

# News Bulletin

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

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**Dynamic Duo...**East Hampton High School softball pitcher Allison Jacobsen and catcher Neha Sidana were both inducted into the National Honor Society, proving to be just as productive off the field as they are on it. Along with earning high honors, Jacobsen and Sidana are junior team captains for the Bellringers on the diamond this spring.

## New Affordable Housing Funding in Hebron

By Michael Sinkewicz

State Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno this week announced \$300,000 in predevelopment funding to support Hebron's efforts to construct new affordable housing.

The grant, endowed to Commons Community Development Corporation — an organization formed to address affordable housing in Hebron — represents a significant boost for the town's initiative to tackle a widespread local housing issue.

Mosquera-Bruno, who also serves as board chair of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), revealed the state funding during a gathering at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron. She cheerfully told the crowd gathered in the parish hall — which included a variety of state and local leaders — that the project was "very important."

"The opportunity to be here is very humbling because I know how much work you have to put into these projects," she said.

Robert Mangiafico, president Commons CDC, emphasized the importance and urgency behind the group's project, conveying that only 2.9% of local housing options are deemed affordable and over 25% of Hebron residents are cost-burdened — meaning they spend over 30% of their income on housing.

"Affordable housing makes it possible for people to stay in Hebron as they age and as their lives change," Mangiafico asserted, adding that new units would allow people not to be "priced out," as well as sustain local businesses.

More affordable housing, he continued, will "help increase the diversity of Hebron by enabling more families and individuals with less resources to live here, including those who've

been unable to accumulate wealth because of decades of exclusionary policies and practices."

Ron Kolanowski, Commons CDC vice president and rector of St. Peter's, described the injection of funding as a "milestone" moment.

"It's advancing the hopes of our young people who are telling us they want to see justice in their town," he expressed. "They want to see housing they can afford. They want to see their grandparents have housing that can be affordable. We're starting to hear their prophetic voice."

While the exact blueprints are being finalized, Kolanowski conveyed that Commons CDC is aiming for new 51 mixed-income units, with 80% of them ultimately being deemed affordable, that would be constructed on land owned by St Peter's on Church Street.

Throughout the day, Kolanowski gave the leader of the state housing department a tour through Hebron, showcasing the town's assets and highlighting the walkability of the community. For example, he explained that Hebron Elementary School would essentially be next-door to the new development.

"They really want to make sure this is a serious thing," he told the *Rivereast*. "That's the goal of today — to orient people who are going to be essential when we really need to move forward on this project."

In a follow-up interview, Mosquera-Bruno said she "loved the town," adding that "seeing the support of the community was just awesome."

She conveyed that predevelopment funding ideally allows projects to quickly advance  
*See Affordable Housing, page 31*

## Portland Resident's Concerns Addressed

By London Brazal

Residents of Portland have a wide variety of opinions regarding the Brainerd Place project on its way at the corner of Marlborough St. and Main.

On Monday, residents had the opportunity to ask questions to the developer, Dan Bertram. The informational session, which was slated to end at 9:00 p.m., had a goal to help people evaluate whether the proposed changes were consistent with fulfilling the town's strategic objectives. The chair of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) Michael Nadolski reminded listeners what their job was: "to help create a positive business environment in town which includes promoting new business investments consistent with Portland's Plan of Conservation and Development." Nadolski further explained two important priorities within that plan, including the want to enhance the town

center and support the Elmcrest Property's suitable redevelopment.

In early April, Bertram presented an application to the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding an amendment to change the zoning regulations to increase the allowable MUD residents to 350, increasing the ratio from 16 to 21 units per 5,000 sq. ft. of commercial space. By the end of that meeting, he withdrew the application to sort out more logistics. During his presentation on Monday, Bertram explained the new proposal for buildings A and B that were caused by poor market perception and a lack of pre-leased businesses. "We've created a building that we think will do much better for commercial leasing and make it a better amenity for the whole town," said Bertram. At the corner, the developers rendered a new building that they think is much more attractive. "I think it sets

the tone for coming into the town of Portland in a way that a CVS on the corner never really could."

The other building's changes include a rooftop restaurant that overlooks the Arrigoni Bridge with commercial space on the first floor. However, there are an additional 108 apartments than what they originally planned. "We're viewing that as a way to actually be able to deliver the commercial and the mixed-use experience that can be premium," added Bertram. The developer said Starbucks submitted their building plans last week with an anticipated opening in October. "We think that's a building block for the next customer and so on," noted Bertram. In the same building, he explained they were trying to target a Jersey Mike and or a Chipotle.

**Some Questions Answered**

*See Portland Resident's Concerns, page 29*

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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Josh Howard

Hello again! Your trusty sports editor will be taking over additional editorial duties at the *Rivereast* for the next few weeks, which will make covering local sporting events challenging for the rest of the spring season. With that said, please submit any local athletic standout performances (youth, high school, and beyond) to joshhowardsports@gmail.com and we will do our best to publish those on a weekly basis.

In the meantime, here are some of the newsworthy accomplishments that happened in the local athletic arenas over the last couple weeks.

**Bacon Academy...**softball had a dramatic come-from-behind victory, defeating previously undefeated Stonington 7-6 on April 25. Trailing 6-1, the Bobcats ripped off six runs in the sixth inning to take the lead and hold on for the team's fourth victory this spring. Meghan Walsh got the rally started with an inside-the-park home run to lead off the inning before Reagan Reid scored the go-ahead run later in the frame. Along with scoring what turned out to be the game-winning run, Reid also doubled to drive in a pair of runs during the comeback.

Ethan Cruetz pitched a complete game, striking out seven, as Bacon Academy baseball beat Ledyard 11-5 on April 26. Cruetz, a soph-

omore, helped his own cause from the plate, scoring three runs to lead and offense that also got a pair of runs each from Mason Pingree, Chris Lusignan, and Andrew Ferrigno.

Liam Sweeney set a new school record in the discus with a throw of 159-6 during a meet against Watertown on April 17. Sweeney's throw broke the previous mark (151-10), held by Jake Martino since 2022.

**RHAM High School...**Senior Camden McPeck had another tremendous week for Raptors baseball, smashing a home run and posting six total hits and eight RBIs over a three-game span as RHAM beat powerhouse programs Newington, Conard, and Manchester. As of Tuesday, the Raptors have a record of 9-1 and are ranked top-five in the state.

Competing at RHAM High School, the Raptors girls' tennis team defeated Bristol Central 6-1 on April 26. Reese Montstream, Julia Kasper, and Maddy Stewart all earned straight set singles victories, while the duos of Alison Polochanin/Kiley Stanford, Ella Mayo/Abby Nalette, and Kate Landry/Emily Lucenko each won in two sets to sweep the double portion.

Raptors golf defeated Manchester (165-206) on April 25, taking the top four spot individually during the convincing victory. Sopho-

**Editor's Desk continued on page 7**

## Bulletin Board

The phone rang the other day and I saw on the ID that it was Son #1 so I picked up. "Who's this?" I demanded.

"It's your son, Dad."

"The tall one or the taller one?"

"The tall goodlooking one who got his genes from his mother's side of the family."

"Doesn't sound familiar."

"How's things?"

"Terrible."

"Oh, did Mom finally come to her senses and leave you to suffocate in your own clutter?"

"Harty-har. No, she would never leave me. Unless she somehow gets untied from the chair. Then all bets are off."

"Funny."

"Actually, she's outside cleaning out her gardens. I've been sitting here watching her through the window all morning. It looks like a hell of a job."

"You could help."

"I would, but I've been struggling with CPR. So I thought I'd wait until she was almost finished and then go out and ask what I could do."

"CPR? I'll probably regret this, but what's CPR?"

"Couch Potato Rheumatism. It's very debilitating."

"I'll bet. I hear the only cure is a good kick in the butt."

"Actually, if you must know, I just got off the phone with my health provider. They said they were updating their records. I figured they'd ask me if I still had my tonsils or something, but no. There were no medical questions at all."

"No?"

"No. The first thing they wanted to know is how I identify. I told them I usually just show my driver's license."

He groaned.

"I said the picture sucks, but nobody seems to care. 'No,' she said. 'What gender do you identify as?' Then she gave me a whole bunch of options: male, female, vegetable, mineral and some others finally ending with 'other.' I had no idea there were so many genders. I'll be honest with you, I felt a little left out."

"Those questions are pretty routine these days. They want people to feel comfortable if they have to come into the system."

"So I said 'male,' even though that sounded pretty boring after hearing the whole list of options. And then they wanted to know what my birth identity was. I was going to say my parents named me James, it's right there on your paperwork, but it occurred to me we were probably still on the gender thing."

"Good thinking."

"So I said 'male' again because that's what they put on my birth certificate at the time, not that anybody bothered to ask me."

"Uh huh."

"Well, then...then...they wanted to know what my sexual orientation was."

"Oh, oh."

"So I told them the truth. I said I was partial to brunettes, but when you get to be my age you can't be fussy."

"Oh, my God."

"So then they gave me this big list of options ranging from heterosexual to bisexual, homosexual and a whole bunch of others I never heard of before. I've got to tell you, there seems to be an awful lot of variety when it comes to sex-related stuff these days. I probably should have gotten out more when I was still young."

"It's a whole new world, Pops."

"You aren't kidding. You know, when I was a kid, there were basically two kinds of ice cream: chocolate and vanilla. Maybe strawberry if you were an outlier. But now, there's hundreds of flavors. Maybe thousands. Same thing with TV channels. We used to get just three channels. Things were simple."

"Well, at least nowadays you don't have to worry about some dinosaur coming along and stealing your ice cream cone while you're watching Walter Cronkite."

"You're not helping. I just don't know how people know what to choose these days. It's messed up."

"Are you talking about gender and sexual orientation?"

"No, you idiot. I don't care what people identify as. Just don't get all huffy if I don't want to march in your parade. It's nothing personal. Live your life and have the decency to let me live mine. No, I'm talking about ice cream. Do I get strawberry or black raspberry? Maybe butter pecan?"

"I usually go with pink bubble gum ice cream."

"Now that's just a perversion of the natural order of things. What is wrong with you?!"

"Look in the mirror why don't you."

Jim Hallas



**Magnificent Musicians....**Portland High School students Lily Gaetani, Maryn Yost, and Sarah Kresser were named as 2024 All-State Music Students.

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### Vote Yes for Hebron

To the Editor:

I'd like to encourage residents to come out to vote on Tuesday May 7th at Hebron Elementary School to support our town. We all want to keep our town a place that people want to live. We need to support our town workers and the teachers and staff at our schools. One reason that people move here is the reputation of our schools. It takes more than each child's 13 years in school to pay for their education. Even if you never had children in our schools, it benefits our town to educate "our" children and attract people to live here.

Cathy McSweeney - Amston

### Andover Taxes

To the Editor:

Connecticut is the 2nd highest taxed State in the country and the spending habits of the Democratic Majority are never-ending. For many years here in Andover - "The Quiet Corner" where I have lived since 1990 we had fiscally conservative and responsible leadership. First Selectman Ed Turn, Charlene Barnett and Bob Burbank kept the taxes down, while still managing to build and finance successfully our fire department complex, a major addition to Andover Elementary School and a complete makeover of RHAM Middle and High Schools.

However Town Leadership changed with the Charter and under our Town Manager our taxes have gone up significantly over the last 4 years. We've spent over \$1 million dollars on Capital Equipment in the Public Works Department, added a Foreman making \$100k and 2 Full Time PW workers. Most recently at last weeks Special Meeting a \$202k Mower was approved by a 42- 34 Vote plus another \$40 in finance charges. Our current "Mower" has only 4,000 hours of service which is quite low and the resale value is only \$20k and while it needed some repairs it was still very serviceable.

Our Town Budget meeting was on May 1st. Keep in mind our population has remained the same, the student levels have gone down and we have no new roads and we've coming of 2 mild winters. There are projections that with our current spending we will endure a 3 mill increase over the next 3 years and that will put a severe hardship on those with fixed incomes and families' gas, food and everyday living expenses have gone up under Ned Lamont and Joe Biden.

If the Budget passes on May 1st, it will go to Referendum shortly after. Make an informed decision. We have very little industry to help us with our tax base and we do not have deep pockets like Glastonbury. We have to Live within our means.

Don Denley - Andover

## RIVEREAST

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### Support Hebron Budget

To the Editor:  
Please come vote Yes for the budgets on May 7th.

The Hebron education budget, Hebron town budget, and RHAM education budget need town members' support on Tuesday, May 7th. I attended the Board of Finance meeting last month where information on the budgets was provided. The budgets are all very reasonable in that they are not trying to add any additional services, but are only maintaining the level of services we already have in town and in the schools. If enough people do not come out to vote YES on Tuesday, the board of finance will likely have to propose changes that will cut back on the services our community already depend on.

Please come out to vote yes, and remind your friends and neighbors to as well.

Nicole Lotko – Hebron

### Voting Yes

To the Editor:  
Marlborough faces, as the town manager said, a perfect storm financing next year's town costs. Multiple sources of revenue were reduced all in one year. We had federal COVID funds for our culvert replacements the last three years. These COVID funds are done.

Frugal budgets for the town and MES — Marlborough Elementary School were presented in the last months. The problem is this revenue hole is so deep, an 8.92% tax hike is still needed.

Thankfully, the board of finance (BOF) asked the residents to decide with a vote Tuesday, May 7th. I prefer having us make this decision.

The budget hearing on April 15th had angry, suffering, and inquisitive taxpayers. Strangely, no one pointed out that the largest increases in the two budgets, the town and MES, were not in operating costs but in proposed capital expenditures.

If the budgets are voted down I hope the BOF looks first at these capital expenditures. There are plenty of Monday morning quarterbacks who think they know how to run the town or the elementary school who'd have you cut this or that. Our town manager and MES Superintendent are the knowledgeable professionals. You, the BOF, if the budget is voted down, need to listen to them in reducing the tax increase.

If you, the taxpayer, cannot handle the tax increase then you may vote No. I am voting Yes because these are responsible budgets and our family's assessed property value is not comparatively high.

Marlborough taxpayers, understand in the coming years we must pay for many culvert replacements. Culverts are everywhere in Marlborough. Our federal taxes cannot bail us out. Bonding is the smart choice. We cannot dodge this responsibility by gouging our school or town operations. Our town and schools need our support too.

Dave Porteous – Marlborough

### Functional Beauty

To the Editor:  
"I think that having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want." – Andy Warhol.

I spent Earth Day listening to earth related discussions, both positive and negative, on gardening, politics, books, films and group thinking. Douglas Tallamy spoke and Earle Bailey recommended we get involved and get organized. Meanwhile, a reporter from insideclimatenews.org discussed a successful climate related lawsuit in Sweden and ongoing environmental lawsuits, in Oregon and Bucks County, PA. Lawsuits sound like powerful avenues for gaining corporate and political attention.

Generally, most of us feel helpless to stop the political tidal wave of pollution that floods our lives. However, each of us does play a roll in the health of the planet. Collectively we still have the numbers and there are ways to contribute by halting old habits and starting new ones,

like planting native pollinator plants and trees. These deep rooting plants support the food web through better pollen and better flower designs... artistic functional beauty at its best. Not surprisingly, three great pollinators, Maples, Shagbark Hickories and white Oaks, thrive on the East Coast, in Hebron and on 17 Kinney Rd. These proud trees are huge contributors to the food web, and who doesn't like food? Ask local garden centers for native plants and trees, including native White Dogwoods. If they don't carry native plants, try another vender. In the meantime, take care of the pollinators you do have. Together we can increase nutritional pollination, one plant at a time

"No Mow May" is here. This simple inaction contributes to the health and beauty of our neighborhoods. Temporarily we put the mower aside which supports healthier pollination through uncut grasses, seed tops, weeds and wildflowers already growing in our lawns. And as always, #save17.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

### Troop 72 Thanks Shredding Participants

To the Editor:  
Boy Scout Troop 72 had a successful "Financial Records Shredding Project" on 4/27/2024. During the event, thousands of pounds were shredded and the truck was filled to capacity.

We also had many requests to do another shredding project. We will certainly think about doing it again. Start collecting your financial and personal records for another project in April 2025. We would like to thank all the people we saw during our event for their support.

Al Letendre – Colchester Troop 72 Chairman

### Grateful for the Support

To the Editor:  
We want to thank everyone who helped with our senior fundraiser on Saturday, April 27. Those who set up, took down tables, worked tables, bakers and all those who donated. Tom Anderson for the lovely prints, Tiiu and Ylo Anson, Jeff Ballard, Frank Chaves, Pat Chaves (thank you for donating the lovely blanket to our silent auction), Linda Fish, Dave Gostanian, Kim Hawes, Adam from Hebron, Mindy Hegener, Suzanne Heise for the creative jewelry, Tanya Hughes, Carol Kukucka, Lisa Kurtz, Kar-

en and Patrick Madore (the aroma from popping corn was so inviting), Mike Palazzi, Helen Rimsa, Dave St. Laurent for the beautiful prints, Sue Schmidt, Heidi Siismetts, Ellie Skoog, Marie Smith, Emily Timreck. A very special thank you to Carol Lee, our Town Clerk for making numerous calls, collecting tag items for the tag sale – we had a marvelous turnout for our tag sale. No way would I be able to handle anything this huge by myself – it takes so many caring people. Especially, we thank those residents and neighbors who came out to purchase our home-baked goods, visited with our crafters, vendors and enjoyed the massive tag sale. We even had a first-time vendor who came from New Hampshire and not only did she have a prosperous day but enjoyed herself in Andover! We are so grateful to our many friends and co-workers for helping us with our fundraiser. All the money goes to support our bi-monthly senior luncheon program. Thank you everyone!

Sincerely,  
Cathy Palazzi  
Andover Senior Coordinator

### School Lunch Hero Day

To the Editor:  
Friday, May 3, is School Lunch Hero Day. As the Colchester Public Schools Food Service Supervisor, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to all my cafeteria staff for all they do to provide healthy breakfast and lunch to all our students each and every day. This group goes above and beyond to make sure our Colchester Kids are taken care of everyday!

