



The Rivereast Honors Our Nation's Heroes

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RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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May 24, 2024



Special School Opening... The Burrows Hill School, 1 School House Rd. in Hebron, will be open Saturday June 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in conjunction with Connecticut Museum Day. This schoolhouse, with original desks and blackboard, has not been open for several years. Burrows Hill School, circa 1730, is the earliest remaining Hebron school and is located on its original site. Maintained by the Smith family for several years, it was restored by the Hebron Historical Society in the 1990s with additional renovations in 2005 as part of an Eagle Scout project. It is one of two existing schoolhouses still on their original locations that have not been converted for other uses. A two-room outhouse is also on-site and related implements will be on view.

Bacon Band Director Heads into Retirement

By Michael Sinkewicz

Longtime Bacon Academy Band Director Thomas Kessler is retiring at the end of the school year after nearly 40 years of promoting music in Colchester and impacting the lives of generations of students.



Thomas Kessler

Tomorrow, May 25, Bacon band alumni are putting on an "Alumni & Friends" performance at the high school auditorium; Kessler's final production will be held on June 4.

After decades of teaching music and traveling around the world to showcase the award-winning program he created, while stimulating the imagination of eager students who have gone on to enjoy successful national and intentional musical careers, the beloved director is ready to step aside.

"My role was to show off Bacon Academy as positively as possible," he conveyed. "Great student-musicians made that easy."

This week, Kessler reflected on his musical legacy with the Rivereast, proudly recounting how Bacon Academy became one of the most respected band programs in the region.

"Once a reputation of success became apparent, that challenge had to be taught over and over," he stated. "Attaining excellence was easy; maintaining a tradition of excellence was the annual challenge."

Kessler graduated from Lowell University and received his master's degree from UConn, where he spent two of his 41 years of musical instruction. He taught two more years at Trinity High School in Manchester, N.H., before settling in for a 37-year stint in Colchester. There were offers to leave from other schools along the way, Kessler revealed, but as he phrased it, the grass is not always greener on the other side.

"This really was mine," he said regarding the Bacon band program, adding that his students performed at the groundbreaking ceremony at the high school over 30 years ago and the band wing was designed in his vision. "It was pretty cool!"

While musical instruction has evolved with technology, and Kessler combated extreme hardships, such as the pandemic, which inhibited his ability to educate students, he believes the program remains in a good place.

"I think the band has done pretty darn well in terms of surviving," he said.

'Natural End' to a Long Career

As Kessler swapped stories in his office and toured the band room, he appeared to have the same energy and enthusiasm that many in the community remember, including this former band student.

But in February 2023, he initiated his retirement plan, and in recent months, reality begun to sink in — perhaps when the band plays an old tune.

"There have been several moments where emotions have crept into teaching moments," Kessler said. "However, the task at hand has always prevailed over tears."

See Band Director Retires, page 27

Haddam Neck Honors Fallen Soldiers

By London Brazal

Haddam Neck celebrated Memorial Day early by unveiling a new Veterans Memorial at the New Rock Landing Cemetery.

The original cemetery dated back to 1917 as the resting place of Haddam Neck's earliest settlers. The New Rock Landing Cemetery located across the road was laid out in 1829, according to the Haddam Historical Society. Every year, the Haddam Neck Cemetery Association hosts a Memorial Day service and invites all community members to participate. Before the ceremony began, families, friends and association members placed new flags and flowers on the veterans' graves interred in the cemetery.

On Sunday, local veterans and residents gathered at the Rock Landing Cemetery to honor those who have died while serving the country. To start the dedication ceremony, the Moodus

Drum and Fife Corps performed familiar battle hymns and patriotic songs. Alan Carlson, the president of the cemetery association, said the project was a "huge endeavor" for the organization.

He credited the cemetery's board for following through with the idea, acknowledging their dedication and activeness. "They're good stewards of the cemetery," Carlson added.

During the event, the board took down the ropes and cloth to reveal four six-foot monuments, two benches and a stone with the armed forces' seals. The idea was initiated years ago by Haddam Neck native, Harry Nilsen, a 97-year-old army veteran who served in the Korean War. "Nilsen planted the idea in the board's mind," explained Carlson. "It took a little while, but congratulations to the board."

