase Goulet made 15 saves to solidify a defense that allowed only six goals to a Stonington team that was averaging nearly 14 goals per game over the first half dozen contests. The Bobcats are on the road for a pair of games before returning to Bacon Academy for a game against Fitch on Monday, April 29 at 4:30 p.m.

Faith Chanski – RHAM High School (Softball): Chanski, a senior pitcher, blanked Bristol Central 12-0 on April 15. Chanski struck out six in six solid innings, allowing only three hits and walking one as the Raptors shutout the visiting Lancers, earning their fourth win this spring. Mya Strumskas and Addison Mike each drove in three runs on two hits, while Natalie Assunto scored four runs and Aubrey Brainard scored three more to ignite the offense. The Raptors travel to Southington today (Friday, April 26) for a game at 4:30 p.m. before returning to RHAM High School on Monday, April 29 for a home date with Windsor at 3:45 p.m.

Lily Tabellione – Portland High School (Track & Field): Tabellione placed third overall in the 5,000 meters at the 6th annual Distance Classic, hosted by Hall High School on April 19. Tabellione, a senior, ran an 18:55.43 to earn a spot on the podium, while senior teammate Ari Hettrick-Rivera placed 13th in the multi-state event, featuring several of the best distance runners locally and beyond – also welcoming competitors from New Hampshire and Rhode Island. On the boys' side, PHS sophomore Hayden Burke placed 11th in the 1-mile.

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



East Hampton junior captain Neha Sidana scored a handful of runs as the Bellringers beat Portland last week.

Obituaries cont.

Saturday and then selling his "finds" at the flea market on Sunday. He also loved antiquing, dabbling in the stock market, and discussing politics with anyone who would listen.

A graveside service was held in Adath Israel Cemetery in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., Portland CT 06480 or to Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue, P.O. Box 337, Middletown, CT 06457.

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

Marlborough

Michael R. Comeau

Michael R. Comeau (Mike), 64, of Marlborough, passed away Tuesday, April 16, after a short and courageous battle with cancer. Mike was born April 13, 1960, in Hartford, son of the late Delphis and Kathinka (Mahlmeister) Comeau.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his brother, Stephen L. Comeau. He is survived by his wife, Sandy Comeau, and his son, Kevin Comeau and his girlfriend, Nikki; his sister, Maria Whelden and her husband, Mark; along with his niece, Emily Whelden-Gaffney, and nephews, Stephen M. Comeau and David Comeau; his sister-in-law, Karen Clemens and her husband, Joe.

Funeral services are private at the request of the family.



**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER
REVENUE COLLECTOR'S NOTICE**

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

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

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

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in East Hampton that the second installment of the sewer use payment is due and payable on April 1, 2024. The last day on which to pay without penalty is May 1, 2024. **Property owners will not receive a second sewer use bill for the installment due on April 1, 2024. The October bill was a three-part form which includes the April installment.** Payments received May 2, 2024 and later, including payments postmarked May 2, 2024 and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before May 1, 2024 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue. As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions. **Please make checks payable to: Town of East Hampton.** Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online at www.mytaxbill.net/easthampton. **Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.** Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm. Respectively Submitted, Scott Clayton Public Utilities Administrator

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

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the following public hearing
On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive.
APPLICATION #ZBA-02-24 – Daniel Villar (Applicant) Natalie Villar (Property Owner) 8 Myrna Drive - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 a Front Yard Setback, Article Six D. 2 b Side Yard Setback, in order to construct a 26' x 28' garage with a Front Yard Setback of 34.5 feet where 50 feet is required and with a Side Yard Setback of 9 feet. Interested parties can review the application materials in the Land Use/Building Department during normal Town Hall hours. Written testimony should be sent at least 24 hours ahead of the public hearing date to building@marlboroughct.net, and oral testimony may be given during the public hearing.