A shout out to- Bacon Academy Staff: Krista Mikan, Erin Smith, Cheryl Couture, Marybeth Dadona, Danielle Luca and Cheryl Jordan. William J Johnston Middle School Staff: Dorothy Gardner, Kelly Gagosz and Sylvia Gott. Jack Jackter Intermediate School Staff: Laurie Albert, Lori Faille, and Stephanie Christoff. Colchester Elementary School Staff: Marcia Baranowski, Lori Coffin and Colleen Soboto. Also a shout out to Carrie Fortin, who is a substitute cafeteria worker at WJJMS and to Josh Fargo at JJIS (custodian) who helps everyday, thank you.

I am proud; these folks are the "cafeteria ladies" for Colchester Public Schools. Thank you for all you do every day!!!!!!

Leanne Ranheim, District Nutrition Program Coordinator/Cafeteria Manager  
Colchester Public Schools

### Vote Yes

To the Editor:  
I would ask Hebron residents to come to Hebron Elementary School this Tuesday to vote for the budget.

The proposed budget is one that helps Hebron keep the services that it has today. Public comment on the budget has been very positive at the Budget Hearing on April 16th, but we need your help to pass it.

This year, Hebron's Board of Finance proposes to use some of our excess fund balance to offset much of the increase in the cost of running the town. By my rough estimate, this contribution will keep the average house's tax roughly \$150 lower than it otherwise would be this year.

We need to pass this budget the first time, lest we lose the quality of life we enjoy in this town.

Vote Yes for Hebron!

Adam Ockman – Hebron

### Marlborough Budget

To the Editor:  
Are there unnecessary expenses or over-spending for needed items in the budget the town will soon be voting on? The school's portion of the budget seems to have some items in both categories.

It's fair to ask, did the BOE overspend when hiring new administrators? All we need to do to answer that question is consider that the previous Superintendent and BOE hired very competent people without spending so lavishly. The BOE recently added a full time Operations Supervisor position for \$140,000. A second teacher has been added to the preschool program, and the Superintendent wants to add a new assistant to the finance department and bring back the Special Education Director position that was eliminated 6 years ago. With the addition of the Operations Supervisor position the school actually has more non-instructional staff than before the Special Education Director position was eliminated. Marlborough's elementary school has the same number of support staff as we had when there were almost 700 students. That fact is relevant when considering the proposed school budget: our little school is and has long been well funded. So the question is, does the school really "need" everything the BOE has in its budget?

There is a big difference between the school  
See Letters, page 6



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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

budget and the one time expenses to fix or repair culverts as found in the town's portion of the budget. The decisions the BOE has made regarding the salaries of the new administrators and the addition of new positions to the payroll will impact the total town budget for the foreseeable future. The school got along fine for the past six years with a 1/2 time Superintendent, a Principal and an Assistant Principal, so it is reasonable to ask, is the BOE spending for items that aren't really "needed?"

George OBrien - Marlborough

### Illegal Logging in Watershed

To the Editor:

Thank you, *Rivereast*, for continuing to cover the environmental challenges facing Lake Pocotopaug; "Residents Desperate for Lake Accountability" (*Rivereast* April 26). With just three minutes designated for public comments during town meetings, it is not feasible to adequately convey the extensive lack of oversight

by town officials.

In 2019, East Hampton hired environmental consultant Everblue Lakes from Michigan to reverse years of lake contamination. To date, this endeavor has incurred a hefty expense of over \$500,000 on East Hampton taxpayers. So far, their efforts seem to be paying off. For four of the past five years, the lake has been able remain open through the summer.

The Everblue Lakes Case Study titled "Saving Lake Pocotopaug," released last year begins by addressing the environmental challenges faced by Lake Pocotopaug. It traces back decades of overdevelopment which catalyzed nutrient overloading, disrupting the natural equilibrium of the lake. Despite repeated efforts by residents and costly treatments over two decades, the toxic algae blooms persisted, accompanied by community conflict, waning resources, and declining property values.

The study presents data showcasing progress in mitigation efforts. It concludes with, "we will continue to monitor lake health indicators, educate local residents, and work together to mitigate the causes of nutrient overloading."

This raises important questions: How are we working together when the town continues to greenlight development in the fragile watershed? Why did the Planning and Zoning Commission approve logging applications that blatantly disregard their own regulations? Why is the town allowed to disregard mitigation efforts by permitting development in the watershed?

While Governor Lamont faces criticism and fines following illegal tree cutting, no enforcement action has been taken in East Hampton. The discrepancy between printed regulations and legislative approvals calls for immediate scrutiny. The malfeasance by town officials in this regard warrants a thorough investigation.

Christopher S. Austermann - East Hampton

### Flooding

To the Editor:

I owned a home on Lakewood Road for over 20 years and the only time I had flooding in my backyard was when Skyline Estates was built. The flooding was so bad I chose to purchase flood insurance since my central air unit may have been flooded and if the basement got much wetter I was nervous about my oil tank and furnace.

When I purchased my house in 2001 my basement did have a sump pump and a channel had been made to direct the water to the sump pump. That was a very slow trickle in the spring, where I did not see water but if you felt in the channel it was damp. It became more than a trickle during the Skyline Estates construction. That lasted for approximately four years and then subsided.

I have warned the homeowner who owns that property now that they are probably going to get a lot more flooding than I did since the land presently being developed is adjacent to their property.

It is common knowledge that prior development has seriously impacted the lake and now we're doing it again. Who is benefiting from it? Not our lake or our town. Why is so much construction allowed in the Lake Pocotopaug watershed?

Pam Joslyn - East Hampton

### Different Unemployment Numbers?

To the Editor:

We can't always believe Joe Biden's unemployment numbers. He counts the unemployed a different way than others do. He only counts people who are actively looking for work. The labor participation rate, which currently stands at 62.5%, measures those 16 to 64 gainfully employed. More than 1/3 of us American citizens

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are not working.  
The Wall Street Journal reports that there is an increase in jobs but that's because of the increase in the number of aliens. How many illegal aliens are looking for work? Why should they?

The number of American citizens employed has actually gone down a great deal during the last few months. If you counted the number of American citizens employed the numbers go down.

Joe Biden, if he hasn't already, will likely tell us how many million new jobs he has added. I believe he has added millions such as printers to print more money, border agents to speed up the transporting of illegal immigrants, construction people to build more hotels, cooks to prepare more food for all these new "hotel occupants." What he doesn't tell us, who is paying for all these new jobs?

That's how our government works. It's actually not a lie. They just count a different way.  
Remember to flush the toilet this November.

**Frank Blume – Colchester**

### Republican House Budget Cuts

To the Editor:  
"There is no freedom without economic security. And yet, Republicans are working to defund and destroy Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We are not going to abandon our seniors. Every American has a right to a secure retirement." – Bernie Sanders

**Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough**

### Hebron BOE Asks You to Vote YES

To the Editor:  
On Tuesday, May 7th, Hebron residents will be voting for the RHAM budget, the Capital budgets and the Town budget including the Hebron Board of Education. The Town and Hebron Board of Education forged an exceptional collaboration this budget season to manage expenses effectively while ensuring essential services are maintained. We ask that you come out and vote YES to show your support for our amazing community.

The Hebron Board of Education budget maintains current class sizes and programming for all students, without any new positions or added programs. We have heard consistently from families that preserving class size and programming are top priorities; the Hebron Board of Education budget ensures both are maintained. Similarly, supporting the RHAM Board of Education budget ensures Hebron students continue to receive a high-quality education so they can contribute meaningfully to our community as young adults.

The Town of Hebron budget plays a crucial role in funding essential services and initiatives that benefit all residents. By supporting the proposed budget, you contribute to the maintenance and improvement of our community's infrastructure, public safety, and various programs that enhance our quality of life.

Tuesday is the time to make your support for education and our town heard at the polls. We ask that you vote YES to approve the budgets at referendum on Tuesday, May 7th so that we can have a successful referendum for our schools and town. Vote YES for Hebron.

**Thank you,  
The Hebron Board of Education  
Heather Petit, Joseph Margaitis, Sera Copolino, Kim Hills, Eleisha LeMay, Nicole Matthews, Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl**

### Oathless

To the Editor:  
Don Denley is right. I do not recite the Pledge of Allegiance. I stand respectfully, but I do not speak the words. Perhaps I owe an explanation.

Four decades ago, when I became a Quaker, I took to heart their teachings against oaths. Quakers say we should not proffer two kinds of truths: everyday ones and those we really mean because we swear to them. Quakers take Jesus' words seriously: "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool..." (Matthew 5:34-35). These concerns by Quakers and other like-minded citizens are built into our laws. The right to affirm rather than swear is in the Constitution and in the very first section of the U.S. Legal Code.

The Pledge of Allegiance is an oath. I do not take oaths. The right not to do so was affirmed by the Supreme Court in 1943. Mr. Denley's implication that I should do so because of Robert's Rules is bizarre. Robert's Rules certainly do not insist that anyone participates. His implication that I bring dishonor to Andover by my actions demonstrates a terrible misunderstanding of honor.

It is interesting to have this discussion at a time when the MAGA movement is pledging its allegiance not to our Republic, but to an autocrat bent on destroying it.

Finally, it is very odd to be chided over this by a self-described conservative. Conservatives generally promote individual freedom and deplore any form of collectivism. Why is Mr. Denley bothered that I refuse to participate in a ritual designed to coerce uniformity of belief? (References: <http://letters.sauyet.com/#/2024-05-03>.)

**Sincerely,  
Scott Sauyet**

*Note: Sauyet is co-chair of the Andover DTC and a member of the RHAM BOE, but is writing as an individual.*

### Empathy for Joe

To the Editor:  
I'd like to encourage *Rivereast* readers to find a little empathy for our president, Joe Biden. It hasn't always been easy for Lunch Pail Joe. Firstly, you must remember his father called him "Joey" most of his life. Don't forget about his childhood nemesis, CornPop...who was a bad dude. But thanks to six feet of chain and some hairy legs...well, never mind. Just remember, that poor kids are just as smart as white kids.

When Joey grew up he attended Syracuse University School of Law, on a full academic scholarship, graduating in the top half of his class, with three degrees! Except he actually didn't have a scholarship, graduated close to the bottom of his class, with only a single degree. Imagine how shattered Joe's ego must have been when he learned the truth of his college days! Dang...that would of crushed most people's spirits, but Joe persevered!

In his personal life Joe's weathered significant storms. From the death of his first wife and infant daughter in a car accident, to two separate brain surgeries to install remote control hardware. Thankfully showers with his daughter helped him during these dark days. And let's not forget the death of his eldest son from brain cancer...during combat in Iraq. Fortunately his son's widow was able to find comfort in the loving arms of her brother-in-law...keeping it in the family seems almost like a tradition.

new school record by shooting a combined 146 in a win over Morgan on April 25. Luke Stennett led the way by shooting a 32, followed by Quinn Lapinski (38), Aidan Peterson (38) and Jonah Lavallee (38). Amazingly, the foursome duplicated the feat four days later by shooting another 146 in a win over East Catholic. Stennett again led the way by finishing atop the leaderboard with a four-under 31, which included an eagle on the second hole.

Highlanders' softball earned their first victory this spring, outlasting Vinal Tech 36-21 on April 23. Portland had nine different players score in the slugfest with senior Aaliyah Riley and junior Abby France each crossing home plate a half dozen times. Ava Randazzo added five hits and four runs, while Elizabeth Bustamante had four hits and scored five runs.

Jayda Cohen won her No. 1 singles match as Portland girls tennis defeated Haddam-Killingworth 6-1 on April 24.

\*\*\*  
"Sport teaches you character, it teaches you to play by the rules, it teaches you to know what it feels like to win and lose - it teaches you about life." - Billie Jean King.

Speaking of family, we've recently learned that Joe's Uncle Frank was eaten by cannibals after his plane crashed in the South Pacific during WWII...can you imagine the terror that would strike into the heart of a young child? Dealing with a life filled with so much trauma, it's no wonder Joe seems out of his mind...it's probably a coping mechanism. So have a little empathy, will you? No joke!

**Colin McNamara – Marlborough**

### It Takes a Village

To the Editor:  
After moving to Connecticut from Syracuse, and a year of searching for a house, we found the most beautiful New England town to start a family, right here in Marlborough. We didn't have friends or family, but we then had a home and our little corner of the world, simply and affectionately called The 182. We thought this rural one light town was the perfect place to raise a family, and personally have never been more right about anything in my life. Through the years, St John Fisher, Elmer Thienes, MYAL, RHAM youth Lacrosse, eventually RHAM Middle and High Schools, built a strong foundation for our girls to pursue their dreams. After graduating UVM and St. Joseph's in Philadelphia, Cait & Mads are not coming back, so it's time for a new chapter.

But I would be remiss not to acknowledge this town and all of the wonderful people in it and how appreciative we are for all of your help, friendship, love and support over the years. We came here with no friends or family, now, we are leaving with so many, and some now considered family (you know who you are). They say it takes a village, and I would certainly agree; and attest that we had the best village we could ever ask for. For that my friends, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. And it's not goodbye, but just a big thanks for all you have done for us and make sure you know you all have touched our lives forever.

**Peace,  
H, Mary, Caitlin, Madeleine Hartman – Marlborough, The 182**

### Labeled

To the Editor:  
Wow. I've been labeled (assign to a category, especially inaccurately or restrictively.) Pat Gauthier, thank you for the information, the term Christian Nationalism seems new but looks like definitions vary, author Stephen

Wolfe and his book about Christian Nationalism (learned the term Gynocracy when reading a review for his book), and the term Marxist political propaganda. I took the time and did a search to see how both James Carville and George Orwell relate to Karl Marx. I saw many links to the question I asked. Saw buzzwords like Socialist(ism), Communist(ism), Marxist(ism), words that I hear used but most people won't take the time to look up. I came across a well thought out answer stating 3 areas where Orwell and Marx agreed and disagreed.

"The founders of our Republic understood that human rights exist for the good of all people everywhere." From your letter. My use of Carville's words was to point out how rights have been taken away and are being threatened, how people are being told that unalienable rights-human rights that cannot be violated are only available for certain people and not all people.

I like the Preamble to the Constitution, "We The People..."

**Eric Manning – Andover**

### Please Vote on May 7

Dear Hebron Residents:  
Hebron's budget referendum is on May 7, and I argue it is one of the most important days to vote (in addition to November, of course!). Our local budgets reflect our values and impact all community members.

These are challenging times, given the rate of inflation and the fact that across the country, income inequality continues to expand exponentially. That's why I'm proud of the time and dedication of Hebron's town staff and elected boards, who collaborated congenially and put together a fair budget that reflects the town's needs without additional bells and whistles. The education budget is the same – it keeps the lights on in our schools with no additional programs added.

Much of the increase in this year's budget is due to fixed costs, such as contractual obligations and agreements. However, I'm pleased to see a proposal to use funds from the unassigned fund balance to mitigate the burden on taxpayers, keeping our mill rate reasonable.

I encourage everyone to come out on May 7 and vote yes for Hebron. This budget provides excellent services for our town residents and maintains our high quality of education for our children.

**Sincerely,  
Tiffany V. Thiele**

*Note: Thiele is a member of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but is writing as an individual.*

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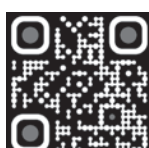
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### Editor's Desk continued from page 4

more Conor Sullivan shot a 37 to finish atop the leaderboard, followed by Conner Rabbitt and Caden Bellmore, who each shot a 42, and Sean Fenton (44). Bellmore, a junior, was coming off a one-under 35 to finish as the medalist as RHAM beat E.O. Smith just two days prior.

**East Hampton High School...**Alex Zimmerman hit a pair of home runs, driving in five runs and scoring three more as Bellrings baseball defeated Hale Ray 17-2 on April 26. Zimmerman, a senior, connected on a three-run dinger in the first inning and later sent one over the fence for two more runs in the third inning. Jason Johnson also scored three runs and drove in another on a pair of hits, while Baden Plante had two hits, two runs, and two RBIs as East Hampton won a third a third straight game.

Bellrings golf beat Old Lyme (181-206) on April 23 as the top four individual spots on the leaderboard were occupied by East Hampton golfers. Sophomore Jacob Woods was the medalist, shooting a 44, and was followed by Chase Palmer (45), along with Andrew Fenton and Chelsea Woods, who each shot a 46.

**Portland High School...**the golf team reached new heights this past week, setting a

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# Budget Hearing and Referendum Next Week

By Michael Sinkewicz

Marlborough residents will deliver a verdict on the 2024-25 fiscal year budget proposal next week on Tuesday, May 7. Voting will be held from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Marlborough Elementary School located at 25 School Drive.

Prior to voting, the community will hear one last pitch from town and school leaders during a second public hearing on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the MES cafeteria.

At the first hearing last month, residents swarmed Town Manager David Porter with questions pertaining to municipal spending.

Overall, the combined budget is slated at \$28.07 million — a \$971,700, or 3.59%, increase from current-year spending.

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

In addition, voters will make a decision on the overall RHAM budget, which is \$31.79 million — a \$654,406, or a 2.1%, increase over current-year spending. That figure is broken down between an operating budget of \$31.29 million and capital budget of \$499,777. Marlborough's

levy would be \$11.33 million — a \$69,979, or 0.62%, increase.

For the local elementary school budget, the Board of Education adopted a \$8.74 million spending plan — a \$219,396, or 2.58%, increase (that total also includes \$75,000 of capital projects located at the elementary school, which is \$10,000 less than the current year).

The Board of Finance set the proposed 2024-25 mill rate at 37.83 — a 3.10 increase that would result in a 8.92% tax bump next fiscal year. For a property assessed at \$250,000, the new tax bill would increase by \$774; for a property assessed at \$650,000, the bill would go up by \$2,013. Accordingly, properties assessed within that range would receive a tax increase in between those two amounts.

Porter has previously acknowledged the drafted budget is a “big ask” and that he was “concerned” with the financial burden being passed along to residents.

He's pointed to data from the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics showing how cumulative inflation has increased over 15% since July 2021, and over the same period, the town's mill rate would have increased by 5.86% (if proposed 2024-25 proposed mill rate is factored-in).