Phil Costanzo, owner of Tri-County Memo-

rials, provided the large stone with engravings. When Costanzo needed an installer, two names were mentioned, but the job was given to Jim Landry with Evergreen Landscaping out of Portland. Landry has maintained the cemetery for years, cutting the grass and cleaning debris. Carlson described him as a "dedicated worker" who worked tirelessly, even in the rain, to complete the project. Landry placed about 5,000 pavers over 1,200 sq. ft., which took about two weeks. As one of his last big projects, Landry enjoyed seeing the gathering of about 75 people, highlighting, "This is small-town America."

The sense of community was strong with young kids participating in a decorated bike and wagon contest, with the youngest being an eight-month-old. As a group, attendees sang "America the Beautiful" and "My Country 'Tis

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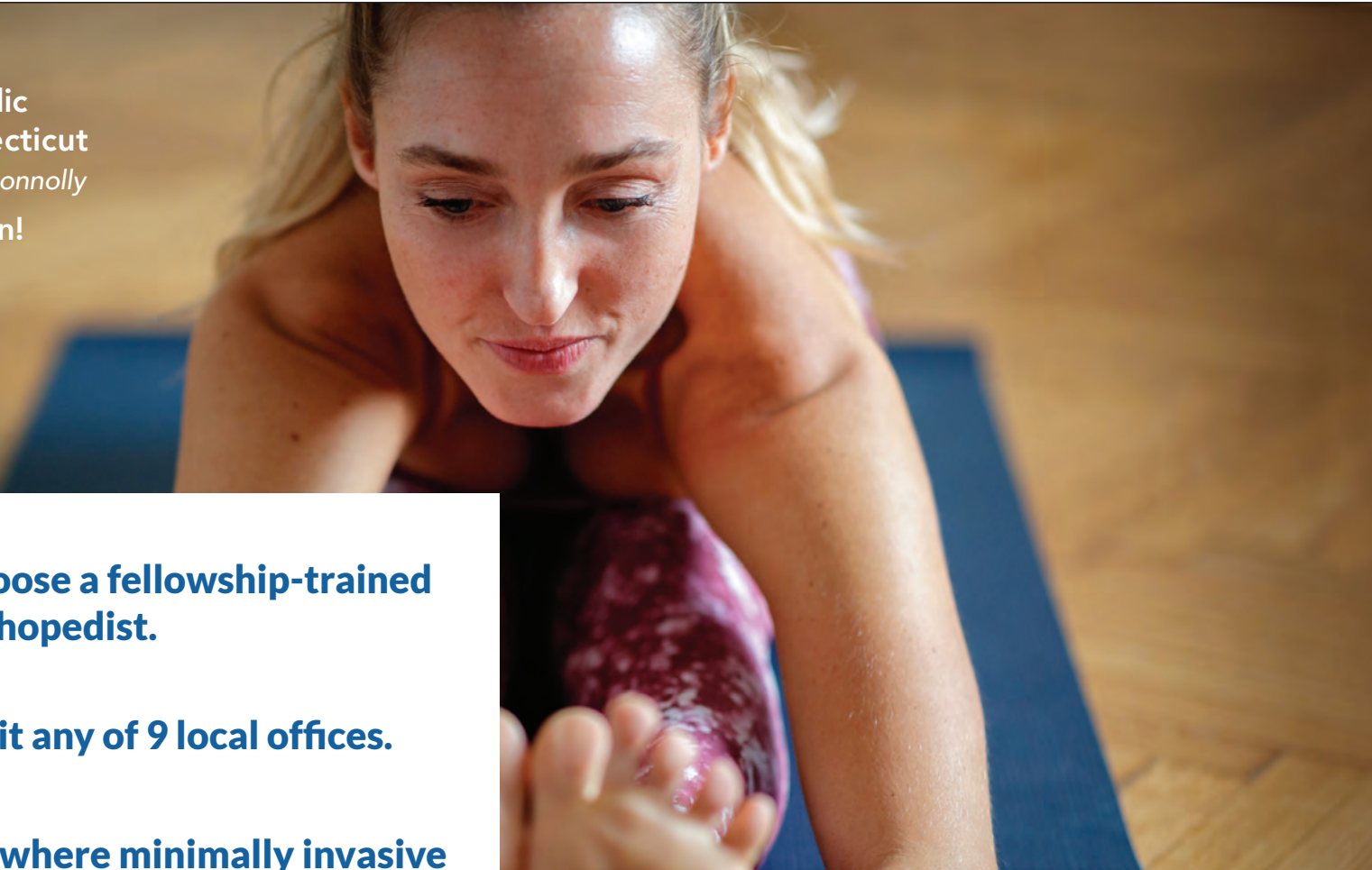