2 TB 4/26, 5/3

LEGALS

**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

2 TB 4/19, 4/26

LEGAL NOTICE

Residents in the Sewer District in the Town of Marlborough are notified that Benefit Assessment bills are due to the Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority (MWPCA), April 1, 2024. The last day to pay without interest is May 1, 2024. Delinquent bills will be charged 1.5% interest per month reverting to the due date of April 1 or 18% per year. Minimum interest is \$5.00. Checks must be made out to MWPCA. Sewer bills cannot be paid online. Payments may be paid at the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street or mailed to MWPCA Collector, P.O.Box 29, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT. 06447. There is a Drop Box, checks only – NO CASH, to the left of the Town Hall door. Normal office hours for the Tax Office are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Tuesday 8:30 am to 7:00 pm and Friday 8:30 - to noon. Respectfully submitted, Barbara Lazzari Tax Collector

3TB 3/29, 4/12, 4/26

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At its Regular Meeting of April 17, 2024 the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decision(s):
PZC 2023-015 of the Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission (Applicant) – Proposed amendments to the Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations for the following: Part A: Amendments to Sections 3.2, 3.3, 4.2, 4.3, 5.3.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.3, 8.4, 8.8.9, 8.8.15, 8.10.4, 10.1, 10.5, 14.1, and 20.4 to achieve consistency with PA21-1, PA21-29, PA21-34, PA21-163, PA22-25 & PA23-142; Part B: Amendments to Sec. 8.2.1 the Standard Affordable Housing Requirement (10%), to create Sec. 8.2.2 Multi-Family Affordable Housing Incentive (30%) and Sec. 20.4 to create a definition of "Affordable Housing Unit"; and Part C: Amendments to Sections 3.3, 4.3, 13.6, 20.4 and to create Sec. 8.13 Manufactured Home Park (MHP).
APPROVED WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF 5/13/24
PZC 2024-002 of Hop Culture Farms & Brew Co., LLC (Owner/Applicant) – Modification of existing Special Permit to allow fee-based outdoor recreation in the form of semi-primitive overnight camping as an accessory use to the existing farm brewery on 37.28± acres located at 144 Cato Corner Road (Assessor's ID 05-12-024-000). Zoning District: Rural Use (RU). **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**
PZC 2024-004 of Nicholas E. Wisniewski (Applicant/Owner) – Site Plan application to construct an 80' X 50' (4,000 SF) accessory building with attached 80' X 15' (1,200 SF) storage shed at 99 Pickereel Lake Road (MBL#03-19-014-000) that exceeds the size permissible by the Zoning Enforcement Officer pursuant to Section 15.3 of the Town of Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations. Zoning District: Rural Use (RU). **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**
PZC 2024-005 of Lake Hayward Properties, LLC – CGS Sec. 8-24 Referral regarding a request for discontinuance of Shugrue Road No. 1, so-called, located southeasterly of Lake Hayward Road and westerly of CT State Route 11. **FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN**
PZC 2024-006 of Karen L. Harris (Applicant/Owner) – Site Plan application to construct a 60' X 40' (2,400 SF) accessory building at 88 Harbor Road (MBL#05-02-002-001) that exceeds the size permissible by the Zoning Enforcement Officer pursuant to Section 15.3 of the Town of Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations. Zoning District: Rural Use (RU). **APPROVED**
Joseph Mathieu, Chairman

1TB 4/26

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

CLASSIFIEDS PAY
in The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

Email your Classified Line Ad to admin@glcitizen.com & call with your credit card no.

- ☐ \$10.00 per week for 25 words or less in *The Glastonbury Citizen*; 20¢ for each additional word.
- ☐ \$9.00 per week for 25 words or less in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*; 20¢ for each additional word.
- ☐ \$18.00 per week combination rate, 20¢ for each additional word for insertion in both the *Citizen* and the *Bulletin*.

Please make checks payable to: *The Glastonbury Citizen*

LEGALS

Town of Portland

Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that quarterly bills are due and payable April 17, 2024. Payments not made in full on or before May 17, 2024 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date.

Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the charge. Please contact the Water/Sewer department if you do not receive your bill at (860) 342-6735 or by email darce@portlandct.org. Please feel free to leave your payment in the drop box located to the right of the back door at the Town Hall, which is located at 33 East Main St., Portland, CT or by mail at the address listed below.

Town of Portland
Water/Sewer Dept.
P.O. Box 71
Portland, CT 06480-0071
Cynthia L. Gotta, CCMC
Town of Portland
Collector of Revenue

3TB 4/12, 4/26, 5/10

LEGAL NOTICE

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Public Hearing
Tuesday, May 7, 2024
East Hampton Town Hall Town Council Chambers #107 and Virtual via Zoom
6:30 p.m.