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

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

Culverts represent the largest budget driver, but grants are mitigating part of the cost.

The town is aiming to replace the culvert crossing South Buckboard Road costing \$1.2 million with half the expense being canceled-out by a state grant. Additionally, the culvert on Johnson Road would be repaired, rather than fully replaced, at a cost of \$525,000.

Both upgrades are overdue, according to Porter. “They were not meant to last forever,” he said during the prior public hearing. “We’re pushing it.”

Both superintendents that oversee the town's two school districts are expected to present information at the hearing.

Each of RHAM's three member towns received a credit this budget cycle that reduced their levies; Marlborough was allotted \$300,122, which substantially cut down its overall request.

Meanwhile, the local school budget operational budget increase of \$229,396, or 2.72%, increase, would be the district's lowest bump in the last four years, and relatively less than the state average of a 4.81% increase, based on data from the Connecticut Association of School Business Officers.

Between the three budget entities, the town budget accounts for 45% of the mill rate increase; RHAM accounts for 32%; the local school district accounts for 21%.

One local school budget subject that has received considerable attention is the hiring of two new building administrators.

Long-time principals Dan White and Kim Kelley are departing at the end of the school year, and the district announced the hiring of Paula Graef and Kristen Trahan as co-administrators, replacing the previous principal/assistant principal model — a change that results in .01% increase in the budget proposal.

Superintendent of Schools Holly Hageman has previously stated that she “never considered” cutting back to just one administrator as a viable option.

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

This week, she explained the hiring process that led to the new hires.

“There was never a question on the Board of Education's part that the two retiring administrators were going to be replaced,” she said, adding that there was “never going to be a reduction” based on the demands and responsibilities in overseeing a wide range of age groups; the district has maintained two administrators for over 40 years.

The co-principals were hired earlier this year, prior to the budget referendum, in order to attract and secure experienced individuals.

“The longer you go, there are fewer people considering making moves,” she explained.

Hageman has also pointed to low per-pupil expenditures compared to other towns in Marlborough's District Reference Group, a collection of state schools with similar socioeconomic conditions.

## 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.

## 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.

## Parks and Rec Upcoming Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit [marlboroughct.recdesk.com](http://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.

**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. Par-

ent/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:** Tuesday/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.

## 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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## From the Desk of the Town Manager

I am grateful to those who engaged thoughtfully and politely at the April 15 public hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 budget. The event reinforced my appreciation for the civic engagement that characterizes Marlborough. Competing demands prevented many community stakeholders from attending. The purpose of this column is to succinctly answer a few of the most frequently asked budget-related questions.

*What are the key drivers of the town's portion of this year's proposed budget?*

The most significant drivers are capital projects, especially culvert repairs/replacements. The proposed budget includes a project to replace a culvert crossing South Buckboard Road and a project to line a culvert crossing Johnson Road. The South Buckboard culvert is projected to cost \$1.2 million with half of the cost (\$600,000) being offset from a grant from the State/Local Bridge Program. The Johnson Road culvert is comprised of two 100' long pipes. By lining the pipes rather than replacing them, the town will extend their life by 40-50 years at a cost of \$525,000, far less than the \$1,800,000 it would cost to replace them.

*Can we postpone the culvert projects or spread them out across more budget cycles?*

Many of the culverts all over town were installed in the years following WWII. After 70-plus years, the steel with which they are constructed shows signs of severe fatigue associated with a high risk of failure. In 2014, three culverts failed. In response, the Town embarked on an aggressive culvert replacement initiative. Between 2015 and 2020, the Town replaced 23 culverts of varying sizes. Despite those efforts, five more culverts failed between 2019 and 2023. The proposed budget is based on an evaluation of all the town's culverts and prioritizes those at highest risk of failure. We know from experience that failed culverts are very disruptive – think about South Road near the intersection of Garden Lane – and far more expensive to address after they fail than before. If we could postpone the two culvert projects in the proposed budget – South Buckboard and Johnson – we would. Given their condition, the most prudent course of action is to address them now.

*Why are we not bonding to pay for the culverts?*

Marlborough diligently paid back the debt from major projects including the construction of Marlborough Elementary School. Today, we have a low debt burden comprised primarily of notes owed to the CT Clean Water Fund associated with the extension of the sanitary sewer.

In 2021, our longtime Finance Director accepted a job with another town. We have struggled to hire and retain a permanent replacement. Turnover in the Finance Director role resulted in the town not submitting annual audit reports on a timely basis. Until we are current with our audits, Marlborough cannot issue new debt. The 2022 audit report was submitted earlier this week. We are working with our auditors to complete the 2023 audit promptly. We anticipate submitting the audit for the current year (2024) on time. When that happens, debt can and should be part of the solution to address these culverts promptly and pay for them over time.

*Can we expect the tax base to grow next year and beyond?*

Yes. The townhomes planned on N. Main Street and the apartments planned on S. Main Street will contribute to the tax base after they are completed. The new Three Fellas gas station and stores will also add to the tax base. Middlesex Hospital is a non-profit organization and filed the paperwork necessary to be exempt from local property taxes. That exemption reduced the tax base. We applied for a state reimbursement program and anticipate receiving a PILOT – payment in lieu of taxes – from the state equal to approximately one-third of the taxes lost due to the hospital's tax exemption.

*How does the town plan on funding all these capital projects?*

We would be prudent to fund future capital projects through a combination of grants, debt, and taxes. One-time federal grants tied to Covid will not be reauthorized. Thankfully, state grants like Town Aid Roads, State/Local Bridge Program, Local Capital Improvement Program, and Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program are much more likely to endure. When we are current on our audit reports, we should use debt responsibly to pay for major infrastructure projects – culverts, roads, etc. – over time. Taxes will pay down the debt and cover costs such as engineering that often are not eligible for grant reimbursements.

**David Porter, Town Manager, Town of Marlborough**



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### 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.marlbroughct.net](http://www.marlbroughct.net), for a complete listing of regulations (select "sexton and cemeteries") from the menu.

### Lions Brewery Tour

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

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

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

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

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

### Lions 'Round the Lake 5K

The Marlborough Lions will hold their 40th annual 'Round the Lake 5K Road Race on Sunday, May 26. The race is a certified 5K and will start promptly at 10:30 a.m.

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

In the past, local businesses have provided race sponsorships of \$100, \$250 and \$500. If any additional businesses wish to provide sponsorships, contact one of the Lions Club members listed below. The business sponsor's information will be printed on the shirts handed out to runners.

To register or for additional information, call Lions President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Lions Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116. Lloyd can also be emailed at [MarlbroughCTLions@gmail.com](mailto:MarlbroughCTLions@gmail.com). Registration forms are also available at various locations. You can register online at [itsyourrace.com](http://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.marlbroughchurch.org](http://mcc.marlbroughchurch.org). Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. All children in the community are welcome and invited to attend Sunday School. Contact the church office at [office@marlbroughchurch.org](mailto:office@marlbroughchurch.org) for more information.

**Sunday, May 5** will feature both the Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir. Pastor Valerie Seaver will be leading the service. Her sermon title is "You've Got a Friend in Me." Holy Communion will be served, and is open to all, including children, with parental guidance. The bread served is gluten free.

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

**Outreach:** On May 5 church parishioners will prepare and serve a meal for the soup supper at St. Vincent DePaul in Middletown. 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. A Drive Thru Café for Marlborough Food Bank patrons with vouchers is usually held on the last Sunday of each month. The Youth Enrichment Team sponsors a monthly meal for residents at Florence Lord Housing. Second quarter mission giving will go the AHM Mental Health Fund.

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

### 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.

### 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.

### St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

**Weekend Masses:** 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30

and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome. **Week-day 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

### 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 Brodgin-ski. 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@marlbroughchurch.org](mailto:office@marlbroughchurch.org).

### 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.



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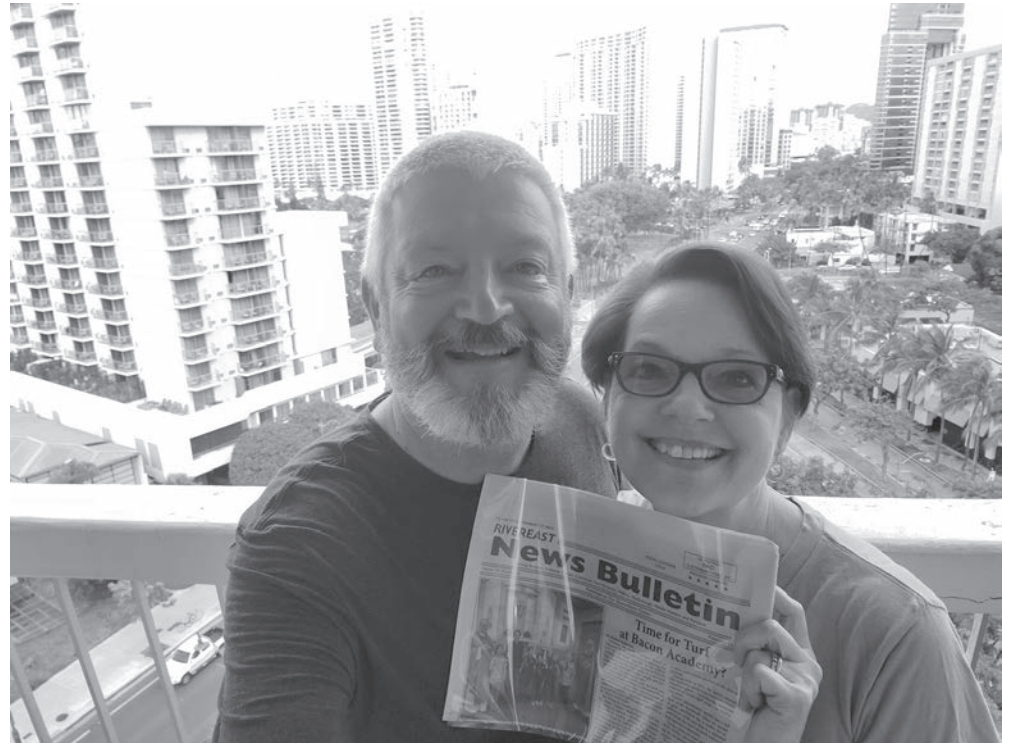
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**Stevens in Solitude...** The Stevens family of Colchester brought their *Rivereast* to Solitude Mountain in Utah!

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

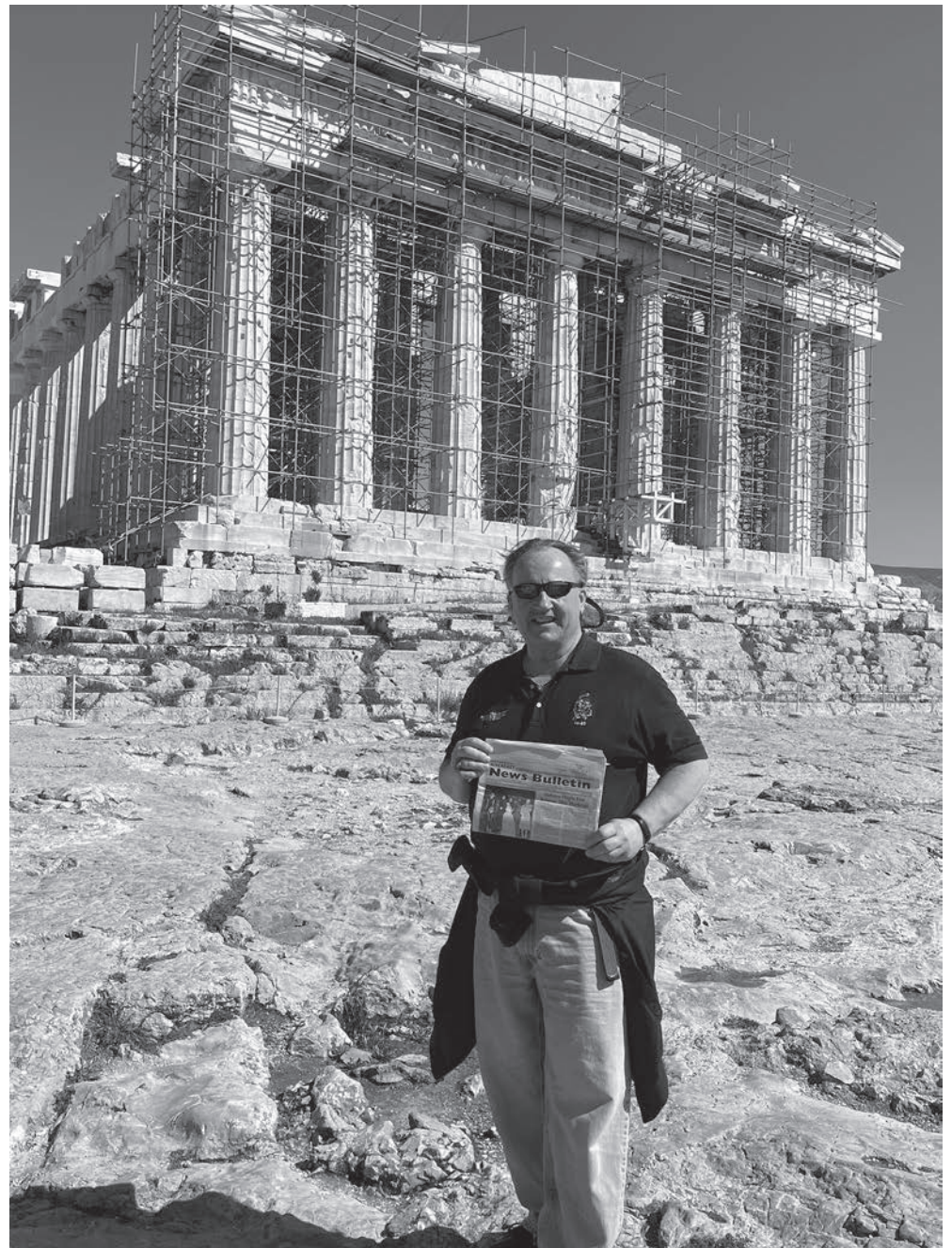
Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring the *Rivereast* along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo and your address to [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).



**Hello Hawaii...** David and Mary Rose recently traveled to Hawaii for a retirement celebration. Here they are on their balcony overlooking Honolulu.



**Room With a View...** Dorothy and Scott Whited of Colchester brought the *Rivereast* with them on a recent trip to St. John, the smallest of the three U.S. Virgin Islands.



**Rivereast Goes to the Acropolis...** Michael Chotkowski of Marlborough recently took the *Rivereast* with him to the Acropolis in Athens, Greece.

# Where in the World?

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### 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.

### 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.

**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.** Wednesday, May 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.

Passport to Connecticut Libraries Program Collecting Passport stamps from participating libraries is now over, so if you visited at least five libraries, remember to hand your passport back in at Portland Library by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 10 so you will have a chance to win a prize from the CT Library Association.

Portland Committee on Solidarity Pride March Meet up: Saturday, May 11, 1:00 p.m. The town of Portland's Committee on Solidarity is marching at Middletown Pride and their Pride Workgroup is hosting a meet and greet and crafting session to make banners, signs, and poster boards to bring on June 1 or for your home/community this June. Registration for this crafting event is encouraged, but not required.

Friends of the Portland Library's Annual Meeting & Executive Board Officer Elections: Monday, June 3, 7:00 p.m. All members of the Friends are cordially invited to attend. The agenda for the annual meeting includes presenting the President's and Treasurer's annual reports, the election of Executive Board officers for the coming year and any other items that are brought before the Board.

**Library Closing:** Saturday, May 25 - Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day Weekend.

### Vocal Chords Spring Concert

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

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

panist.

Proceeds from the concert are returned to the community in the form of scholarships presented to graduating Middlesex County high school seniors pursuing a career in music or nursing.

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

### Zion Lutheran Church News

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

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

sion 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.

### Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., holds Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday, and services are held at 9:30 a.m. All are invited. Children, ages 4 to 12, are welcome to attend Church School.

**Monthly Service Project:** This month's project supports pet adoption for the CT Humane Society. The church is accepting donations of new dog and cat toys and food bowls in the collection bin outside the front doors of the church. The church is also collecting "soft" dog and cat treats inside any church door on Fridays from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and Sundays 9:30-11 a.m. Please do not leave any treat items outside at any other time. Families who adopt dogs or cats will be given a 'treat bag' that contains treats, toys, bowls and a 'thank you' note for adopting. For more information, call 860-262-3251.

**Great Hill Mountain Band Concert:** The Brownstone Music Series presents The Great Hill Mountain Band in concert Sunday, May 5, at 4 p.m. The Great Hill Mountain Band has been playing country rock since 1994. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show and are available by emailing trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com or calling 860-463-6444. All

proceeds will be donated to the Middlesex Land Trust, a group that helps to protect the forests, wetlands, and meadows of Middlesex County.

**Town-Wide Tag Sale:** Saturday, May 11, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. During the sale, the church will be open for hospitality, with restrooms open to the public. The church will also sell Mother's Day and spring crafts and bake sale items. You can also reserve a 20' x 20' space on the lawn by calling the church office at 860-342-0458 or emailing trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com. The reservation fee is \$25, and you must bring your own table/set up. Set up begins at 7:30 a.m. Space is limited.

On Fridays, the church is open for prayer and meditation, and for Anglican Prayer beading, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. All are welcome; no prior beading experience is required.

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

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

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### 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.

### 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.blue-sombbrero.com/portlandsoccerclub](http://www.blue-sombbrero.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](mailto:nosliw.dahc@gmail.com).

### Portland Lions Club News and Activities

The Portland Lions Club has had a very busy April. Members of the club joined other Lions Club members from clubs throughout the state for the annual "Journey for Sight" fundraiser held in Niantic. The teen members of our Portland Leo's Club delivered over 900 pairs of glasses as well as some hearing aids that were collected from buckets that have been placed throughout the town. The funds raised by those that walked at this event will enable Portland Lions to give to many important causes. It also provides funding for the purchase of Eye Screening machines that are used throughout our District. This year the Portland Lions did eye screening evaluations for over 600 students in our Portland school system. Approximately

five percent were referred for further eye evaluations, those that were referred might not have been recognized for issues with their eyes if this evaluation had not been done.