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Friends of Library Event

The Andover Friends of the Library proudly sponsors a fabulous program about nature photography on May 28. This presentation is made possible from a Nature Photography Program Grant from The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving -- Andover Greater Together Community Funds.

On Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30 p.m., Dennis Quinn will join us at the library.

Mr. Quinn is the owner of Quinn Ecological,

LLC, an environmental consulting company that specializes in the conservation and research of amphibians and reptiles in Connecticut. His primary focus is the conservation of these species at the landscape scale, reducing habitat fragmentation, and maintaining critical habitat connections. Mr. Quinn is the creator and maintainer of CTherpetology.com, a photographic atlas for the identification of Connecticut's amphibians and reptiles.



Super Support...The Andover Friends of the Library held their annual Goods & Services Auction on Friday, May 17, 2024, raising over \$4,500 to support the Andover Public Library. The lively interactive auction was conducted by Alisha Lee and supported by many community volunteers, donations and bakers. Pictured is assistant Lily Shevchenko displaying a donated Afghan quilt. (Photo by Janice Bazzani).

Congregational Church News

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

Children's Church: Sunday School is provided

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van**

comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; the senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.

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

Tag Sale: Saturday, May 25 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Crafter's Tag Sale: Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following new 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 available for all events. Shopping on Tuesdays, Food share rides Bi-monthly Wednesdays, Food Pantry Mondays and Wednesdays, lunches Bi-monthly on Fridays. For all YAH meetings, including movies please contact Sue Schmidt 860-604-1057, for all trip information contact Carol Lee, Town Clerk 860-742-0188 X2.

Attention all seniors: Effective 1/3/2024 new senior transportation calls will only be heard from 9:00 am - 12:00 p.m. If you call at any other time, please 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.

Events: June 5 YAH Picnic
Shopping Dates: Willimantic: 6/4, 6/18 and Manchester 5/28, 6-11, 6-25

Next Lunch: 6/14. Due to the many events in May there will be only one lunch date. Lunch under the tent by the gazebo. Call Palazzi for

reservations.

Summer Trips: Seniors will be going to Main Moose on Friday, July 12th for lunch. We will leave town hall at 11:30 am.

Second summer trip: Seniors will be going on Friday, August 9th to Lakeside Bar & Grill in East Hampton for lunch with bus leaving town hall at 11:30 am.

Bus available for Food Pantry on Mondays at 5:00 pm. 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.

Please check the senior page of town website at andoverct.org for all senior events and information.

Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums, Election Day voting, board meetings and all medicals available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans, disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you.

We welcome new seniors, disabled and veterans to all events. Call Palazzi for all luncheon reservations and transportation needs including medicals, food share, food pantry, weekly shopping, movie rides, town meetings and scheduled voting dates.

Transfer Stations Stickers

Transfer Station Stickers are available in the Town Clerk's Office. Stickers are \$50 payable by cash or check. The current Transfer Station stickers expire on June 30, 2024.

Fire Department Food Drive

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting a food drive to benefit The Andover Food Pantry on June 9. The pantry is in need of the following: condiments, baking supplies, cereal, rice, beans, canned fruit and veggies, mac and cheese, canned tuna and pork, coffee, tea, juice, toiletries, dish and laundry detergent. Please bring your donations to the fire department at 11 School Road on Sunday, June 9 between 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Monetary contributions welcomed. Please make checks payable to Andover Food Pantry.