The East Hampton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing at the above date and time to discuss the fiscal year 2024 – 2025 Town Budget.

At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of the proposed budget is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, East Hampton, CT and on the town website at www.easthamptonct.gov. Information to log into the meeting will be available on the Public Hearing agenda on the town website at www.easthamptonct.gov. Written comments on the budget will be accepted via email at budget@easthamptonct.gov or by mail to the East Hampton Town Hall, Attn: Town Manager's Office, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424.

1TB 4/26

**TOWN OF HEBRON
SEWER USE LEGAL NOTICE**

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,
Adrian MacLean
Revenue Collector

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

**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 - 7 Coco Dr; Joseph Deal - Applicant/Owner; Assessor's ID 03-15-001-17A; Proposed 12'x24' Shed and 18' x 36' in-ground pool within 75' Upland Review Area. - **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**.
Dated April 18, 2024
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 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 Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at the Portland High School located at 95 High Street Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at www.portlandct.org to consider the following: **PZC Application #23-16**: Proposed Amendment to the Portland Zoning Regulations. Change to section 9.17.1 to increase the allowable MUD residential units to 350 from the current 240 and to increase the ratio of allowable apartments from 16 to 21 per 5,000 square feet of commercial space. Change to section 9.17.5.E to allow the sum of the total commercial area to include any single upper floor to the total commercial area where only the ground floor counts currently. Application of BRT DiMarco PTP, LLC.
Dated at Portland, CT this 23rd day of April 2024
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

2 TB 4/26, 5/3

**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
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the March 28, 2024 regular meeting, the following action was taken:
APPROVED - Application #23-02: 77 Breezy Corners Road. Request for a variance from Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 for the side yard setback to allow construction of a garage addition 19 ft from the property line were 25 is required. Application and property of Peter Rand. Assessor's Map 16, Lot 11. Zone RR.
Dated in Portland, CT, this 17th Day of April 2024
Joan Giesemann, Chairwoman
Zoning Board of Appeals

1TB 4/26

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF HEBRON
ANNUAL BUDGET REFERENDUM
May 7, 2024**

The electors and voters of the Town of Hebron, Connecticut, and any other persons entitled to vote upon any matters contained in the notice are hereby notified and warned to vote in the Annual Budget Referendum to be held at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church Street in Hebron between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

- SHALL THE TOWN OF HEBRON APPROVE A FY 2024-2025 BUDGET OF \$41,090,781 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE?
- SHALL THE TOWN OF HEBRON APPROVE A FY 2024-2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET OF \$1,325,524 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE?

Voters approving the recommendation of the Board of Finance will vote "Yes" and those opposing the recommendation of the Board of Finance will vote "No".

Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's Office.
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut this 17th day of April 2024.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Peter D. Kasper, Chairman
Daniel Larson, Vice Chairman
Tiffany V. Thiele
Keith Petit
Claudia Tejada Riley

	ACTUAL Expenditures 2022-2023	ADOPTED Expenditures 2023-2024	PROPOSED Expenditures 2024-2025
TOWN GOV'T SUB TOTAL	10,786,577	10,929,553	11,940,264
Hebron Board of Education	12,206,260	12,796,568	13,663,914
RHAM Assessment	13,571,071	15,127,331	15,275,896
RHAM Debt Service	507,956	261,751	210,707
Total General Government	\$37,071,864	\$39,115,203	\$41,090,781

	ACTUAL 2022-2023	ADOPTED 2023-2024	PROPOSED 2024-2025
General Government	\$1,274,434	\$892,661	\$1,260,855
Other State Revenues	978,414	419,447	492,924
Educational Cost Sharing Grant	5,997,780	5,997,693	5,997,693
Debt Management Contribution	0	862,000	862,000
Fund Balance Contribution	0	0	500,000
Back Taxes / Lien Fees	388,401	400,000	400,000
Tax Revenue	29,190,545	30,543,402	31,577,309
	\$37,829,574	\$39,115,203	\$41,090,781

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8
TOWNS OF HEBRON, ANDOVER AND MARLBOROUGH
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING MAY 6, 2024
AND BUDGET REFERENDUM MAY 7, 2024**