Kicking off on May 18 is Portland Lions first annual "Lions Roar" Cycling event. Various length routes have been planned. If you are not an avid cyclist, you can still help with a donation by going to [bikereg.com](http://bikereg.com) go to the search area in the upper right corner and put in Portland. This event truly speaks to our motto "Our hands working together for our community". Portland Lions meet every 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Waverly Senior Center on Waverly Ave. Visitors are always welcome.

### Portland Post Office Food Drive

The Portland Post Office is proud to announce, that their annual food drive, will be held on Saturday May 11. Please leave food donations in or by your mailbox. The carriers will pick up your donations as they deliver your mail.

All food is then distributed to the Portland Food Bank. Suggested items are any non-perishable food items such as canned goods, pasta, sauces, baby food, and formula.

Throughout the country, the food drive has been going on for 26 years; in that time, we have collected almost a million pounds of food a year making this the largest food collection in

one day. Last year in Portland, we collected over 3000 pounds of food.

The Portland Post Office would like to thank our patrons in advance, for their generous donations of non-perishable food items. We look forward to filling the shelves of the Portland Food Bank, once again.

This is sponsored by the United States Postal Service, and the National Association of Letter Carriers.

### 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](mailto:AndyTBauer@gmail.com) if interested. Portland Horseshoes is an alcohol-free activity.

### Annual Town Meeting & Budget Referendum Voting

The Annual Town Meeting to discuss the 2024-2025 budget will be held on Monday May 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Middle School Cafeteria, 93 High Street. The Budget Referendum will be held on Monday May 13th from 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM at the Portland Middle School, 93 High Street.

The Portland Town Clerk's office is currently issuing absentee ballots for the referendum. Registered voters and property owners can obtain an application in person at the office, by calling (860) 342-6743, or visiting the Town

Clerk's Page of the Town of Portland Website.

Any applications or completed absentee ballots should be mailed back to the Town Clerk's Office at: P.O. Box 71 Portland, CT 06480, brought to the Town Clerk's Office in person, or left in the election drop box located by the rear entrance of the Town Hall. Absentee Ballots must be received back no later than 8:00 PM on May 13th in order to be counted. Portland residents can also obtain a voter registration card at the Town Clerk's Office.

### Town-Wide Tag Sale Ready

Registration is closed for The Portland Historical Society's 28th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales Day set for next Saturday, May 11. It will be a busy day in Portland with 100+ sales around town and out on the country roads.

The official large free Tag Sale Map will be available next Wednesday, May 8, on the front porch of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History located at 492 Main Street and online at the Society's website: [www.PortlandHistSoc.org](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.org).

On May 11, the Society will have their own

tag sale under the yellow and white striped tents at 492 Main Street. Friends and members of the Society are baking their specialties for the Society's Bake Sale on the side porch at 492 Main. Both the Tag Sale and Bake Sale will open at 8:30am. Come early, grab some baked goods and check out the bargains under the tents.

The annual Town-Wide Tag Sale is a major fundraiser for the Museum. If you have questions or need more information call Susan at 860-982-1486 or send an email to [PortlandC-Thisto-ry@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandC-Thisto-ry@gmail.com).

### First Congregational Church News

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

**Worship:** Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. and will be led by Intentional Interim Minister, Rev. Dr. Barry McCarthy. Communion is provided the first Sunday of the month. The worship service this week is themed, Music Appreciation Sunday when Music Director and Organist, Kasha Breau, and the church choir will be honored. 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](mailto:1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com) for more information.

### 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](http://www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste) for more information.

### 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.



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# BOF Holds Second Budget Workshop

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Finance (BOF) last week reviewed several of the departments driving the proposed 2024-25 fiscal year budget increase, but did not ultimately make any decisions on potential modifications.

Last month, First Selectman Bernie Dennler III unveiled a substantial spending increase, calling for a \$17.14 million town budget — a \$1.48 million, or 9.45%, hike over the current 2023-24 spending plan.

If approved alongside the Board of Education's adopted budget proposal of \$45.73 million — a \$1,746,724, or 3.97%, increase in spending — the mill rate for personal property and real estate would spike by 1.58, or 5.8%, to 28.80.

During its budget workshop on April 24, the BOF received presentations from two departments slated for lofty increases — the police department (a proposed increase of \$207,601) and the fire department (a proposed increase of \$157,532).

Both the resident state trooper, Sgt. Zachary Cash, and fire chief, Steve Hoffmann, explained that surges in their budgets were largely contractual increases, and they weren't recommending any new initiatives.

Hoffmann stated that payroll increases represented a \$129,810 jump in the department. Because the cost of personal protective equipment has escalated, Hoffmann reduced his requests from eight full sets of gear, down to seven, shaving off \$2,792.

For the police department, Cash said that the expenses for FICA/retirement, fuel and maintenance, overtime, equipment contracts and salaries effectively couldn't be altered. Roughly 4% of his budget, which includes items such as uniforms, ballistic vests, ammunition, training Courses, non-contractual equipment repair, K9 food could be modified, if the BOF acted.

Most of the back and forth between the department leaders and the BOF fleshed the current state of services.

Hoffmann indicated that average EMS response times were 8:57 minutes, while fire responses were 7:50 minutes, which he said was

satisfactory.

"Overall, I'd say we stack pretty well as an organization and a combination fire department," he said. "I'd say over the last year and a half, we've come leaps and bounds as far as response goes."

For the police department, Cash budgeted for 10 full-time officers and is trying to fill one vacancy, which has already been included in the current budget; eight officers are on patrol.

The department doesn't have midnight shift coverage, detectives or specialized units, Cash continued. Troop K does provide the "South" patrol, which covers Colchester, Salem and East Haddam.

Compared to Troop K's coverage towns, Colchester does have the most incidents and accidents, Cash explained, which is partially explained by the geographic and population size relative to other neighboring communities, as well as a greater number of officers, which leads to more arrests.

When asked by a board member if the Colchester department had adequate staffing, Cash replied that he would ideally add four or five new positions, but acknowledged that those changes would not happen quickly.

"It's expensive," he said, adding the department also has strict hiring practices. "Our standards are pretty rigorous."

Cash added: "People are going to be proud to wear this uniform, but when they see our facility and they see it's just a corner office, it definitely turns some applicants off when there's other police departments that have more modernized facilities, more equipment, more specialized units. We can't offer that here."

The current police department is located at town hall, and the Board of Selectmen (BOS) has discussed using ARPA funds to expand the quarters. However, those renovations would impede on the recreation and public works department located in the building, and a relocation plan hasn't yet been formalized.

Officers respond to calls all over town, prioritizing life-threatening incidents. Cash explained

that situations can arise where one officer is responding to a situation, creating a dangerous setting for them, and delaying additional calls that may arise.

Last month Colchester police responded to a disturbance on Norwich Avenue, which resulted in one officer fatally shooting a local landlord, according to a preliminary report released last week by the state Office of the Inspector General.

Cash conveyed that in that case, "we had a good turnout of officers."

"Nobody was there solo to deal with that problem, but it's a real-life problem that exists and having just one officer available — it's a disservice to the town."

Still, Cash emphasized that a resident will "always have a police response," especially with Troop K being stationed in town. However, the resident state trooper believes it's important for people to be served by local police officers.

"It's still the same team," he explained. "They're still going to do a great job, but it's just these little things that I think help build the community."

John Thomas, a Republican on the BOF, agreed that the town needs more officers moving forward.

"Between you and the [fire department], we can never spend too much money in my opinion because it's the safety of our people," he said.

### Additional Presentations

Dennler indicated to the BOF that securing an additional position in the finance department was crucial. Currently, there are three positions, with Maggie Cosgrove — the town's former long-time chief financial officer — serving as a consultant.

With Cosgrove expected to leave shortly after a 2022-23 audit report is completed likely in June, Dennler said adding a deputy finance director — a position that was created earlier this year by the BOS — would secure the staffing levels required to sustain the department moving forward.

The additional \$108,000 in salary was worthwhile, he said, adding that it was the budget item he'll "fight hardest for."

"The adopted budget right now doesn't reflect

the spending that it takes to run that office," Dennler said. "We're close to getting it right, but we don't want to then fall backwards again."

Right now, Michelle Marceau — who was hired as the deputy director at \$105,000 — is being paid the compensation rate of the finance director after the individual in that role was placed on administrative leave earlier this year, and has since been terminated. The role is slated to receive a slight pay bump in the next fiscal year.

In the summer of 2022, when Cosgrove retired, the town bifurcated its joint town and school financial office, which she oversaw. Since then, Dennler said the town has essentially been unable to keep up without hiring additional outside help.

One resident asked whether conjoining the departments would be an option at some point, which both sides would have to agree to — something Dennler said is unlikely.

Mike Egan, the Democratic vice chair of the BOF, said even if the joint-department returned, it would be a challenge to run it sufficiently.

"From what we were hearing, it was going to be extraordinarily difficult — if not impossible — to continue on with that format," he said.

Colchester's assessor, John Chaponis, informed the BOF that most of his time, roughly 75%, is spent defending his assessments; he said there's currently 13 properties involved with litigation.

"The tax appeal process in Connecticut I think is really broken and it's become an industry where you know people can come into Connecticut and just file blanket appeals and you're forced to settle because of the sheer volume of what's in front of you in court," he said. "And we really try to fight vigorously and defend those and not just give away reductions that aren't warranted."

Chaponis added that his office undergoes consistent turnover.

"We're a training ground and I don't think you can completely stop it," he said, explaining that Colchester allows individuals to get a good range of experience that allows them to enter a new job.

## 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](http://www.baconband.com) to sign up for the email list and get more information on the event, as well as other future events.

## 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](http://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.

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### Colchester-Salem Postal Food Drive

The combined workers of the Salem-Colchester Post Office will be holding a Food Drive on Saturday, May 13. Donations of current non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted. Please leave donations in, on or next to your mailboxes after 9 a.m. for pick up by your mail carrier, and other retired Postal workers. Donations can also be brought directly to Col-

chester Town Hall that day between the hours of 10 a.m. -4 p.m. All Donations will go to stock the Colchester Food bank and are used to lend a "hand up" to those in need in the Colchester-Salem community. This has been an event that consistently brings in several thousand pounds of food. Thanks in advance for the support.

### Family Hike and Seek

On Sunday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m. to noon the Colchester Land Trust and Laurie Buyniski of Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) are offering a free Family Hike for all ages at Bulkeley Hill Preserve. Pick up your Hike and Seek card that day or download it at colchesterlandtrust.org to see what you can find along the path.

The shortest loop is 1.1 miles and includes a bog bridge. Trails are mostly flat but not stroller friendly. Bulkeley Hill Preserve does not have a

street address. For GPS, please use mailbox at 243 Bulkeley Hill Road Colchester, 06415. Parking lot is across from mailbox. Entry has wooden hanging sign. Please contact Laurie Buyniski at c3info@colchesterct.org for any questions. Please visit our website at www.colchesterlandtrust.org to register. The Colchester Land Trust is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that works to permanently protect open space in Colchester. Visit the aforementioned website to join or donate.

### Historic Bacon Academy Celebrates Annual Founder's Day

May is National Historic Preservation Month, and the Trustees of Historic Bacon Academy invite you to celebrate with them as they honor Pierpoint and Abigail Bacon's original endowment of the school that continues to bear their name today. The event will be held in the Federated Church at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15, and will honor Bacon Class of 1978 graduate Steven Bradstreet. A luncheon in the church hall will follow the ceremony.

Bradstreet, who is the lead Director of Finance for the Technology department at Aetna, has become well known in town for harkening back to yesteryear and sharing memories alongside present-day photos via the Facebook group "You know you grew up in Colchester, Connecticut, when." Bradstreet is a fixture in town, especially as a long-standing member of Colchester Federated Church, and has served countless hours as an usher, Sunday School teacher, Treasurer, and member of numerous committees. Additionally, he's been a youth sports coach, held numerous leadership positions with Colchester Boy Scouts and is a trustee for the Bacon

Academy Scholarship Fund,

Steven Bradstreet, a distinguished community member, will join a long list of notable graduates honored at this annual event. The ceremony will include a wreath-laying on Bacon's headstone, a solemn reminder of our shared history. This event comes at a critical time for the historic landmark, as the Trustees have embarked on a multi-year effort to preserve and restore the building to use. We believe that the strength of our community lies in our shared commitment to our heritage. May 27th marks the 300th birthday of Pierpoint Bacon, and in honor of that milestone, the Trustees have established a "Bacon 300 Society" of giving. We ask anyone interested to donate \$300 by that date to help raise \$50,000 to restore the roof and cupola. Your contribution, no matter the size, will significantly impact our restoration efforts.

For more information on the Capital Campaign, Founder's Day or any other upcoming events, please email info@baconacademytrustees.org or visit our website: www.baconacademytrustees.org.

### 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, May 6:** 8:30 Garden Club; 9:00 Making Memories and Exercise w/Anne; 10:00 a.m. Sittercize; 11:00 Learn to Sign; 12:30 Mah Jongg; 12:30 Bridge; 12:45 Setback

**Tuesday, May 7:** 9:00 Making Memories; 9:45 Tai Chi; 10:45 Healthy Brain Series; 12:30 Pinochle; 1:30 BINGO; 1:30 AARP Chapter #4019 Meeting.

**Wednesday, May 8:** 9:00 Making Memories Program; 9:00 Walking Group meetup at the Airline Trail in Amston; 10:00 Adult Coloring; 10:00 Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 Life Review; 1:00 Sewing Circle; 1:30 Cardio Drumming; 2:30 CSC Staff Meeting

**Thursday, May 9:** 9:00 Exercise w/Anne; 10:00 Sittercize; 10:00 Wii Bowling; 10:30 Shopping Trip - Manchester Wal-Mart; 11:00 Yoga; 12:00 Chair Massage; 12:30 Dominoes; 1:00 Knit & Crochet; 4:00-5:30 Ultimate BINGO.

**Friday, May 10:** 10:00 Sit & Be Fit Video; 10:15 Across the Ages; 10:30 Choral Group; 10:45 Blood Pressure Clinic; 11:00 Yoga; 11:15 Chatham Health Education Series.

**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 eggplant parmigiana, chicken parmigiana, broccoli with cheese and spinach with cheese. The cost is \$9; register by May 10.

**Fabric Sunflower Workshop:** Wednesday, May 22, 10 a.m. Create a fabric flower that can be used as a wall hanging, a stake for an indoor plant. Requires the use of a glue gun. A selection of colorful fabrics will be available to choose from. Cost is \$5 per person. Space is limited. Registration is required.

**Older Americans Month:** May is Older Americans Month, and this year's theme is "Powered by Connection." To celebrate, come help create a giant Colchester Senior Center puzzle, with a piece to represent each of the programs

that are at the center and how they all connect us together. Puzzle pieces will be available throughout the month for you to sign. The center will then display the puzzle in the hallway.

**Healthy Brain Series Session 3:** Tuesday, May 7, 10:45 a.m., presented by Hartford Healthcare's Center for Healthy Aging. This month's topic is Meaningful Engagement. This is a free series; please preregister.

**COA Presents: Healthy Living for Brain & Body:** Monday, May 13, 2 p.m. This program will focus on current research and practical strategies to age well cognitively, physically, and socially. The Commission on Aging will welcome presenter Marylou Gannotti from the Alzheimer's Association. This program is free. Registration is required.

**"There's No Place Like Home" Mother's Day Luncheon:** Wednesday, May 15, 11 a.m. Listen to some favorite songs about mothers as the center unveils its special video containing all the photos submitted by members and staff. Following the presentation, there will be a comfort meal of meatloaf complete with mashed potatoes, sugar snap peas, roll and butter, juice and cookies. Cost is \$9 per person. Register by May 8 or until full. Space is limited.

**Colchester Garden Club Presentation:** Thursdays, May 16 and 23, 1 p.m. The club will share ways you can add a small garden to your porch or under a window. The theme for May 16 is Container Gardening, and the theme for May 23 is Planting Herbs in Pots. Cost of this program is \$10 per person and space is limited.

### Car Wash Fundraiser

The Colchester Fire & EMS Cadets along with the Troop K State Police Cadets will be holding a fundraising car wash on Saturday, May 4 from 10am -2 p.m. at the Colchester Fire & EMS headquarters 52 Old Hartford rd. The state police will be assisting by power washing the vehicles. Donations will be accepted.

### Revolutionary War Historical Presentation

In honor of the Memorial Day Parade in Colchester, which will be held on May 26th this year, there will be a historical presentation by the 2nd Continental Light Dragons, also known as Sheldon's Horse in the Colchester Town Hall on May 7 at 7 p.m.

### Colchester Giving Garden

The Colchester Giving Garden is up and running its 12th year of growing and donating fresh produce to those in need. Volunteers will work at the garden on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. All ages and abilities are welcome. No gardening experience is necessary.

The garden is located at 95 Norwich Ave., behind the existing Colchester Senior Center.

There are many garden tools to use or you can bring your own. To participate you need to have a closed-in shoe; no sandals or flip-flops allowed. All new volunteers must sign a waiver, as the garden is on town property.

For any questions about the garden, email colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com.

### 32nd Annual Top Dog Contest

Join us for our 32nd Annual "Top Dog" Contest to win the coveted #1 dog tag from the Colchester Town Clerk's Office and a basket, generously donated by Wagging Tails Pet Shop in Colchester. In order to enter into the contest you must pre-register your dog for the 2024 -2025 license year. Return the application with payment to our office by 4:30 on Wednesday, May 29, 2024. The drawing will be held May 31, 2024 and the winner will be notified. The application can be found on our website at colchesterct.gov under Town Clerk. We will also have applications available at the Bark for the Park event on May 19, 2024.

A copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate and if it is not listed on the rabies certificate, a current spay/neuter certificate must be

included. Checks/money orders should be made payable to Town of Colchester. Your License and Tags will be mailed to you after registration begins on June 1st. You can mail the application to: Colchester Town Clerk, 127 Norwich Ave. #101, Colchester, CT 06415

Applications may also be returned the Town Hall via the drop box located outside the Town Hall or e-mailed to dogowners@colchesterct.gov. E-mail can only be done with a credit/debit card and there is an additional \$2 convenience fee the vendor charges to use your credit/debit card.