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.

Dog Licenses

Current licenses expire on June 30, 2024. All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed. You can renew or get a new license by mail by sending a rabies certificate, (for renewals, only if the one we have on file has expired), a check payable to Town of Andover for \$8 if the dog is spayed or neutered or \$19 if unaltered, along with a self addressed stamped envelope for return of the license.

New Licenses require proof of spay / neuter in addition to the rabies information. You can also renew or license in person at the Town Clerk's Office - 17 School Road - Andover. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk 860-742-0188 extension 218.

Plant Sale

The Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6 in Andover, will be holding a Plant Sale/ Garden Equipment Tag Sale on Saturday June 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Garden related items: hand tools, pots, hanging baskets, pruners, statues, wind chimes, fountains, bird houses, shepards hooks, etc. They will also have house plants.

Wonderful selection of perennials that will be for sale as well. Call the church at 860-742-7696 with questions.

Church Tag Sale

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6 in Andover, CT will be holding a Tag Sale on Saturday, May 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Bag Sale from 1:00 - 2:00pm). The church will be accepting donations for this sale starting Thursday, May 16 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily until May 22nd. Please call the church at 860-742-7696 and leave a message with your contact information for more information.

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.

Reflective Address Markers

Reflective address markers will be available on Sunday, June 9 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Andover Volunteer Fire Department. There is no charge to Andover Residents. If we can't find you, we can't help you. It may save your life or someone you love.

Memorial Day Parade

The Andover Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 27, starting at 8:45 a.m. from the Andover Elementary School parking lot to Route 316 to Monument Lane. The ceremony will be held on Cider Mill Road. All Veterans are invited to march or ride in the parade.

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.

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.

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Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the Rivereast Standouts of the Week for the week of May 13-19:

Sean Connolly - RHAM High School (Baseball): Connolly struck out 13 in a complete-game, three-hitter as the Raptors shut-out of E.O. Smith, 9-0, on May 17. Connolly also had a base knock and scored a run to help his cause from the plate. Daniel Chomick drove in three runs on two hits, while Fayz Baig and Camden McPeck each scored three runs.

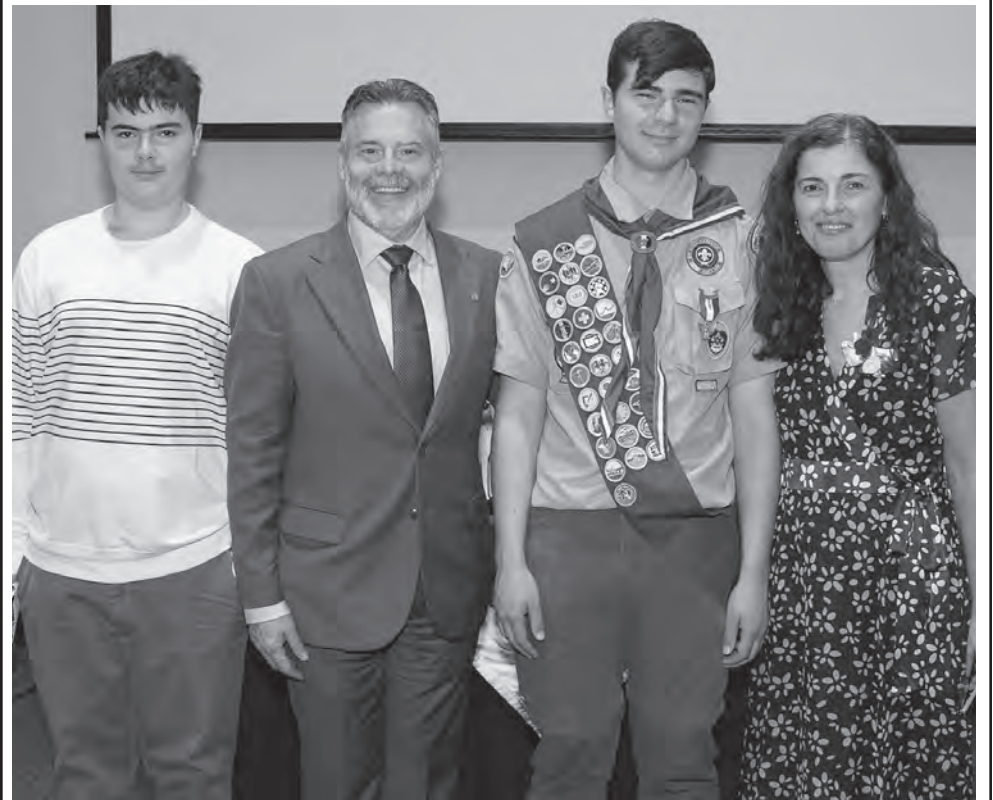
Breckin Burke - Portland High School (Track & Field): Burke was the runner-up in the 3200 meters at the Old Saybrook Runnin' Rams Invitational. Burke, a sophomore, ran a personal-best time of 9:56.15 to finish behind only Rocky Hill's Daniel DiTunno and ahead of 23 other competitors at the annual invite. Four days later, Burke then finished first in the same event at East Hampton High School during a tri-meet against the host Bellringers and Westbrook.