The electors and those persons eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting of Regional School District 8 are hereby notified that said Annual Meeting will be held virtually and in-person on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. for the following purposes via the following Google Meet: Google Meet joining info Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/yeq-qjtt-kij> Or dial: (US) +1 929-276-0847 PIN: 562 342 168# More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/yeq-qjtt-kij?pin=4780459623476>

- To choose a Moderator to preside.
- To discuss a budget in the amount of **\$31,793,787** for Regional School District 8 for the fiscal year from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The Moderator shall adjourn the Annual Meeting at its conclusion and the budget shall be submitted to vote upon the voting machines in each of the District's member towns of Hebron, Andover and Marlborough on May 7, 2024, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sections 10-51 and 7-7, as amended, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., under the following heading:
QUESTION 1. "SHALL THE BUDGET OF \$31,294,010 FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025 BE APPROVED?"
QUESTION 2. "SHALL THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET OF \$499,777 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025 BE APPROVED?"

Voters approving said Questions will vote "Yes" and those opposing said Questions will vote "No".
Voting will be in the following polling places:

Town of Hebron: Hebron Elementary School 92 Church Street Hebron, Connecticut	Town of Andover: Andover Town Hall 17 School Road Andover, Connecticut
Town of Marlborough: Marlborough Elementary School 25 School Drive Marlborough, Connecticut	

Persons qualified to vote at the Annual Meeting who are not electors will vote in their respective polling places. Pursuant to Connecticut law, no person who is eligible to vote in more than one town in the District is eligible to cast more than one vote at the referendum.
Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, April 16, 2024. By Order of the Chairperson of the Board of
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8
Heather Summerer
Heather Summerer, Chairperson

1TB 4/26

**TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MAY 06, 2024
NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET
REFERENDUM MAY 07, 2024**

The legal voters of the Town of Marlborough are hereby notified and warned that the Board of Finance with the Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing in the Cafeteria at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School located at 25 School Drive on May 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. for the following purpose:

- To discuss the Annual Town of Marlborough Budget in the amount of \$28,066,644 for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, as recommended by the Board of Finance.
- To consider and act upon any additional items which are the proper subject of a Public Hearing including Special Appropriations or Transfers of Unexpended Funds and Retirement of Capital Project Funds, as needed.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing, the budget shall be submitted to a Referendum vote upon the voting machines at the Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT, on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to vote the following questions:

- "SHALL THE BUDGET OF \$28,066,644 FOR THE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024, TO JUNE 30, 2025, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE, BE ADOPTED?" (This includes Town Operations, Local BOE Operations, Town and Local BOE Capital Improvements, and Marlborough Share of RHAM Budget)
- "SHALL THE BUDGET OF \$31,294,010 FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024, TO JUNE 30, 2025, BE APPROVED?" (Marlborough's share of the Regional School District No. 8 (RHAM) is \$11,444,219)
- "SHALL THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET OF \$499,777 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION (RHAM) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024, TO JUNE 30, 2025, BE APPROVED?" (Marlborough's share of the Regional School District No. 8 (RHAM) \$182,768)

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, 26 NORTH MAIN STREET, PLEASE CALL 860-295-6206.

Zoom Meeting:
Topic: BOS Public Hearing Proposed Annual Town Budget
Time: May 6, 2024, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89718763375?pwd=mQhZiAndvbn8gU7u6i0eAwDDaMio51.1>
Meeting ID: 897 1876 3375
Passcode: z0MMQY
Dial by your location
• +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 897 1876 3375
Passcode: 659738
Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89718763375>

Dated at Marlborough, CT on April 18, 2024, by:
Deb Bourbeau, Chair Board of Selectmen
Michael Nastro, Chair Board of Finance

2 TB 4/26, 5/3

	ACTUAL 2022-2023	ADOPTED 2023-2024	PROPOSED 2024-2025
MILL RATE:			
Real Estate/Personal Property	31.70	33.19	34.50
Motor Vehicle	31.70	32.46	32.46

PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET 2024-2025			
Road Resurfacing and Road Improvements			\$330,558
Replace Truck 45 (2005)			\$275,466
Jones Street Culvert Replacement - Second (Final) Year Funding			\$44,500
Gilead Hill School Roof Restoration (partial funding)			\$500,000
Hebron Elementary School Roof Restoration (partial funding)			\$100,000
Senior Center Parking: Drainage, Repave and Expansion			\$75,000
TOTAL CIP BUDGET			\$1,325,524

PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REVENUES 2024-2025			
Balance from Previous Appropriations			\$5,238
LOCIP Funding			\$102,152
Funding from Other Sources: Public Safety Fund			\$11,400
Interest			\$30,000
General Fund Contribution			\$1,176,734
TOTAL CIP REVENUE			\$1,325,524

1TB 4/26

Legal Notice
TOWN OF COLCHESTER
Selectmen's Office
127 Norwich Avenue-Colchester, CT 06415
Tel (860) 537-7220
INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids by which the Town of Colchester will contract for the **Senior Center -Commissioning (Cx) Agent Services Bid #2024-SC3** will be received in the Selectmen's Office, Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave, until **2:00 pm, Wednesday, May 8, 2024** when bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at Colchester Town Hall, Meeting Room #1. No Walk-through Scheduled or Required. Attention of bidders is directed to certain requirements of this contract which require payment of minimum wages and compliance with certain local, state, and federal requirements. Plans and specifications must be obtained directly from the Town of Colchester's website, www.colchesterct.gov/doing-business-colchester, under the RFP/RFQ tab, at no cost to the Contractor. **Each bidder is responsible for checking the website to determine if any addenda have been issued.** In accordance with Connecticut General Statute Sections 4a-100 and 4b-91, a responsible bid must contain two (2) documents: The Contractor Prequalification Certificate and the Update (Bid) Statement. The classification GENERAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (GROUP B) is required as a minimum. This contract is subject to state contract compliance requirements, including non-discrimination statutes and set-aside requirements. State law requires a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the state-funded portion of the contract be set aside for award to subcontractors holding current certification as Small Business Enterprises (SBE) from the CT Department of Administrative Services (DAS). A minimum of six and one-quarter percent (6.25%) of the state-funded portion must be set aside for subcontractors holding current DAS certification as Minority-, Women-, and/or Disabled owned businesses (M/W/DisBE). *Note: This is not applicable for the CxA scope of services.* The Town of Colchester reserves the right to reject any and all bids or any part thereof, or to waive defects in same, or to accept any proposal, or part thereof, deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of Colchester for whatever reason. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women's Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.

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

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a (c) (2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency of the Town of East Hampton for an activity within the Upland Review Area. Number: IW-24-010 Applicant: W. Scott Konior Location: 37 Young Street Activity: 12' x 16' Gazebo Upland Review Area. Map 13/ Block 33/ Lot 14 Jeffrey M. Foran Duly Authorized Agent Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency 1TB 4/26

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
IWWA ACTIONS

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on April 17, 2024 at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM to consider the following: Application IW-24-007: Dubois Forestry, 31 Old Young, Timber Harvest in upland review area. Map 14/ Block 31/ Lot 7D/1. -- Approved Chairman Joshua Wilson 1TB 4/26

ADVERTISERS

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

LEGAL NOTICE 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 23, 2024, at 7:00pm on the following: **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. **Approved.** The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting can be seen using the following link: <https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/jts/86a1a381809ff824225848a0ba9ff6a019a290c0fc09e282768c42b3219d13b6> 1TB 4/26

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CT12-6-26




ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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.

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

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CIT11-12-23





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RE4-26-24






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COOK AND WAITRESS WANTED: Starting pay for cook \$19 to \$21 an hour to start. Please apply in person looking for someone to start immediately. Eggs Up Grill, Rt.66, Portland.

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.

FULL TIME RECEPTIONIST: Needed for small local business in Portland. Candidate must be well organized and able to multi task. Primary duties include answering phones, greeting customers, go to post office, bank and FedEx box. other duties include. Ordering supplies, filing, assisting in sales paperwork. \$20. an hour plus benefits. Hours are M-F 9am-4pm. Send resume to Cariniassistant@gmail.com

SEEKING OFFICE ASSISTANT: for fast growing auto shop in Middletown. Customer oriented, answer phones, prepare invoices, operate credit card machine, filing, schedule appointments. Flexible hours. Call Kathy or George at 860-346-5551.