License Year: July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Spayed/Neutered: \$8.00 Not Spayed/Neutered: \$19.00

### 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.



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## Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

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

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

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

## Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

**Sunday Services:** Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service is also broad-

cast live each week on Facebook. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT](http://www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT) or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

## Celebrate Juneteenth and Commemorate Peter Maguire

The Colchester Federated Church and Historical Society will welcome Pauline Merrick, President of the CT Society of Genealogists, to shed light on the life of Peter Maguire on June 16 at Colchester Federated Church at 1:30 p.m. with a reception to follow.

Enslaved in Colchester before the Revolution, Maguire's story is a powerful piece of our town's history. Uncover the past, connect with your an-

cestors, and celebrate Colchester's rich heritage. This event is for anyone interested in local history and genealogy.

Presentation is free with offerings gratefully accepted in the restoration of the Colchester Federated Church building, an open and community-centered presence in town and around the world. Questions and RSVP to Amy Domeika [amydomeika@gmail.com](mailto:amydomeika@gmail.com).

## 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.

## 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.colchester-cba.com](http://www.colchester-cba.com).

## Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

## Trip to Sight & Sound Theater

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

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

For more information, contact Barbara Gozzo at [barbgozzo@gmail.com](mailto:barbgozzo@gmail.com) or 860-208-4121.

## Kindergarten Registration

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

To register, go to [colchesterct.org](http://colchesterct.org) and follow the link to Registration then Pre-Register. Be sure to select the 2024-25 school year.

For more information, call 860-537-7628.

## 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.

## Troop 72 Mother's Day Flower Sale

Boy Scout Troop 72 is having its 22nd annual Mother's Day flower sale adjacent to the Colchester Haywood Volunteer Fire Department Headquarters on Old Hartford Road Friday, May 10, from 5-8 p.m., and on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or when sold out.

The scouts will have a large variety of hanging baskets and individual potted plants available on site. All plants are supplied by a local grower.

All proceeds will go to support Troop 72 scout camping and youth training activities. Troop 72 has more than 15 scouts and has been serving Colchester's youth since 1939.



**Members Honored...Fowler-Dix- Park VFW Auxiliary 5095 members Jennifer Shea and Judith Barnes were recognized by Ronald P. Welch, Commission of the CT Department of Veterans Affairs, at an April 25, 2024 Volunteer recognition ceremony.**

## History Museum Open Weekly

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

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

The ABCs of Colchester History.

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

For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at [mail@colchesterhistory.org](mailto:mail@colchesterhistory.org) or 860-537-3240.

## Bacon Academy Honor Roll

**Grade 9 Honors with Distinction:** Raphael Antonacci, Katherine Belding, Hannah Ferrigno, Reina Hill, Rae Lenda, Keegan McKenzie, Cole Mitchell, Kaylee Opalenik, Karah Pensa, Cora Rago, Talia Ramos, Zachary Russo, Katelyn Siena, Toheed Usman, Shauna Wells. High Honors: Jake Ashley, Gehrig Bartiss, Brooke Burchfield, Aidan Claffey, Mia Coca, Kellen Conley, Timothy Crowell, Sarah Deane, Zephyr Harrington, Savanna Healy, Rowan Hodgkins, Madeline Ives, Abigale McGregor, Boden Paul, Ian Sanders, Alexa Smith, Anthony Soto, Riley Trudeau, Jason Trusz, Ashleen Walsh. Honors: Ali Ali, Lilliana Anderson, Cole Boutin, Leah Butterfield, Leah Chen, Zachary Chiarella, Nicolas Chiaverini, Robert Corrado, Skyy Courtemanche, Darareaksmeiy Disher, Jacoby Eisenberg, Lauren Emmons, Leah Eveleigh, Elizabeth Floyd, Cody Friberg, Matthew Galante, Ella Jeffries, Brandon Kapoor, Mason Koji, Paraskevi Koutsofavas, Mason Lenk, Peyton Mikalonis, Joshua Millington, Samantha Moon, Sai Parekh, Chelsea Pirro, Grace Poirier, Maddy Reinholdt, Landon Roderick, Garrett Rodgers, Kagan Ruszala, Kolby Simonds, Autumn Sneed, Mason Steele, Delaney Walsh, Michael Wisniewski.

**Grade 10 Honors with Distinction:** Olivia Alford, Riley Anderson, Alyssa Blanchette, Kylie Boerenko, Benjamin Buyniski, Emma Cote, Ethan Creutz, Bela Dec, Jordan Donnelly, Kiley Filloramo, Charlotte Galarneau, Joseph Gignac, Taryn Gray, Mia Hageman, Brynn Herboldt, Anna Ibey, Troy Johnson, Lily Koziol, Lanie McIlduff, Alyssa Nelson, Wesley Piella, Reagan Reid, Skyelyn Schoen-Rene, Jillian Snow, George Stula, Corinne Toennes, Natalie Uhrig. High Honors: Oakley Adams, Emma Aivaliotis, Caroline Brown, Hector Franceschi-Newton, Emma Gyngell, Leyia Hall, Caden King, Vera Korzhoff, Madison Levasseur, Evan Lovegrove, Andrew Mertz, Olivia Meyer, Sokhano Nguon, Joseph Papale, Allen Quinones, Gianna Riley, Lorelei Romasanta, Mia Santini. Honors: Elijah Banks, Harrison Billiot, Clarence Coogan, Melanie Couture, Julian Dean, Lucian Dean, Arianna Elliott, Bailey Elliott, Liam Goodine, Devon Kudrak, Grayson Mahon, Ian McClain, Oliver Melmed, Madeline Meyer, Cash Mullen, Sydney Ostergren, Ahviel Rodriguez, Alondra Rodriguez-Rivera, Liam Sweeney, Michael Theriaque, Chase Williams

**Grade 11 Honors with Distinction:** Heather Bigalbal, Kaitlyn Brennan, Madison Coons, Lil-

liana Healy, Keggyn Landry, Ethan LoVetere, Juliana Martino, Sophia Melo, Kevin Reas, Charles Rose, Alex Sanchez, Jr., Chloe Sanders, Morgan Tyrrell, Chase Vendrillo, Meghan Zingler. High Honors: Hailey Cardoza, Julia Cavaliere, Jasmine Coca, Isabella Falkowski, Joshua Fenton, Edward Hageman, Bailey Handwerk, Caitryn Holt, Amber Hostetler, Isha Kansagara, Benjamin King, Tanner Kundahl, Kaitlyn Meltsner, Josiah Nolsoe, Ashley Nowakowski, Audrey Palmer, Jameson Pirro, Madden Roderick, Gavin Shkutzko, Olivia Sobota. Honors: Avery Anderson, Ryan Bair, Abby Berk, Jackson Budrow, Zoe Carlson, Jacob Cerniglia, Callum Cuadro, John Dalton, Weston Dzwonchyk, Jean-Paul Fougere, Abigail Grimm, Aaron Hosford, Nicholas June, Timothy Kastrup, Fiona Lin, Anthony Liu, Katelyn Novak, Emilee Pac, Madison Parola, Mutia Quarshie, Alexia Rodriguez, Dominique Sanchez, Garrett Schuth, Sawyer Simone, Veronica Smith, Jason Zingler.

**Grade 12 Honors with Distinction:** Carolyn Baehr, Abigail Belding, Illiana Blanco, Logan Brown, John Ceruti, Sarah Churchill, Kevin Claffey, Emyliah Colon, Emily Ferrigno, Garrett Geleney, Dimitra Goncalves, Xavier Gudelski, Kayla Hall, Jessica-Willow Harris, Taylor Herboldt, Jara Hester, Owen Ibey, Aisha Kasli, Mariam Kasli, Theodore Koutsofavas, Alexa Lebiszczak, Cindy Li, Johannes Liebenberg, Christopher Lusignan, Jack Mallett, Melinda McKenzie, Morgan O'Connor, Tyler Pulse, Sebastian Santini, Holden Serrambana, Clover Skilton, Kiera Stewart, Brianna Tasky, Arlo Waters, Amaya Zavistoski. High Honors: Kayla Balsler, Allison Bartiss, Madison Brown, Colby Butterfield, Jillian Callan, Samantha D'Atri, Andrew Ferrigno, Makayla Gale, Taylor Gerst, Cody Gesiak, Brady Gould, Quintin Henley, Leah Hochholzer, Sean Jolly, Jace King, Logan Lammey, Emma Liberty, Neil Malloy, Alex Mauldin, Lydia Muhl, Caitlyn Neves, Rohan Patel, Leah Putorti, Samuel Ringuette, Lourzinais Sosa Torres, Luke Torneo, Sherlyn Vazquez-Lopez, Hunter Walsh, Meghan Walsh, Dylan Ward, Jay Wikarska, Daniel Wozniak. Honors: Mia Belcamino, Noah Crowell, Jonathan Curry, Grace Eveleigh, Aaron Fidrych, Olivia Hightower, Grant Johnson, Sana Kasli, Isabella Koopman, Madelyn Koziol, Quincy Lawley, Joshua Little, Maya Mancuso, Kaylee Marshall, Gavin Nichols Sanchez, Saniyah Otero, Travis Piella, Ethan Siborg, Shea Sweet, Freddy Zhang



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### Ahavath Achim News

Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., has announced the following schedule:  
**Tuesday:** Aggadata class, 6 p.m.; Talmud class, 6:30 p.m.; Kabbalah class, 8 p.m. on Zoom – call for link.  
**Shabbat Schedule:** Friday at 6:30 p.m., live and on Zoom; Saturday morning, 10 a.m.

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.

### 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.

### Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend. The church choir always welcomes new members. The services are also available on Zoom; visit westchestercongregationalchurch.org for login information.  
 Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.  
**Twelve-Step Meetings:** Al-Anon meets in Canney Hall Wednesdays at 7 p.m. AA meets in Canney Hall Fridays at 7:30 p.m.  
**Scouts:** The church sponsors two Scout BSA units: Troop 109 and Pack 109. During the school year, Troop 109 meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Pack 109 meets monthly on a Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

**Outreach and Other Opportunities:** Knitting Group meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. Many knitted, crocheted, and quilted items have been sent to Native American reservations, hospitals for babies, and other places to help those in need. The Blessings Box is at the end of the church parking lot and contains donations of non-perishable food, personal care, and other items for those in need. Take what you need; donate what you can. The church sponsors The Wounded Warrior Project, a popular donation opportunity to help veterans.  
 For more information, visit westchestercongregationalchurch.org, email westcongregationalchurch@gmail.com or call the church at 860-267-6711. Pastor Ron Lake can be reached at 860-428-3460.

### 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, May 6. Pick up a kit in the children's department. Themes: 4/29, 3D Flower; 5/6, Tacos.  
**Star Wars Day at Cragin:** Saturday, May 4. Pick up a Princess Leia craft, come for a Star Wars Storytime at 10:30 a.m., and find all the Baby Yodas hiding in the children's department.  
**A Court of Fantasy Readers:** Monday, May 6, 5:30 p.m. All are invited to this fantasy book club. *Hurricane Wars* by Thea Guanzon will be discussed. Copies of the book are available at the adult circulation desk.  
**Teen Advisory Board:** Tuesday, May 7, 3-3:30 p.m. Check in with your peers and librarians to talk about making the library the best teen space possible.

**Fairy Garden Opening:** Tuesday, May 7 (rain date: May 14), 4:30 p.m. All are invited! Refreshments will be served. The library thanked the Colchester Garden Club and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library for sponsoring this garden.  
**In-Person Art Night: 3D Ant Craft:** Wednesday, May 8, 6-7 p.m. Stop by the children's department to make a 3D paper craft.  
**Mother's Day Cards:** Thursday, May 9, through Saturday, May 11. Come into the children's department to make a card for a mother, aunt, grandmother, or mother figure in your life.  
**Foodie Fun:** Saturday, May 11. Create a treat after watching the videos with this goodie bag.  
**Success with Hydrangeas:** Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. Lorraine Ballato will discuss all things hydrangea. 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.

### Healthy Living

In Partnership with our Colchester Senior Center, Colchester's Commission on Aging will be presenting "Healthy Living For Your Body and Brain".  
 MaryLou Gannotti, Development and Program Manager for the Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter, will be presenting at the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Avenue, on May 13th at 2:00 p.m. Registrations can be made at the Center at 860-537-3911. There is

no cost to attend, and the public is invited.  
 Join us to learn about current research and practical strategies in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity, and social engagement, and use hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan of healthy living. Finding the right activities requires an understanding of your interests, needs and abilities.

### 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.

### Parks & Rec News & Notes

Colchester Parks and Recreation has announced the following programs and events. Registration required unless noted. For full descriptions and to register, visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. Parks and Rec. can also be reached at 860-537-7297 or at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.  
**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 a 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.  
**Adult Intermediate Yoga:** Mondays, May 6 - June 17. 18+, \$70 residents/\$75 non-residents.  
**Newport Flower Show Tour:** Saturday, June 22. 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., \$185 residents/\$190 non-residents.

### '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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

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# Town Awarded Grant to Treat Invasive Species

By London Brazal

In late February, a representative of the geotechnical and environmental company GZA reported the presence of an aquatic plant in Lake Pocotopaug.

Hydrilla, also known as “water thyme,” is considered one of the world’s most invasive aquatic plants, according to the US Department of Agriculture. Its impact includes crowding out native species and hindering irrigation and boating. The exact acreage of hydrilla in the lake remains unknown. The type of hydrilla discovered in Lake Pocotopaug matches that currently affecting the Connecticut River.

Working alongside the Conservation Lake Commission, Recreation Director Shawn Mullen submitted an application to the Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for funding from its grant programs aimed at controlling aquatic invasive species. It was determined that hydrilla is susceptible to herbicide treatment. The application sought support for a lake-wide herbicidal treatment to tackle the growth of the invasive species, with an estimated cost of about \$135,000.

Last Friday, DEEP announced the recipi-

ents for the fourth annual round of grants for aquatic invasive species control, East Hampton being named as one. The organization received 41 project proposals, amounting to over \$1.6 million in funding requests. A total of \$545,000 has been allocated to 13 projects aimed at mitigating the effects of aquatic invasive species on inland waters in Connecticut. East Hampton’s project is to control and manage the new hydrilla found in Lake Pocotopaug, they were awarded the maximum amount of funding of \$75,000.

The grant announcement coincided with Earth Week and aligned with the Biden Administration’s America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge, launched last week. Connecticut stands as an inaugural member of this partnership, which aims to conserve and restore the nation’s rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands. One of the initiative’s key objectives is to support aquatic ecosystem biodiversity, including addressing the challenges posed by invasive species.

“Aquatic invasive species are not just a threat to our ecosystems, they are a direct attack on fishing, swimming, and boating, the setting for many memorable outdoor recreation experi-

ences,” said DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes in a press release. “These grants will help enable the recipients to do the critical work of researching and controlling aquatic invasives, which will safeguard the quality of our state’s natural resources.”

For this funding cycle, the money went towards eligible projects in control, research, education and outreach. The maximum grant awarded was \$75,000, with a requirement for matching funds, which needed to equal or exceed 25% of the total project cost. Municipalities, state agencies (including state colleges and universities) and nonprofit organizations were eligible recipients. Project proposals could involve restoring inland water bodies by controlling aquatic invasive species, researching these

species and cyanobacteria blooms relevant to Connecticut’s waterways, or conducting education and outreach to raise awareness and prevent the spread of invasive species in the state’s lakes, ponds, and rivers. Control and management projects focused on species existing in the project water body as of December 15, 2023.

GZA has been conducting a detailed survey to identify the locations of hydrillas in the lake and researching effective herbicide treatments. Instead of treating the entire lake, targeting the more concentrated areas of the invasive plant through spot treatment is recommended. The treatment approach should be informed by the survey results, and it was advised to monitor the growth of hydrilla monthly after the herbicide treatment.

## 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.

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

**Children’s Programs: Bubbles & Beats:** Mondays at 10:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. For ages 18 months to 5 years (drop ins and siblings welcome). **Toddler Time:** Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., for children ages 18 months to 3 years; **Stories & Songs:** Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5 years; **Baby Rhyme Time:** Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., for ages birth to 24 months, and their caregivers.

**Teen 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.

**All Ages Program: Book Sale Donation Drop-Off Begins:** Saturday, May 18. The Friends of the Library will be accepting donations of gently used books from Saturday, May 18 through Thursday, May 30 in anticipation of

their Book Sale on Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1. Please bring in your donations during normal library hours. Only books in good condition will be accepted.

**Adult programs: Book Club and Author Event with Katie Tietjen:** Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m. East Hampton High School’s very own Library Media Specialist Katie Tietjen has written a novel, and the Friends of East Hampton Public Library invite you to read her new book and join us for an author event in the Library Rotunda. Copies of the book will be available for borrowing or for sale at the circulation desk.

**Teen programs: 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 super cute sock monster stuffie, you just need to bring your creativity. Registration required, space is limited.

**Cookbook Club – Pioneer Woman:** Tuesday, May 7, 6:30 p.m. The library will provide plates and utensils; all you need is your dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share. This month bring dishes inspired by the popular Food Network star.

The Library hosts several storytimes for ages 0-5 years each week. Please see our calendar for more details.

## 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](http://www.easthamptonrec.com) or show up at Cranberry Bog.

## Police News

4/23: Sherisa Yocher, 39, of 549 Vincelle St., Bridgeport was taken into custody pursuant to an active warrant for her arrest and charged with Breach of Peace in the 2nd Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Breach of Peace in the 2nd Degree.

4/23: Michael Desautels, 41, of 65 Church St., Middletown was taken into custody pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest and charged with Simple Trespass, Breach of Peace in the 2nd Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Breach of Peace in the 2nd Degree.

4/24: After an investigation into a car vs. pole motor vehicle accident in the area of 130 Clark Hill Rd., Craig Salamone, 54, of 23 Bevin Blvd.,

East Hampton was arrested for Failure to Drive Right and Driving Under the Influence.

4/25: Ralph Braun, 63, of 54 Midwood Farm Rd., East Hampton was issued a summons for Traveling Unreasonably Fast and Operating a Motor Vehicle while Under Suspension.