Lyndsey Gravel - East Hampton High School (Track & Field): Gravel won the triple crown of throwing events, finishing first

in the shot put, discus, and javelin as the Bellringers beat both Portland and Westbrook at East Hampton High School on May 14. Senior teammate Maya Korczak also won three events at the tri-meet, finishing first in the 100 meters, 100 hurdles, and the long jump as the Bellringers beat the Highlanders (114-36) and the Knights of Westbrook (123-22).

Ethan Creutz - Bacon Academy (Baseball): Creutz struck out eight in six innings of work as the Bobcats beat East Hampton 3-2 at Legion Field in Moodus on May 17. Creutz also scored a run in the tightly contested border-battle. Eli Chiaverini added a run and Andrew Ferrigno scored the go-ahead run in the fifth inning on a wild pitch. Mason Pingree earned the save from the mound after retiring the side, striking out two, in the seventh inning to preserve the one-run win, which was the Bobcats 10th victory this spring.

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



Scout Honored... On May 11, Scouting America Troop 39 in Marlborough conducted a Court of Honor for their 94th Eagle Scout, Holden Riley of East Hampton. For his project Holden designed, built and finished a multi-purpose table for Epoch Arts that can be used for wargaming, role playing games, card games, board games, crafting and other uses. Holden is pictured here with his parents, Brian and Ann Riley, and his brother, Bennett Riley.

Bulletin Board

Behavioral scientists study the oddest things. Take blushing, for instance. I always thought that when I got all red-faced after knocking down the toilet paper display at the supermarket or saying something stupid (actually, where the latter is concerned, I'm surprised I'm not permanently the color of a fire hydrant), it was because I was embarrassed.

Not necessarily so, say those curious creatures who pry into the darker recesses of human behavior.

Psychoanalysts, for instance, contend that blushing is often sexual in nature. According to a study conducted some years ago and quoted at length in a news item, "They say it (blushing) results from repressed sexual excitement surfacing in the face because of fear of castration."

Seriously. Someone actually said that.

Personally, I think the "excitement" of imminent castration would be more likely to leave me white as a ghost as opposed to a seductive blush red, but I'm speaking as a layperson here. In any event, having somehow survived relatively intact so far, I'm not eager to put the question to the test.

Alternatively, added the study, blushing can be "exhibitionist—an indirect way of conveying one's erotic urges."

I've given both these observations the careful thought they deserve and concluded that what the weird creatures who concoct this stuff mean is:

1) I am not red-faced from embarrassment at having knocked down the supermarket toilet paper display, I am merely terrified that the store manager is going to possibly castrate me for making a mess.

2) Or, alternatively, knocking over the toilet paper display has somehow triggered deeply hidden erotic urges involving toilet tissue salespeople and cartoon bears who tout the tactile delights of their particular brand. The less said about this, the better, I think.