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Westside Manor is searching for an Attendant to fill our 1st and 3rd shift. 7AM-3PM and 11PM-7AM
Attendant Responsibilities: Housekeeping, Meal Prep and medication administration required for the position. Medication Certification Course is mandatory and offered with paid training. Please call us at **860-267-4401** to schedule an interview today! Interviews are done by appointment only Monday thru Friday.
9 West High Street, East Hampton
Job Type: Part-time with potential to full-time
Salary: Discussed upon interview RE3-8-24

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
We are looking for a motivated individual to work on campus with light cleaning, minor repairs, painting and occasional yard work. This position would be part-time, 20 hrs per week, starting at \$18.00 per hour. Must have clean criminal record, we are a smoke free campus. Selected applicants will be invited to our campus for a job requirement question/ answer session and tour of the facility.
Please send a letter of interest to:
P.O. Box 307, Portland, CT 06480
— EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER — RE4-19-24

New Beginnings for Life is a smaller company with a big heart that cares for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are seeking kind, patient, and passionate candidates to join our team. We have individuals who need care and companionship in Colchester and surrounding towns. We have great benefits, and the rate of pay is \$17.25 per hour.
For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester.
For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am. These positions are in Colchester.
If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please feel free to call us and ask for more information at **860-531-9426** RE3-15-24

WELDER/PIPE FITTER POSITION AVAILABLE
AISC Certified Steel Fabrication Shop is looking for experienced, motivated individuals to work in a fast paced environment. Prior experience in blueprint reading and all types of metal working equipment is a must. Perform GMAW welding, simple fabrications, welding of components per AWS Code. Certified Welding Inspectors Certificate and or past welding experience to state and local welding codes is a plus. Must pass Certification in processes per AWS D1.5. We will train qualified applicants to our methods of operation given the desired attitude and aptitude qualities are found to be present. Benefits include: Health Insurance, 401(k), Vacation, Life and Disability Insurance.
Please send resumes to: **P.O. Box 186, Colchester, CT 06415** or email your resume to: **beth@eaglemanufacturinginc.com** RE4-26-24


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91 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480 RE4-19-24

Office Assistant (Part-time Position Available)
Administrative assistant/bookkeeper for our landscape office. Part-time position with variable hours and flexibility depending on the season. Hours may vary by season – (3 days a week or more.) This position will share duties, and will require answering phones, interacting with customers, accounts receivable, payable, and payroll knowledge, as well as other clerical duties. Landscape and gardening knowledge is helpful but not necessary. We are looking for people that can work with a team; this is a small office and we depend on each other for support in various ways. Must be proficient with MS Office, Excel, and QuickBooks. Compensation is based upon experience. Benefits to be discussed and will vary upon position and length of service.
Job Type: Part-time • Pay: \$20.00 - \$23.00 per hour
Expected hours: 24 – 32 per week
Contact General Landscaping at: **860-659-5757**
Email resume to: **office@generallandscaping.com** CT4-25-24

Part Time Speech Pathologist
Andover Elementary School currently has a part time Speech & Language Pathologist opening for the 2024-2025 school year.
Qualifications:
Certification/License: Appropriate Connecticut State Certification for subject/grade level.
Education: Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university. Master's Degree as per state requirements.
Experience: Student teaching, practicum, and/or state-approved preparation. Experience working with children is desired.
To Apply:
Applicants who wish to apply should go to the school website to locate a copy of the application and submit a copy of their Resume, Certification, Transcripts, and three (3) current letters of reference directly to the Principal: Taylor Parker, 35 School Road, Andover, CT 06232, or via email to: **parker.t@andoverelementaryct.org**.
8TB 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31