4/25: After an investigation into a two-car motor vehicle accident in the area of West High St., and Cone Rd., Siera Bemby, 24, of 21 Maplewood Terrace, Middletown was issued a ticket for Following Too Closely.

From April 12 - 28, officers responded to 46 medical calls, 5 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 12 alarms, and made 49 traffic stops, police said.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. in East Hampton, invites all to online or in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. Refreshments are served after the service.

**Spring Concert:** The Music Worship Event “Lifted Up Concert of Joy” will be held on May 5 at 9 a.m.

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

**Children’s Ministry:** For children in grades K-5, held in Fellowship Hall during the worship

service. The theme is “Friends with God” and is taught through Bible stories where the characters are friends with God. A toddler nursery is also available. All are welcome.

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

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

**Women’s Fellowship:** The next gathering will be Thursday, May 23, from 1-3 p.m.

**Office Info:** The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The church website is [www.hncovenantchurch.org](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org).

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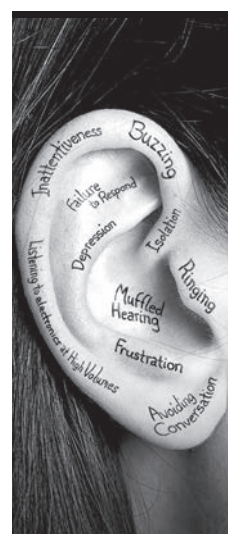
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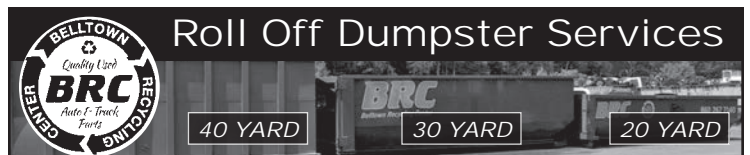
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RE3-22-24

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### Church Tag Sale

The Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam at 52 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam, is hosting a tag sale Saturday, May 18th, 10-2 PM.

Tag sale items, Rada cutlery and baked goods are in the offering at our handicapped accessible church.

### 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](http://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.

### 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.

### 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.

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### Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:abstite@sbcglobal.net)

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

**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](mailto:tensummitst@gmail.com) to register or call 860-262-0248.

### 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 the 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 rehearsals 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 to the public during the third week of camp. Auditions are not mandatory; students who do not audition will be featured in the ensemble. There are also opportunities to learn behind-the-scenes skills, and work as stage and set crew.

Registration and more information on the camp is available by visiting [www.yppca.org](http://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](mailto:info@ypcca.org) for more information.



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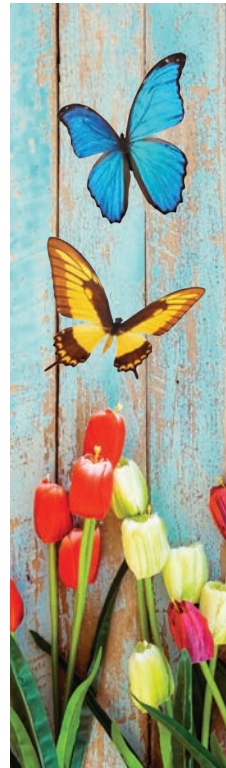
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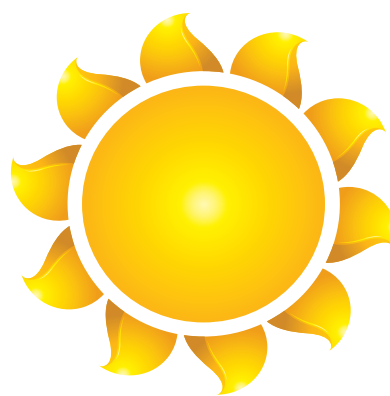
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# EHHS Music Capture “Esprit de Corps” Award

By London Brazal and Olivia Arcari

The East Hampton High School Music Department came home from the Music in the Parks Festival with several awards, but one was especially noteworthy.

From April 18-21, the music department traveled to Virginia for the weekend festival. The events for the festival take place all throughout the spring in cities across the nation. Music In The Parks is an educationally-focused music festival that offers school performing ensembles the opportunity to learn from professional musicians such as professors from local colleges. Its mission is to bring together these student musicians and adjudicator-clinicians for performances, resulting in musical growth, achievement and recognition for both the individuals and the participating music programs.

Since 2012, the EHHS music department has traveled to Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va every four years to compete. The two directors, Andrew Groves (instrumental) and Ehren Brown (choral) attended the competitions when they were in high school and loved how the trips were educational, rewarding and fun. At the event, each performance ensemble performs, gets rated and receives comments from the judges. At the end, the schools gathered for an award ceremony.

For each performance, the five ensembles got one of three ratings as well as a placement in their respective competitive group, the EHHS music department being Class A. The jazz band placed second, the concert band placed fourth

and the marching band placed first. The concert choir placed third and the a cappella group “Voices” placed first. “I was impressed by rating ‘excellence’ in concert and marching,” said Groves. “Jazz was expected. We worked really hard, and we just crushed it for ourselves.” While excitement was high from placing well in each category, the last award the musicians took home was the most special.

The Esprit de Corps Award is bestowed upon the participating organization which demonstrates an outstanding attitude of positive support and exemplary personal behavior throughout the festival weekend. Groves described it as a “crowning achievement” for the ensembles. He noted how the students were recognized for something they already did, and the timing was perfect with Kindness Week happening back home in East Hampton. “The award was gold,” said Brown. “We are most proud of that.” During the performances, the students were quick to cheer on their classmates with standing ovations or chants. For the jazz performance, students rhythmically clapped to join in and get the audience excited.

Students who participated in the Parks Festival had an astounding time with their classmates, making memories and enjoying their well-deserved wins. “I was not shocked that our band won first place,” exclaimed Neha Sidana, a junior who is one of the marching band’s drum majors. “During the performance, our band showed an incredible amount of spirit and focus. I was beaming with pride watching us put



After a long, busy weekend of traveling and competing, the EHHS music department came home with several trophies. However, there was one award they were most proud of, an award that captured the overall spirit and support of the department.

effort into the performance and representing our school.” In their performance, the judges could see how dedicated, hardworking and passionate the marching band is.

Similarly, “Voices” students were thrilled with their first-place ranking and accomplishments. When entering the competition, the a cappella group was labeled as a jazz ensemble which caused some confusion, but the students remained flexible, while getting an “excellence” rating. Lily Cronin, a junior who soloed in “Seasons of Love” from the musical *Rent* said it was odd to be labeled as a jazz choir even though the group classifies as an a cappella group. Brown added that a cappella is a “relatively new phenomenon” so the long-running competition has some room to catch up with modern trends.

Cronin expressed, “I was so excited to have

this opportunity. I am really proud of our entire music department for all the awards we earned as well as getting an overall award for school spirit and respectfulness.” Jillian Oakley, another member of Voices commented that she didn’t know that the school spirit was a category to receive an award in. “Winning it was so exciting though, and everyone was super proud of it,” Oakley said. She went on to explain what it was like competing. “Competing was fun. We got to perform our music to other schools competing as well as getting the opportunity to listen to the other groups.”

Even though the multiple performances were ultimately draining, the music department was proud of their work and felt relief knowing the harder rehearsals were over for now.

## Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

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

## 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](http://www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste) for more information.

## 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](http://myactivecenter.com) or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or [seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov](mailto: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](http://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.

**Mexican Train Dominoes- Returns Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.** New members welcome but you must pre-register.

**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):**

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

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

## Postal Food Drive

On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> mail carriers in East Hampton will be conducting their annual food drive to help replenish the local food bank shelves. This is part of a nationwide effort that has been carries on for more than twenty years.

Because of our struggling economy many families rely weekly on our local food bank.

Donations can be left at your mailbox or brought to the post office lobby. It would be helpful to put items out early as carriers will be assisted by volunteers. Donations should have current use by dates. Thank you for your help.

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](http://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.

**Shopping Trip to Windham Walmart:** Monday, May 13, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Shopping is followed by lunch on your own at a location to be determined. A \$4 transportation donation is requested.

**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](mailto: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.

## EHVFD: Road Closure

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department will conduct its mandatory pressure testing of all fire hose on Wednesday, May 15 (weather permitting). An annual certification requirement, this testing will be conducted in the area of the Fire Department’s Pump House at the western end of Walnut Avenue.

As a result, Walnut Avenue will be closed to through traffic between Main Street and

Watrous Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Residents are advised to utilize alternate routes.

The EHVFD apologies for any inconvenience this one-day road closure may cause to residents and business owners in the area, and firefighters sincerely appreciate the continued support and consideration afforded the Department by those they serve.

## Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to [www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com](http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com) for directions. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers, 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](mailto: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](mailto:bobette@kahn.com) for more information. New members are always welcome.

**Mother’s Day Diaper Drive:** Diapers in sizes 3-5 and 3T-5T will be collected for children in need. Bring your diapers to church on Mother’s Day and honor mothers everywhere.

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

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**Spruced-Up Sign...** The East Hampton Rotary Club recently updated the community events bulletin board with a sign recognizing all state championship teams from East Hampton High School through the years.

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### 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.ct-drafftrescue.org/vendorform](http://www.ct-drafftrescue.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](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org) or [www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue](http://www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue), or email [ctdraftrescue@aol.com](mailto:ctdraftrescue@aol.com).

### Belltown Sprint Sprint & eBike Raffle

The East Hampton High School Project Graduation committee is holding its annual 5K Run/2Mile Walk/Kids Fun Run on Saturday, May 18 at East Hampton High School. Pre-registration can be found at [EHHSPG.com](http://EHHSPG.com). Links to the Spring Sprint and eBike raffle are on the home page. Free race T-shirts are available to the first 50 5K registrants. Students receive a discounted rate. Registration fees increase after May 11<sup>th</sup>. You can also register in person the day of the race beginning at 7:30am.

The 5K and 2 Mile will begin at 9 a.m. A new course takes participants along Lake Potopaug. The Kids Fun Run begins at 10

a.m. Awards will follow the completion of all races along with the eBike raffle drawing (150 ticket limit).

All proceeds from the events help to support an all-night drug and alcohol-free post-graduation party for the seniors of East Hampton High School at no cost to the families. We believe that cost should not be a barrier to keeping our graduates safe and enjoying their significant accomplishments.

For more information or to register go to [EHHSPG.com](http://EHHSPG.com) or contact Ben at [treasurer@ehhspg.com](mailto:treasurer@ehhspg.com).

### Epoch Arts Upcoming Events

Check out what's happening at Epoch Arts. All events are held at 27 Skinner Street East Hampton. [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org)

**Glow Dance Party. Friday, May 10. 7:00-9:00 p.m.** Teens come dressed in your glow clothes, dance to a live DJ and create some original glow paintings. \$10, free food and drinks. 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up.

**Daddy Daughter Dance; Sunday, May 19 4:30-6:30 p.m.** Girls ages 12 and under grab your favorite guy for a wonderful evening of

dinner and dancing. Each girl will take home a craft and have her picture taken with her favorite guy. Register online [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org)

**Henna Workshop. Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. 1:00-3:00 p.m.** Learn the history and origins of henna. Learn how to create your own Henna design and Zentangle and get a professionally applied henna design from Jamilah from Jamilah Henna Creations. Register online. [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org). 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, \$10.

## MAY We See Your Dog? - Fee Forgiveness Program

By London Brazal

For the month of may, the East Hampton Public Library is hosting a fee forgiveness program with one simple task: show a picture of a dog.

The program called, "MAY we see your dog?" was inspired by the Worcester (Mass.) Public Library's "March Meowness" program, where patrons received a waived fee for showing a library staff member a photo of a cat. Its purpose was to help reduce barriers, especially when staff in Worcester knew people were displaced and materials were lost.

The initiative gained national media attention and caught the attention of library director Christine Cachuela. "My veterinarian actually shared it with me," explained Cachuela.

Having worked in veterinary medicine, she thought it was a perfect idea and got information from Worcester's staff along with their blessing to try the program in East Hampton.

Throughout the month of May, patrons can show a picture of a dog to a staff member, and they will forgive one lost or damaged fee. "It's a way to get people who might not be coming back to the library because of outstanding fee, and we wanted to make it our own, so we chose

dog pictures," said Cachuela. If people are using the online presence for audiobooks and other resources, they can email a picture instead. The program does not discriminate, those who do not have a dog can simply take a picture of their neighbor's or show one they drew.

Cachuela hopes that people who come into participate in the fee forgiveness program will see something and start using the library's services again. "While they're here, maybe they will see that new bestseller they wanted to check out or even check out the paddle board," noted Cachuela.

After running some reports, they found about 300 patrons who may no longer be using the library because of fees on their account. Cachuela explained that one fee waived was worth the compromise of trying to get people back into the library. She knows the staff is filled with animal lovers and thinks they're excited about the program. "Some want to hang up their own photos even though they don't have any outstanding fees."

More information is available on the library's website, [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org).

### East Hampton Boy Scout Troop 8's Annual Mother's Day Breakfast

On Sunday May 12 the Boy Scouts of Troop 8 East Hampton will host their annual Mother's Day Breakfast at VFW Post 5095 located at 20 North Maple Street, East Hampton, from 8:00 a.m. - 11 a.m. The scouts will be

servicing a traditional breakfast featuring eggs and our famous home fries. The breakfast will cost \$15 per a person. All proceeds from the breakfast will be used to support the scouting activities of Troop 8.

### 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](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org) for more information.

### 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](mailto:ehctgop@gmail.com) or contact the East Hampton High School guidance department.

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	<b>Canadian Mist Whisky 80°</b> \$18 <sup>99</sup> (1.75 L)	<b>Fleischmann's Gin 80°</b> \$18 <sup>99</sup> (1.75 L)	<b>Jameson Irish Whisky 80°</b> \$29 <sup>99</sup> (750 mL)

WINE	<b>Kendall Jackson Chardonnay</b> \$12 <sup>99</sup> (750 mL)	<b>Yellow Tails Wines</b> \$11 <sup>99</sup> (1.5 L)	<b>Black Box Wines</b> \$19 <sup>99</sup> (3 L box)
	<b>Cavit Wines</b> \$12 <sup>29</sup> (1.5 L)	<b>Cupcake Prosecco</b> \$12 <sup>99</sup> (750 mL)	<b>Rex Goliath Wines</b> \$10 <sup>99</sup> (1.5 L)

BEER	<b>Busch &amp; Lt.</b> 12 oz., 30-pack cans \$19 <sup>99</sup>	<b>Mich. Ultra</b> 12 oz., 30-pack cans \$28 <sup>99</sup>
	<b>Truly Hard Seltzer</b> 12 oz., 2/12-pack cans \$31 <sup>49</sup>	<b>Twisted Tea</b> 12 oz., 2/12-pack bottles \$29 <sup>99</sup>

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## Obituaries

## East Hampton

## Michael Petrow

Michael Albert Petrow, age 81, of Lakeland, Florida, died on March 22, 2024, holding his beloved wife's hand. Mike passed from a massive stroke at Florida's Lakeland Regional Hospital. Mike was born on April 25, 1943, in Hartford, Connecticut, son of Michael and Parmelia "Pat" DesMarchias Petrow of East Hampton, Connecticut.



Mike is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Gertrude "Trudy" Loisel Petrow. Also surviving Mike are his brother and sister-in-law, Robby and Phronzie Petrow, of Colchester, CT; their two sons Chad and Brett, and their grandsons Cameron and Devin; his sister and brother-in-law, Laurie and Larry Willey of Vermont; their daughter, Jamie, and son, Zackary. Also, his sister-in-law, Connie Petrow, and her daughters Desiree and Tricia. He also leaves many friends from wherever he lived, especially his Class of 1961 East Hampton High School classmates, and his special friends, Ron Wallace and his wife, Linda, of Cobalt, Connecticut.

He is predeceased by his brother, Albert Petrow, and Albert's daughter, Stacey, Mike's niece.

Mike grew up in East Hampton, Connecticut, was a member of the East Hampton High School Class of 1961, where he excelled in gymnastics and was an excellent varsity soccer player. He and his wife attended many of the class reunions.

Mike began his military career right after high school in 1961, put in 22 years of service, and retired in 1982. As an Army Sergeant E-7, Mike first served in Panama, South America, where Mike and Trudy got married in 1964; then did a tour in Viet Nam in 1966, and returned for another two and a half year tour in Panama. His service in data processing took them to live in Texas, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Germany, and finally to Vermont where he was an Army recruiter; he retired in Vermont. But he then "re-upped" for another stint in the Army stationed at La Guardia Airport in New York.

Upon final retirement from the Army, Mike took a police officer position in St Johnsbury, Vermont for the next 12 years as a Sergeant and taught the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) classes to students in the local schools in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Upon retirement from the police force, he worked at Dad's- 4-Buy Hardware Store in St. Johnsbury, VT, and enjoyed working on a local tomato farm.

For the last 22 years, Mike and Trudy have been living in Lakeland, Florida that they call their home. Friends had told them about the "Sun and Fun Air Museum" in Lakeland and its volunteer opportunities and advantages. They purchased a large RV motor home and moved

onto the Sun and Fun RV camping property with their cats.

Mike's volunteer interests were primarily in restoring a one-of-a-kind vertical riser aircraft (takes off like a helicopter) and doing volunteer odd jobs during the fly-in air shows of small aircraft at Sun and Fun in Lakeland, Florida.

His enjoyment of playing golf in his younger years matched his love of watching golf in his retirement. Mike was a fun-loving, personality-plus person, and loved everyone he met. He loved playing Bocce, and cribbage, and his adventurous spirit took him and Trudy to 46 states in their RV motor home, exploring and making new friends wherever they went.

He was a Post Commander (1980-1981) as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 793, St. Johnsbury, VT; also, was an active member in St Johnsbury's American Legion Post, Moose Club and Elks Lodge

At this time, there are no plans for the memorial service, which will be private. Instead of flowers, please consider a memorial gift in Mike's name to the American Cancer Society or your favorite health-related society. Mike felt, that with so many sicknesses, disabilities and diseases, donations are needed where and when anyone can give to help find cures now.