A California psychiatrist offered yet another "blush scenario." Suppose, she says, a woman's skirt blows up in a gust of wind, exposing her bloomers or whatever. The psychiatrist suggests that she may blush, not because she is embarrassed at being exposed, but because she had "an inner wish" to exhibit herself and she's actually blushing at that.

According to that theory, I had an "inner wish" to knock down the toilet paper display. While I didn't do it on purpose, I wanted to and my inner unconscious guilt prompted me to blush.

I think this goes a long way toward explaining why you can spend the rest of your adult life in therapy.

Existentialists, meanwhile (those fellows who maintain life is not worth living, but prefer to stay alive so that they can encourage the rest of us to kill ourselves), have linked blushing to alienation. That theory claims that we blush because we realize that the image we project to the outside world does not truly reflect us for the bumbling idiots we know we actually are. In other words, bumping into the toilet paper display merely proves what I secretly knew all along and unmasks me to the ridicule of my more agile peers (which my athletic father, were he still alive, would contend includes just about everybody not on crutches). Thus we plummet in one horrible instant from man or woman of the world to village idiot. Hey, you'd blush too.

I recall perhaps the most red-faced moment of my own mundane life as having occurred when I was maybe 15 years old and somehow managed to ask two young ladies to the same dance (talk about unmasking yourself as a moron). Blushing furiously, stuttering horribly and looking mostly at my feet, I managed to extricate myself from my dilemma by revealing the terrible truth to young lady No. 2.

Naturally, I thought at the time that my furious blushing was the result of acute embarrassment. Having studied the reports of the psychoanalysts, I now realize I wasn't embarrassed at all—I was afraid she was going to castrate me.

Looking back on the whole mess, I can't say I'd blame her. On the other hand, she didn't really seem all that upset now that I think about it.

Jim Hallas

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Letter Writers: Letters must be 300 words or less, and must be submitted by Tuesdays at noon. Email is preferred; send to bulletin@glcitizen.com. Letters must pertain to local issues, news, or events. Letters regarding national issues or national public figures will not be published. All letters must be signed, and include the writer's town of residence and daytime contact phone number. Writers are limited to one letter per week. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and clarity, and are also subject to fact-checking. No form of harassment or personal attack (such as bullying or name-calling) will be tolerated. There is no guarantee that all letters will be published.

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Veteran Cemetery Flags

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Portland Veteran Affairs Committee, the American Legion Post 69, and the Town of Portland, I would like to thank those who assisted with placing American Flags on the graves of veterans over the last few weeks in the Portland cemeteries. We would especially like to thank Richelle Carlone, Jeanna Spooner, Tim Dickerson, Jim Landry, Andrea Farrington, Rodney Spooner, along with coordinator Bill Willinsky for all their help. If residents notice that a flag was inadvertently missed for a Portland Veteran, or because a grave marker does not list them as a veteran, the Portland Town Clerk's office has additional flags.

Michael V. Tierney,
Portland Town Clerk

Memorial Day Flags

To the Editor:

The Guild has placed cemetery flags at the grave markers of veterans who are buried in St. Patrick Church Cemetery in East Hampton. We honor this Memorial Day the men and women who have served our country. May we never forget their service. Thank you to Elaine Smith, Amy Hickey, Donna Bonito, Jann Dalton and Therese Fishman who participated in this endeavor.

Ann DeMarchi – East Hampton,
St. Patrick Guild

Colchester Budgets = Huge Tax Increase

To the Editor:

Did you know?

The proposed 2024/2025 Town Budget includes raises for town government employees of up to 18%!

The proposed 2024/2025 BOE Budget includes raises for school administrators of up to 8.5%!

The BOE and the Superintendent also refuse to disclose the proposed Superintendent's raise???

The Superintendent is highest paid employee in town who currently receives over \$240,000!

Should Colchester taxpayers be funding these drastic salary increases at a time when citizens, seniors, families, farmers and small businesses are still struggling financially?

The proposed Town Budget increases spending \$1.44 million dollars over last year's budget!