Collector of Revenue Town of Portland, CT (EOE) Deadline: May 14, 2024
Send resume with Town application: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071 [Email: **mceppaglia@portlandct.org**]
Collects taxes; Prepares tax bills; arrange payment plans; mail lien notices; Balances tax collection rate books with Assessor's grand list; Prepares annual reports to the state and Town's auditor; Reviews, interprets and implements relevant laws, regulations, and ordinances; Record keeping, assist citizens; prepare reports and reconcile with the Finance Dept; Oversees water & sewer usage & assessment collections; supervises Revenue Collection Assistant; Confers with banks, Motor Vehicle Dept., Town officials, taxpayers to provide information, resolve problems & complaints.
Qualifications: Associates Degree in accounting, finance, or public administration +3 years of progressively responsible relevant experience, or equivalent combination education & experience. **CCMC certification preferred** or obtained within reasonable period of time. Must pass background investigation suitable for bonding for municipal collections work. Must have good knowledge, skill & ability of tax collection, accounting principles & practices, tax collection laws, regulations & ordinances; considerable skill in business math. Must provide high level of customer service.
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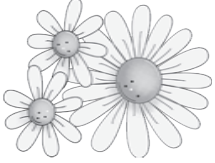

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\$4.98 lb.

40 Lb Chicken Leg Quarters

Sold In 40 Lb Box
Also Sold In 10 Lb Bag
For 98¢ lb.



68¢ lb.

Bob's Super Bundle

\$199.⁹⁹

- 3 Lbs. Beef Chuck Pot Roast
100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 8 Lbs. 90% Ex-Lean Ground Beef
100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 6 Lbs. Beef Chuck London Broil
Steak 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 4 Lbs. Country Ribs
100% Pure Pork No Additives
- 8 Lbs. Center Cut Pork Chops
100% Pure Pork No Additives
- 3 Lbs. Beef Chuck Stew Meat
100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 10 Lbs. Boneless Skinless Chicken
Breast Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Drumsticks
Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Thighs Bone In
Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 3 Lbs. 3 - 1 lb Packages Of Bacon

Please Order 1 Day Ahead
Available After 12 Noon

Fresh Genuine Spareribs

100% Pure Pork
No Additives
Consists Of Spareribs And Riblets



\$2.88 lb.

10 To 12 Lb Avg.

Whole Prime Angus Top Sirloins

100% Pure Beef
No Additives
Top Sirloin Steak Or Roast



\$6.98 lb.

12 To 14 Lb Avg.

Whole Boneless Pork Loins

100% Pure Pork
No Additives
Boneless Pork Chops Or Roast



\$2.38 lb.

8 To 10 Lb Avg.

40 Lb Boneless Chicken Thighs

Sold In 40 Lb Box
Also Sold In 10 Lb Bag
For \$2.98 lb.



\$1.88 lb.

Whole Beef Eye Rounds

100% Pure Beef
No Additives
Consists Of Eye Round Steak And Roast



\$3.98 lb.

Whole Prime Angus NY Strips

100% Pure Beef
No Additives
New York Strip Steaks Or Roasts



\$14.98 lb.

12 To 15 Lb Avg.

Whole Beef Short Loins

100% Pure Beef
No Additives
Porterhouse Steak



\$8.48 lb.

40 Lb Chicken Drumsticks

Sold In 40 Lb Box
Also Sold In 10 Lb Bag
For \$1.48 lb.



68¢ lb.

Whole Beef Bottom Rounds

100% Pure Beef
No Additives
Round Cube Steak Or Roast



\$4.28 lb.

Whole Beef Brisket

100% Pure Beef
No Additives



\$4.88 lb.

Whole Pork Tenderloins

100% Pure Pork
No Additives
Bob's Family Deals



\$2.98 lb.

40 Lb Bone-In Chicken Thighs

Sold In 40 Lb Box
Also Sold In 10 Lb Bag
For \$1.98 lb.



\$1.45 lb.

40 Lb Party Chicken Wings

Sold In 40 Lb Box
Also Sold In 5 Lb Bag
For \$3.98 lb.



\$2.69 lb.

Whole Beef Sirloin Tips

100% Pure Beef
No Additives
Consist Of Sirloin Tip Steak Or Roast



\$4.88 lb.

8 To 10 Lb Avg.

Whole Beef Top Rounds

100% Pure Beef
No Additives
Consists Of Top Round Steak And Roast



\$4.28 lb.

20 To 25 Lb Avg.

Jamestown Bacon

Lesser Amounts
For \$3.98 lb.



4/\$10.98

1 lb. Pkg

Deutchmacher Natural Casing Franks

Natural Casing Franks



\$9.98 ea.

2.5 lb. Pkg

Restaurant Quality Hamburger Patties

Quarter Pound Patties



\$21.98 ea.

6 lb. Pkg

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