## East Hampton

## Pamela Jeanne Powell

Pamela Jeanne Powell (Hudlett) passed away unexpectedly at Middlesex Memorial Hospital, Middletown, Connecticut, on Sunday April 21, 2024, surrounded by family.

She was born on December 2, 1946, in Rochester, New York, to Elizabeth Jennings Hudlett and August Frederick Hudlett. The family moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Pam graduated from Stranahan High School in 1964 and was the recipient of the Sandy Nininger award. She worked in the family business at Croissant Park Day School, which later became Hudlett Day School. She loved to travel and visited multiple continents. She cared for her parents until their passing in 1998 and 2006. In August 2020, she moved to East Hampton, Connecticut, to be closer to her daughter, Melinda, her son-in-law Michael Rose, and her three grandchildren, Braeden, Morgan and Meagan Rose. She is predeceased by her parents, her brother, Frederick, and her sister, Patricia Miko, and survived by her brother Jeffery John Hudlett, and nieces and nephews.

Entombment will be at Lauderdale Memorial Cemetery, next to her parents and near other family members.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Her family would especially like to thank her caregiver from Visiting Angels, the East Hampton Police Department, East Hampton ambulance service and the Middlesex ER and Hospice doctors, nurses and staff for their care and support in her time of need. To leave online condolences please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

## Robert Georgens

Robert Alan Georgens, 76, of Sanibel, Fla., and Colchester, Conn., passed away suddenly on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Born March 27, 1948, in New York, he was a son of the late Frederick and Florence (Burns) Georgens. Robert was a 1966 graduate of Hicksville Highschool. Shortly after graduating he enlisted in the United States Army. After being honorably discharged he met his future wife, Donna (Desillier), they married in 1973. For years Robert worked at Electric Boat in Groton as a pipe fitter. In his spare time, he enjoyed vacationing with Donna in their Florida home, and spending time at the beach. When the opportunity presented itself, he would go on hunting and fishing trips or just spend the day tending to his garden. His greatest joy in life came from his family, he loved spending time with his grandchildren and fully embraced his role as a grandfather.

He is survived by his wife Donna Georgens; children Kelby (Tina) Georgens Bryce (Krista) Georgens and Leah (Kevin) Fennell; sister Roberta Grimsley; 11 grandchildren; and numerous other extended family and friends. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his brother Rodney Georgens.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 10 to 12 PM at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home 167 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester, Conn., 06415.

## East Hampton

## Charles I. Walton

Charles I. Walton, 77, of East Hampton, widower of Beverly Ann (Spring) Walton, passed away at his home on Sunday April 28, 2024.

Born Dec. 12, 1946 in Hartford, CT, he was the son of the late Charles and Gertrude (Grover) Walton. Chuck was a life long resident of East Hampton. Charles was married to his beloved wife Beverly for 42 years. They enjoyed traveling together and enjoyed many adventures. Chuck was a proud Vietnam War US Air Force veteran. Having served his country that he loved, he returned home and joined VFW Post 5095 in East Hampton, where he was a life long member of the post. Chuck held many officer positions of the post including Post Commander and Commander of District 6. Chuck's quiet and gentle demeanor made him a favorite of anyone who visited his beloved post. None were more special to Chuck than his dear friends, Ted Turner and Roger Anderson who remained closest of friends and comrades of Post 5095. Charles worked at Pratt & Whitney after coming out of the military and then worked for the State of Connecticut at Central Connecticut State University.

He is survived by his daughter Linda Murray of East Hampton, brother Matthew Walton and wife Beverly of East Hampton, sister Annette Walton Kowalczyk and her husband Robert of East Hampton also his niece Melanie Walton



Carden (Coley), three nephews Quentin Walton (Raquel), Michael Kowalczyk (Christine) and Robert Kowalczyk, great nephew Pierce Walton and great niece Lauren Walton. Besides his parents and wife Beverly he was predeceased by his brother, Michael and sister Mary Louise. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton on Monday May 6th from 5:00 p.m., until 7:00 p.m. Burial with military honors will be held Thursday, May 9th at 10 a.m. in the CT State Veteran's Cemetery on Bow Lane in Middletown. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to VFW Post 5095 East Hampton, CT 06424. To leave online condolences please visit [www.spencerfuneral-homeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneral-homeinc.com).

## Middletown

## Sebastiano Salafia

Sebastiano "Sebby" Salafia, 87, passed peacefully surrounded by his loving family on April 24th at Middlesex Hospital. Born on January 30th, 1937, in Melilli, Sicily, he was the son of the late John and Carmelina (Girgenti) Salafia. He emigrated to the United States in 1956 at the age of 19 on the Andrea Doria and settled in Middletown, CT, with his sisters and parents. In 1960, he returned to Italy to marry his wife Carmelina Cannata. Together they returned to Middletown, CT where they built their family dynasty.

Sebastiano was a hard worker, dedicated friend, faithful husband, proud uncle, protective brother, strict father, and devoted grandfather. He was a very strong individual who fought to live despite having several medical conditions. Everyone who met him couldn't help but notice his beautiful crystal green eyes which sparkled with pride when he was amongst family and friends.

Sebastiano is survived by his loving wife Carmelina, and his three children, John Salafia and wife Robin, Enza Hofferth, and Silvana Pepitone; he was predeceased by his son-in-law Salvatore Pepitone. He treasured his time with his seven grandchildren; Alicia Wylaz and husband Damian, John Salafia and wife Briana, Robert Hofferth and wife Devyn, Alyssa Hofferth, Matthew Hofferth, Joseph Pepitone, Sofia Pepitone; and three great-grandchildren Olivia Wylaz, Jack Wylaz, and Nella Salafia. He loved being their Nonno, always being there for them. He is also survived by his three beautiful sisters Josephine Giardina, Lucy Milardo, and Mariuccia Andolina; and a brother-in-law Giuseppe Cannata and wife Tina. As well as, many nieces, nephews, and cousins both here in the United States and Italy. He was predeceased by his mother and father-in-law Sebastiano and Vincenza Cannata and sister/brother-in-laws Carmelo Cannata and wife Tina, Emanuel Giardina, Mario Milardo, Corrado Andolina, and Lucia Cannata.

Sebastiano worked in many trades including tiling and plumbing before retiring from Pratt and Whitney in 1996 at the age of 59. He was a member of St. Sebastian Church in Middletown and the Italian Society. His passions were hunting, fishing, crabbing, making homemade wine, gardening and he loved to cook. He was an incredible man and will be missed every day. His memories will live on in the hearts of all those who loved him. "Ti vogliamo bene..... assai, assai."

We are grateful to his home caretakers, Nola and Sharon, for their care and assistance from 2021-2023. As well as, the staff on the fourth floor of Water's Edge Center for Health and Rehabilitation.

Friends and Family may call at the Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St. Middletown, on Sunday, May 5th, from 5-7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Sebastian Church, 155 Washington St., Middletown, on Monday, May 6th at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be held in the family plot in St. Sebastian Cemetery Middlefield following the Mass.

In Lieu of flowers, a donation in memory of Sebastiano Salafia can be sent to either St. Sebastian's Church Renovation Fund or Middlesex Health Hospice Unit, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457. <https://middlesex-health.org/donate/hospice-donation-form>



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## Obituaries

## Colchester

## James Chrystal

James B. Chrystal Sr., 85, of Colchester, Conn., passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Thursday, April 25th 2024 at Middlesex Hospital.



He was born March 02, 1939 in Hartford, CT to the late Charles and Lillian Bartlett Chrystal. James was a retired Hartford Police Detective of 34 years. Although retiring July 17, 1996 from the Hartford Police Department, Jim pursued a career as a security officer, working for the Hartford Federal Building and the Willimantic Social Security Office for another 15 years. He was also a member of the Patrolman's Benevolent Association. Jim loved fishing and boating, he enjoyed bowling and watching his favorite UCONN Girl's Basketball. He loved animals and especially spending time with his beloved dogs. We will miss his great sense of humor and cherish him in our hearts forever.

Along with his parents, Jim is predeceased by his brother Charles Chrystal and his sister Barbara Merzwa. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years Sandra; his daughter Angela Chrystal, his son James Chrystal Jr. all of Colchester, CT; grandchildren Dylan Dinsmoor of Colchester, Meleena Campisi of East Hampton, James Chrystal III of Portland and Taylor Chrystal of Tennessee.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Middlesex Hospital ICU and hospice for their care and compassion.

The family will receive relatives and friends Friday, May 3rd from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Rose Hill Funeral Home 580 Elm St. Rocky Hill, CT. A Celebration of James's Life will be Saturday, May 4th at 11:00 a.m., also at Rose Hill Funeral Home. A private burial in the Rose Hill Memorial Park will be Monday, May 6th. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org) or 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105. You may also choose Vested Interest in K-9's P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA. 02718.

For online condolences, memories or photo tributes, please visit [www.rosehillfuneralhome.com](http://www.rosehillfuneralhome.com)

## East Hampton

## Barbara Maloney Warzecha

Barbara Maloney Warzecha, widow of Stanley G. Warzecha, Jr., of East Hampton, died on April 23, 2024. Born in Bridgeport on December 2, 1930, she was the daughter of the late Thomas and Sylvia Tiberio Maloney, and resided in East Hampton since 1952.



She was a graduate of Luralton Hall (Milford, CT), the New York Institute of Dietetics, and Regents College SUNY. She was a dietitian at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London where she met her future husband, who was a patient there, and they were married for 62 years until his death in 2013.

She was a Senior Analyst in the Office of Research at the CT Department of Labor, retiring in 1997. She was long active in civic groups. She was town treasurer for three terms (1967-1973); a director of the East Hampton Library and Library treasurer (1957-1973); a former secretary-treasurer of the East Hampton Chamber of Commerce; treasurer of the East Hampton Water and Sewer Authority (1967-1974); a former president of the Belltown Garden Club and East Hampton Little Theatre Guild; treasurer of the town's 1967 Bicentennial Committee; a former coporator of City Savings Bank and Farmers and Mechanics Bank; and chairman of the Republican Town Committee. She was a "stringer" for the Hartford Courant from 1963-1973.

She is survived by four children: Barbara (Thomas) Puffer (Guilford and Fort Myers Beach, FL), Kenneth (Kristen) Warzecha (Colchester), Stanley (Roberta) Warzecha (Hollywood, FL), and Sylvia (William) DeMore (Middle Haddam). She is also survived by six grandchildren: Jeffrey (Kimberly) Warzecha; William (Emma Weber), Michael (Krystal Fredette), and Nicholas DeMore; and Elizabeth and Jennifer Warzecha - and two great grandchildren: Jaxson and Beckett Warzecha. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law Barbara Clark and Cheryl Warzecha. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death

by her widowed step-father, William Johnson, whom she cared for until he was 101.

The family would like to thank the many health professionals who have treated her for their kindness and compassion, especially Mavis Osei, her wonderful live-in caretaker for the last two years, and most recently, Yvonne Heywood.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated on Friday, May 3rd, at 11:30 a.m. at St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. Burial will follow at the State Veterans' Cemetery, Middletown. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton on Friday morning from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Luralton Hall, 200 High Street, Milford, Conn., 06460 ([www.luraltonhall.org/support-lh/giving](http://www.luraltonhall.org/support-lh/giving)). To leave online condolences please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Hebron

## Lee C. Milligan

Lee C. Milligan, 81, of Glastonbury passed away on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. She was the widow of David G. Milligan.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, Lee was the daughter of the late Harry E. and Claire (Flynn) Carpenter. Lee attended the University of Rhode Island where she earned her bachelor's degree and met the love of her life, David. They were married for 46 years.

Her life was dedicated to raising her children and providing a loving and supportive home. She treasured time with her family, especially her grandchildren, and would enjoy having regular family gatherings at her home. Lee had a love for life that included many interests. She traveled to NYC once a month with friends to see Broadway plays, volunteered countless hours for many of her children's activities, and found joy in country-line and Zydeco dancing with Dave and friends.

Lee had a love of nature and enjoyed working long hours in her garden. She would drop everything for a trip to the garden nursery for new plants. She was a member of the Glastonbury Country Gardeners Club for 40 years and helped create and maintain local public gardens. She was also a member of the John Tom Hill Community Club in Glastonbury, where she began her interests with quilting. She enjoyed working with her hands and made numerous Christmas ornaments and quilts that she enjoyed giving out to family and friends. Lee was a member of the St. James Episcopal Church in Glastonbury, CT.

Lee is survived by her three sons; Ted Milligan of VA, Scott Milligan and his wife Ayana of Old Lyme, Daniel Milligan and his wife Bridget of MA, her daughter Amy Bush and her husband Chris of Hebron, her grandchildren Claire, Ryan, and Sophie Bush; Clara and Greta Milligan, her sister Fay Carpenter of Fairfield, and her sister-in-law Karen Carpenter of Florida. In addition to her husband and parents, Lee was predeceased by her brother Robert Carpenter and her brother-in-law Alan Weiner.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, May 9 at 11 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 2584 Main St., Glastonbury, CT with reception to follow. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends may call on Wednesday, May 8 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, CT.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the John Tom Hill Community Club, JTHCC-Secretary, 19 Buck Rd Amston, CT 06231, Evergreen Country Gardeners 6 Brimfield Way, Rocky Hill, CT 06067, and the Watch Hill Conservancy 222 Watch Hill Rd., Watch Hill, RI, 02891. For online tributes please visit [www.mulryanfh.com](http://www.mulryanfh.com).

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## Marlborough

## Barbara Coleman Roberts

Barbara Coleman Roberts, 91, of Athens, Georgia, formerly of Marlborough, Connecticut passed away on Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

Barbara was born in Ellsworth, Maine on July 3, 1932. Her family moved to Marlborough in 1938.

Barbara graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BA degree in Education, specializing in Physical Education. She began her teaching career at Glastonbury High School in 1954.

She married Zane Linden Roberts in 1956. She took a break from teaching when her children were born. When both children were in elementary school, she returned to Glastonbury High School to fill an opening in the PE department until the end of the school year. The following year she helped set up a Physical Education program for the new Gideon Wells school. She taught there for the remainder of her career.

Barbara enjoyed teaching. A highlight was teaching gymnastics and working with her students to produce gymnastics shows.

She retired from teaching in 1979 to care for

two senior members of the family. After two years, with the family members stabilized, she accepted an Accounts Payable position with Cleary Millwork in Rocky Hill.

Upon her retirement from Cleary, she returned to volunteer work at the Marlborough Senior Center, the American Legion Post 197 and the Marlborough Congregational Church. In retirement she enjoyed her favorite activities: playing golf, watching UCONN women's basketball and cheering on the Boston Red Sox.

In 2015, Barbara and her husband Zane, moved to Athens, Georgia to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Barbara is predeceased by her sister Louise Coleman Nichols and her brother Fred Coleman. She is survived by her husband, Zane Roberts. Her cousin, Elaine Bentley. Her daughter Pam (Mike) Ratti and son Zane (Cora) Roberts, Jr. Grandchildren Jenny (Shane) Martin, Heather (Manny) Diaz, Zane Michael Roberts and Rachel (Chris) Wheeler. Great-grandchildren Brayden, Jackson, and Caleb Martin; Bodhi and Raife Wheeler; Lola and Luca Diaz.

## Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover



## Seila Mosquera-Bruno, commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Housing announces \$300,000 in state funding.

## ★ Affordable Housing cont. from page 1

through the preliminary phase, including architectural work. Then, the organization overseeing the project will likely make an additional request for money to help supplement the actual construction work.

Looking ahead, Mosquera-Bruno believes the project is in "good hands."

"They're working together," she said. "People are involved because they wanted to see their town conform."

Overall, the expected amount predevelopment funding required to move forward is likely close to \$1.5 million, Kolanowski explained, adding it was a "huge amount" to cover.

But the newfound grant, which Kolanowski emphasized was not a lease, would expedite the process.

"It's happening," he said. "This is going to happen here."

One of the persisting problems plaguing the project was the lack of an adequate water supply. There are waterlines, but they aren't plentiful, he said. Once that issue is fully addressed, Kolanowski believes additional monetary support will follow.

In August, Commons CDC was awarded a \$2.1 million grant through the state's "Connecticut Communities Challenge Grant" program, administered through the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). That funding was appropriated towards new town infrastructure, such as water wells, that benefits both the affordable housing project along with the entire Hebron town center. Current test wells, Kolanowski added, have shown promise that the land will be viable for housing units.

In the award letter, the DECD noted there is currently "insufficient water capacity to grow the Town Center."

"This infrastructure initiative is essential to Hebron's ability to develop a visually coherent Town Center that provides recreational activities, economic development opportunities, potential for job creation, and future developments including affordable housing."

Matthew Pugliese, deputy commissioner at DECD, said this week that the new wells and infrastructure were being built "to help facilitate

this great idea" by Commons CDC.

"This application stood out when DECD was reviewing it because it was coming from Hebron," he said. "We need housing and we need density in our small, rural towns."

He credited the spirit of the community for pursuing affordable housing initiatives, expressing that "it's inspiring to see a community where you all are doing that."

A crucial component of the project's completion will be town leadership. Peter Kasper, the chairman of the Board of Selectmen, applauded the work being done by Commons CDC, and recalled how Kolanowski had previously presented information at local board meetings.

"It has to start somewhere," he said. "And it has to start with someone willing to take a risk, someone willing to have a vision, someone willing to have the courage to bring that forward."

Kasper added that the group has the "courage to have Hebron be at the forefront of this important issue."

In October, the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE), which serves Hebron, Marlborough, Andover and Columbia, sponsored a panel discussion intended to explore affordable housing options and dispel myths associated with new developments.

During that discussion — also held at St. Peter's — residents largely expressed support for more affordable options in town. Panelist Brandon L. McGee, Jr., the deputy commissioner of state Department of Housing, conveyed at the time that "affordable housing isn't an issue."

"It should be considered a basic need that everybody has a right to," he asserted.

McGee added that the CHFA was allocating millions of dollars for local assistance on behalf of the department of housing, and there were many buckets of funding available.