The proposed BOE Budget increases spending \$1.59 million dollars over last year's budget!

Together these budgets total over \$3 million dollars in increased spending!!

These budgets propose the largest tax increase in Colchester's history!!

Make no mistake, these budgets will increase your taxes!!!

Please vote No!

Keep Colchester kind and affordable.

Deanna Bouchard – Colchester

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Portland Plant Sale

To the Editor: Question: What do May showers bring? Answer: Plant lovers and bargain hunters from all over our community!

On an unexpectedly rainy Saturday morning in Portland on May 18, 2024, our tables were overflowing with plants of every size and shape. Thankfully a little drizzle that turned into a more steady rain did not deter true gardeners at heart. We are very grateful for all of our fellow plant lovers as well as new and old friends who supported our annual plant sale. It was our pleasure to share plants we had lovingly grown in hopes that they would find a new home where they could grow and thrive and bring joy. The funds from this sale support our efforts to make Portland a more beautiful place for all.

At the end of the sale the leftover plants were donated to The Brownstone Quorum for the further beautification of The Riverfront Park in Portland. We hope all of your plants are happily making our world a bit brighter. We are already planning for next year's sale; hope to see you all again!

Most Sincerely and with Great Thanks, The Portland Garden Club and The Portland River-Valley Garden Club

Afghanistan Iraq Veterans War Memorial

To the Editor: On May 17, 2024, a small contingent of Veterans and residents of Andover, CT took a field trip to Danbury, CT to attend the Afghanistan Iraq Veterans War Memorial (AIVWMF) Dedication. I am so glad we did. What an amazing memorial!

The Danbury Veterans park is impressive, and now more so with the addition of this stunning and inspiring memorial. The story told was that the memorial was designed "on the back of a bar napkin" at the VFW in Danbury approximately 2 years ago. That this group, led by the AIVWMF President David Vieira, Army National Guard, and including Juan Rivas, Nelson Martins, Juan Vasquez, Jairus Domenech, William Moser (all USMC), John Kennedy (USN), and Lenny Esposito (USA) was able to gain permission, obtain funding, and get the memorial designed and built (of course there were a million other steps!) is a testament to the dedication and vision of this group of Veterans to honor their Connecticut fallen brothers and sisters. I congratulate you on your life changing accomplishment. A resounding HOOAH from one Army Veteran to another, and the entire AIVWMF team.

Additionally, a resounding thank you to the big sponsors, the smaller donators, and the Town of Danbury for your support in making this vision a reality. I encourage every Connecticut resident to make a trip to Danbury and see for yourself this magnificent memorial.

Susan Camoroda COL, US Army (Retired) Andover Veterans Municipal Representative

Hebron Memorial Day Parade

Greetings to All: A follow-up from the last Bulletin posting, to reiterate, it is a Memorial, dedicated to our departed military. Please act accordingly, that is respect for the American Flag, and what it stands for. The theme is to recognize the military persons of whom did-in-fact give their respective lives for our freedom. Marchers, no advertising; assemble prior to 10:00 a.m., at the drive adjacent to the sports fields. Just as last Memorial march, most entities will find their respective place in line without direction or incident. Note: please leave the serpentine drive-ways clear for the RHAM music bands busses.

This message is to address Hebron-area parade-goers of whom will be in attendance at the

Hebron Green, for the Memorial Service. If you have a loved-one, friend and/or family member, in the military on active duty of whom you would care to have her or his name read aloud.

Contact me: via telephone (message), 860-742-0762, with Service members, Name; (Clearly spoken), Branch of Service; Rank (if Known); Duty station, if allowed to reveal; years of service if desired - or contact, Ron Parkyn, Sr, Vice Commander, Hebron, Post 95: park1969@comcast.net for a more secure method of communications.

Questions, concerns, beyond this contact: American Legion, Post 95 Contact, Joe Fetta for additional inquiries, i.e. Legion, building rental - 203-848-5913.

To All, Be well, stay safe. For God and Country.