"A community simply has to choose what they want to do and we can help you make that a reality," he said.

This week, Kolanowski was optimistic that stakeholders appeared to be rallying behind the project, conveying that more progress was hopefully on the way.

"There's huge momentum," he said.

# Budget Sent to Town Meeting

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Andover Board of Finance adopted a 2024-25 fiscal year budget following a public hearing last week.

The approved spending plan was scheduled to be presented at a town meeting on Wednesday evening, after press time, with the finalized blueprint potentially being sent to referendum.

If a budget is approved at the town meeting this week, the referendum would be scheduled for May 14. However, if a budget is not adopted, a second town meeting would be held next week on May 8, according to Andover Town Clerk Carol Lee.

At the town meeting, residents can only reduce the budget; they can not increase the total.

Separately, the referendum on the RHAM budget will be held regardless next Tuesday, May 7; voting will take place at the Andover Town

Hall located on 17 School Road from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. The overall RHAM proposal is \$31.79 million — a 2.1% increase over the current year.

During its April 24 meeting, the BOF voted 4-2 in favor of the overall budget; the board's vice chairman, Joanne Hebert, and Kimberly Person voted in opposition; Robert England was absent.

The total expenditure is slated for \$12.84 million — a \$367,647 increase over the current fiscal year.

When fused with \$2.67 million in additional revenue sources and \$150,000 of unassigned fund balance, the amount to be raised through taxation comes in at \$10.05 million — a \$107,247, or 1.1%, increase.

The budget is broken down into three main comments: town, local school district and the

RHAM school district.

The Andover Elementary School budget is \$4.35 million — a \$113,262, or 2.7% increase; the RHAM budget is \$4.15 million — a \$343,307 decrease, which includes a \$119,800 credit from a prior budget surplus; the town budget is \$4.34 million — a \$597,692, or 16%, increase.

Overall, the resulting mill rate would be 31.46 — a .55% increase.

Before voting, Hebert was hesitant to sign off on a significant increase in expenditures.

"That's a huge amount of money," she said. Throughout its budget deliberations, the BOF has thoroughly discussed the funding for the town's new community center, including the salary for a new director, which the board pre-

viously dropped down from \$60,000 to \$50,000.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson said the original goal was to find a single individual to handle the responsibilities of the community center, senior center and recreational director, as well as write grant applications.

When asked by a resident during the public hearing if he'd be able to find someone to handle those tasks with a compensation level of \$50,000, Anderson replied, "Honestly, no."

"But that's the budget I was given, so that's where we're going with it."

*Additional information regarding the Andover budget will be found in next week's edition of the Riverast.*

## Congregational Church News

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

## Dean's List

Andover resident Sylvia Rojek made the fall 2023 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

A psychology major, Rojek is the daughter of Jolanta and Lech Rojek.

## Cheney Tech Honor Roll Quarter 3

Damien Mader (9) of Amston, Madison Bassett (10) of Andover, Carah Hunter (12) of Andover, Brian Sullivan (12) of Hebron, Logan Kolakowski (12) of Marlborough, Ryan Martins (12) of Marlborough.

## 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](mailto:townclerk@andoverct.org).

Due date for letters is May 13.

## Kindergarten Registration

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

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

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

## 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.

## 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.

## EDC Developing Map, Farm Directory

The Andover Economic Development Commission is putting together a "Buy Andover Grown" map and directory of local farms to help support agriculture in town.

Anyone in town who grows/raises and offers for sale local produce, cut flowers, eggs, meat, honey and maple syrup are welcome to add their farm to the directory. Those who

offer farm-based services such as horseback riding and boarding are also encouraged to participate. Sign up by completing a form at [tinyurl.com/AndoverGrowersGoodsForm](http://tinyurl.com/AndoverGrowersGoodsForm) by May 10.

Email questions to the EDC at [edc@andoverct.org](mailto:edc@andoverct.org).

## Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

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

**Shopping Dates:** Shopping Dates: Willimantic: 5/7, 5/21 and Tuesday Manchester 5/14, 5/28. Call Palazzi for transportation.

**Next Lunch:** May 3. Due to the many events in May, there will only be one lunch date. Call Palazzi for reservations.

**Upcoming Trips:** Trip planned to Elizabeth Park with lunch at Chili's on Friday, May 17th. Trip to Maritime Aquarium on Friday, May

24th. Please contact Carol Lee if interested.

**RHAM Budget Vote:** Tuesday, May 7. Transportation is available; contact Palazzi.

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

**Transportation Available:** Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums, board meetings and medical appointments are available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans, disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you. Also, call Palazzi if you need a ride to this Saturday's tag sale.

Bus available for Food Pantry on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. Shopping on Tuesdays to either Manchester or Willimantic. Please note: Since we have not had any seniors sign up for Food Pantry on Wednesdays we have closed that day for Food Pantry and will use the day for medicals. There will still be a bus for Food Share every other Wednesday. This effects Wednesdays only NOT Monday evening Food Pantry. Call Palazzi if you need transportation or have questions about this change in schedule.

task of creating a thing of beauty where for many years stood a neglected and dismal parcel of land with several large rotting and eroded tree stumps, a sugar maple tree that was 80% dead and was dropping large limbs close to the beautiful stone wall that marked the entrance into the only active cemetery in our small town. The terrain itself was an uneven plot of land between Townsend Road and the entrance into the cemetery that was littered with large rocks poking out from the cut weeds that the lawn mower would routinely clip.

In March at the request of the Beautification Committee the Board of Selectmen had the remaining sugar maple tree taken down, *Chip-a-Stump* ground down the stumps and the Town Public Works crew removed the wood chips. *Ron's Professional Landscaping* then removed the large rocks, added topsoil, regraded the area, and then seeded the area.

Because the Beautification Committee has a modest budget for planting flowers at different locations around town they applied for a grant from the *Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Andover Greater Together Grant Fund* and were delighted to learn in January they had been awarded funding for this project.

Townsend Cemetery is the final resting place for many of the 3,300 Andover residents. It is visited by many on special occasions such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, etc. The Beautification Committee is pleased this project was able to be completed in time for Mother's Day when many folks visit the grave of loved ones.

## Andover Beautification Committee Removes Blemish

The Andover Beautification Committee in conjunction with the Townsend Cemetery Committee, Selectman, Scott Person, the Town Public Works crew, Ron's Professional Landscaping, "Chip-a-Stump" and project manager Dianne Grenier have just eradicated a blemish on the Andover landscape.

The Townsend Cemetery has a beautiful stone wall along Townsend Road with an iron gate that was installed in 1934 that greets visitors. The area between the stonewall and the road was once graced with a half dozen beautiful sugar maples as far back as the 1700s. Several years ago the Town of Andover had all but one of the sugar maples taken down because of disease or sightline issues. The Town Tree Warden has determined the last tree now also needs to be taken down.

The area between the stone wall and Townsend Road is acknowledged by the Cemetery Corporation and the Board of Selectmen, to be in the Town right-of-way and therefore not the responsibility of the Cemetery Corporation. Yet the Cemetery Corporation mows the area and in the past has cleared it of brush.

When the sugar maples were taken down the tree stumps were left to rot and soil erosion took place creating a very unattractive sight. In discussions with the Town Board of Selectmen in the fall of 2023, they said they had no interest in having the tree stumps removed as it would set a precedent. The Townsend Cemetery Corporation is a non-profit corporation that has no funds for such a project.

The Beautification Committee took on the

## Chili Postponement

The Andover Chili Cook-Off scheduled for Saturday, May 4 has been postponed to a later date. New date has yet to be announced.

## 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.

## Dean's List

Kyle Hewett of Andover made the fall 2023 Dean's List at SUNY Delhi in Delhi, N.Y.

Hewett is pursuing a bachelor's in construction management: design and building.

## Craft Supply Tag Sale

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6 in Andover will be holding a Craft Supply Tag Sale on Saturday June 1. Tables are available for \$20. This event will be great for teachers, crafters, day care providers, Sunday school teachers and creative folks. Please leave a message at the church office, 860-742-7696 for an application.

## Scholarship Available for Andover Students

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

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

Application deadlines are May 3.

## Andover Friends of Library Event

On Friday, May 17 the library will have a Goods & Services Auction at the Andover Town Hall Community Room at 6:30 p.m. (Preview begins at 6 p.m.). Place your bid on so many wonderful goods and services, buy a yummy baked treat, visit with your friends and neighbors, and support the Friends' fundraising efforts for your Andover Public Library.

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



# LEGALS

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

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

1. **Petition #2024-14** - Application of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to approve a comprehensive update of the Hebron Plan of Conservation and Development, as provided for in Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes, a copy of the draft Plan is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

**Planning and Zoning Commission**  
May 14, 2024, 7:00-10:00 PM (America/New\_York)  
**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://meet.goto.com/541828197>  
**You can also dial in using your phone.**  
Access Code: 541-828-197  
United States: +1 (224) 501-3412  
**Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:**  
<https://meet.goto.com/install>

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 30th day of April 2024.  
Frank Zitkus, Chair

2 TB 5/3, 5/10

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice to Democrats of Marlborough, Connecticut for the purpose of selecting Justices of the Peace on the Democratic slate. To all enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Marlborough, pursuant to the rules of the Democratic Party, and state election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM, 180 Saner Road, Marlborough. Check-in will begin at 6:30 PM. Please send questions to: [Amvrooman@gmail.com](mailto:Amvrooman@gmail.com). All enrolled members of the Marlborough Democratic Party are welcome to attend.  
Aileen Vrooman, Secretary  
Marlborough Democratic Town Committee

1 TB 5/3

**MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its special meeting on April 25, 2024, took the following actions:  
APPLICATION APPROVED:  
APPLICATION #Z-03-24 – 314 Jones Hollow Rd (Applicant) Kristen DellaRocco (Property Owner) Construction of accessory building with conditions.  
APPLICATION #Z-04-24 – 86 E Hampton Rd (Applicant) Farm on Carter Hill (Property Owner) 2024 Public Events with conditions.  
APPLICATION #Z-09-24 – 303 So Main St (Applicant) Chateau Le Gari (Property Owner) Public Music Festival with conditions.  
ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

1 TB 5/3

**LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE OF THE MARLBOROUGH REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE CAUCUS TO SELECT FIVE MEMBERS TO SERVE AS JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

To all legal Marlborough voters registered as members of the Republican Party, notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Rules of Republican Party and the State of Connecticut, a caucus will be held Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6 P.M. in the Marlborough Senior Center, School Drive, Marlborough, CT. Check-in begins at 5:30 P.M.  
Contact Barbara Murray at (860) 543-2050 or email [jamurray076@gmail.com](mailto:jamurray076@gmail.com) with any questions.  
Barbara C. Murray  
MRTC Secretary

1 TB 5/3

**Town of Portland  
Notice of Budget Referendum  
Monday May 13, 2024**

Pursuant to Chapter 12, Section 1201, of the Charter of the Town of Portland and Chapter 90 and 152, of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended, notice is hereby given to the electors and the citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Portland that a Referendum will be held on May 13, 2024 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. for the purpose of voting on the adoption of a budget for the Town of Portland.

"SHALL THE GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT ITS MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2024, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025, AMOUNT BEING \$40,050,813 BE ADOPTED?"  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is:  
Portland Middle School  
93 High Street  
Portland, Connecticut  
Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office at 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut during business hours. Absentee ballots will be counted at the polls. Optical Scan Voting Tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 A.M.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening. (8:00 P.M.)  
ATTEST: Michael V. Tierney  
Portland Town Clerk  
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 29th day of April, 2024.

2 TB 5/3, 5/10

**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](http://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  
TOWN OF ANDOVER  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
PUBLIC HEARING  
7:00 P.M., MAY 16, 2024  
COMMUNITY ROOM - TOWN HALL  
17 SCHOOL ROAD**

The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., May 16, 2024 in the Community Room of the Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road to solicit comment on the application of Walter Tedford for the property located at 25 Lakeside Drive. The applicant is seeking relief from Section 11.2 of the Andover Zoning Regulations so as to allow for the reduction in the required side yard setback by 9'; from 25' to 16' in order to construct a 4.5' x 10' deck. Comments/questions regarding the application will be entertained at the hearing. Written comments submitted to the Building and Land Use Office ([zoning@andoverct.org](mailto:zoning@andoverct.org)) a minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting will be read aloud and entered into the Public Hearing record. Additional details can be found on line at the Town of Andover's web-site or by visiting the Building and Land Use Office at the Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road or by calling 860.742.7305, extension 4220.  
Jim Hallisey  
Zoning Agent

2 TB 5/3, 5/10

**COLCHESTER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 7:00 P.M., in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petition:  
**Certificate of Appropriateness- COA 2024-001** of The Granite Group/Sink & Spout (Applicant) and Todd Gustafson (Owner)- 120 South Main Street (MBL # 16-00/070-000) – Application for Certificate of Appropriateness to install street and building signage for the Granite Group/Sink & Spout showroom.  
At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection in the Planning and Zoning Department at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT 06415 and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday)  
Historic District Commission  
Ellen Sharon, Chair

2 TB 5/3, 5/10

**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](mailto:building@marlboroughct.net), and oral testimony may be given during the public hearing.

2 TB 4/26, 5/3

**Volunteer. The Benefits  
Are Extraordinary!**

**Extraordinary Benefits:**

- You'll feel really, really good!
- You'll meet delightful dogs, fabulous felines, and some pretty special humans too!

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

Please call 860-569-0722 or visit [www.poainc.org](http://www.poainc.org)



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**Having a Tag Sale?**

Reach more than 75,000 Homes  
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A Week  
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**Your Tag Sale ad will appear in:**

- Rare Reminder, mailed Thursdays to 40,500 homes in Newington, Wethersfield and Rocky Hill/Cromwell
- The Glastonbury Citizen, mailed Thursdays to 5,700 paid subscribers in Glastonbury
- Rivereast News Bulletin, mailed Fridays to 27,500 homes in Portland, East Hampton/Cobalt/Middle Haddam, Marlborough, Hebron/Amston, Andover and Colchester

**Just e-mail us at  
[classifieds@rarereminder.com](mailto:classifieds@rarereminder.com)  
or call 860-563-9386.**

Deadline is every Tuesday at 10am for that week's papers.



**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=mQhZiAndvrm8gU7u6i0eAwDDaMio5.1>  
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?pwd=mQhZiAndvrm8gU7u6i0eAwDDaMio5.1>

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

## CLEANING SERVICES

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

**HOUSE CLEANING:** Polish/English speaking woman can clean your house with care. 3rd cleaning 30% off. Satisfaction guaranteed. Insured and bonded. Call 860-268-2301.

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



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

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Building Maintenance Services. Economical Rates & Prof. Skills. New Customer Discount Available.  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PETS**

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

**CLASSES**

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



**WANTED TO BUY**

**WANTED TO BUY:** loose and bulk change, and old sterling silverware for cash. Also purchasing silver coins and any item made of sterling silver. Will make house calls. Call/text Dom 860-836-5013, email [dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net).



**YELLOW LAB PUPS**

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Written Health Guarantee  
3 Males Left – \$1000<sup>00</sup>  
Call 860-639-9224

RES-3-24

**CASH PAID for any Toyota**  
Other makes, running or not, crashed ok. Will take other makes and models.  
Free pickup. Call any time:  
203-600-4431

CIT-11-23


**"PET OF THE WEEK"**

**Meet Rodeo!** He is a 7 year-old Beagle/Coonhound mix and weighs 38 lbs (he's a bit underweight and should fill out nicely close to 50 lbs with all the TLC and treats he receives). He is a medium energy boy who LOVES to sniff and explore outside. He loves to go for daily walks (an absolute for him!) to take in the world around him in complete Beagle/Hound fashion. A fenced-in yard is a MUST for him. He is a door dasher and needs a safe, contained area in which to freely roam. Rodeo has a gentle personality and would be happy to share his home with children over 8 years of age. No cats for Rodeo and he needs to be the only dog in the home.

**Marty,** 2.5 years, has Feline Leukemia and must be the only cat or with other cats who are FeLV+. You couldn't ask for a sweeter, more well-behaved boy. He loves being petted. He's fun and quirky, and can make a toy out of anything. A strip of Velcro is irresistible. A small rug makes a great sled across a tile floor. And of course a real cat toy is always a toy. Please contact the shelter for more info on FeLV+ cats and how to offer them the best fitting home.

**FOR MORE INFO ON ADOPTING CATS OR DOGS, CALL 860-569-0722  
VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED – CALL: 860-569-0722**

**Protectors of Animals, Inc.** 144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford, CT 06118  
A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization,  
rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs. [WWW.POAINC.ORG](http://WWW.POAINC.ORG)



RES-3-24

# EMPLOYMENT

**CARPENTER / LABORER:** Commercial/Industrial General Contractor seeking for full-time skilled tradespeople. \$20 to \$35 per hour. Must have reliable transportation. Must be able to pass a background check. Please send resumes to Mark@BuildingConstructionContractors.com.

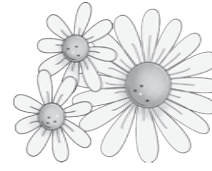
**CLEANER WANTED:** in busy Bakery. Stop in to Marlborough Country Bakery for an application.

**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.

**P C A / DRIVER NEEDED:** Part-time to start with possibility of becoming full-time, flexible/variable hours. For appointments, shopping, errands, cleaning, cooking and personal care. Excellent driving record. Time & half for holidays. Weekly pay through payroll company. \$18.25/hr. Background check and drug test required. 860-949-7016.

**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.

**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



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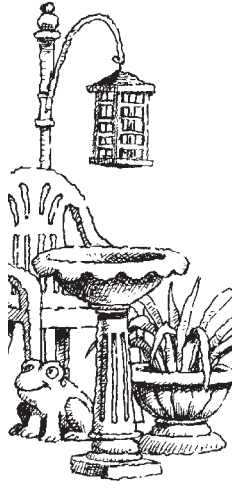
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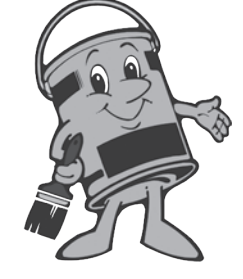
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