Respectfully submitted, R. A. Bob Mangillo - Hebron American Legion, Post 95, Adjutant

What Took so Long?

To the Editor: The Rivereast made a wise editorial decision with its new Letters to the Editor policy requiring submitted content to stick to local issues. Town government and community news affect residents much more than anything on the statewide or national scale, and I am pleased with the newspaper's change in requirements.

My only question is, what took so long? For years, the Reader Forum has served too much as a glorified message board. Writers have been caught up in feuds that have resulted in nasty exchanges that have little to do with politics and frankly have no purpose other than to insult each other.

The letters about national politics are even more egregiously mean-spirited. There are countless forums on the internet where people can express their views in as angry terms as they wish. The local newspaper should never have tolerated such letters. Now I realize that I have criticized local leaders in my prior letters to the editor and have in turn received my own share of heat (and I welcome such feedback). But those letters were focused on issues and decision-making directly impacting East Hampton.

Residents should have a forum to call out their town governments and public officials. Do you oppose or support a budget referendum and want to share your thoughts? That's great. Voices need to be heard, preferably respectfully.

I hope the Rivereast uses this policy change to turn the Reader Forum into something residents can rely on for sharing opinions, debating local politics, and recognizing community service. I applaud the editorial board's decision and look forward to more relevant content.

Sincerely, Matt Engelhardt - East Hampton Note: Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but is writing as an individual.

Town = Park

To the Editor: In the late 1960's my square, history loving, college graduate parents and their like minded friends and family, supported the idea of making the State of Maine into a National Park. Maine was still quite untouched at that time. The idea faded away along with much of Maine's rugged wilderness so many generations had grown to admire.

Several years ago we heard a Hebron town official say, "We can't make the whole town a park." Rivereast July 20, 2021. But I say, why not? That's a brilliant idea and we are well on our way. Being a park would certainly set us apart from overly developed towns while bonding us to several Right to Farm Communities. Hebron's Raymond Brook Watershed is the headwater for towns below us. Our location means our water-

shed actions directly impact those towns' water quality. Let's make a positive impact.

Ecotourism is growing. Why not cater Hebron's business district to outdoor living? Historically, we appear physically incapable of supporting much development. Complex water issues seem to stand in the way. Appropriately styled buildings, on JHBlvd and Rte 66, could boast small outdoor related retail or office space downstairs and cool apartments upstairs. Both roadways have direct access to Hebron's infrastructure. Gently utilizing this district leaves 17 Kinney Rd and open space properties alone. Should retail shops fail, the lower levels can become additional housing.

Entice bed and breakfasts to the district. Promote weekend hiking trips in Hebron. Utilize the trails, enjoy a great meal and head out again the following day. If you give the public what they want, access to nature, Flower Girl baked goods, History tours and Farm to Table options, you might be surprised. The much sought after economic development people seek, could be, directly under our feet. #save17

Jean Tulimieri - Amston

Holocaust Remembrance

To the Editor:

On Thursday, May 9th, my husband and I attended a poignant holocaust remembrance at First Church of Christ in Glastonbury. The event was months in the making, spearheaded by the Glastonbury Holocaust Remembrance Project (GHRP) in conjunction with members from Temple Kol Haverim. The evening included personal accounts by those who suffered as children under the Nazi regime, as well as later generations who continue to study the holocaust to ensure that its horrific history never be forgotten nor repeated. In addition to the deeply moving narratives and informative educational topics, the GHS choir and essay and art participants shared their talents and insights on the dangers of hate speech and the importance of acceptance of others.

The event's timely intersection with the current antisemitic propaganda and demonstrations in our country was not lost on those in attendance. While antisemitism is an ever-present

danger worldwide, the events that have taken place in our country and beyond since October 7th make its immediate threat even more terrifying. We were reminded that what starts as unchallenged words progress rapidly and insidiously into the acceptance of false truths and hate-filled actions. The Nazis targeted anyone identified as a threat to their ideal of a pure Aryan race including Jews, their defenders, LGBTQ, Blacks, Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies and mentally and physically disabled. Their contempt knew no bounds, and their persecution was brutal and targeted. This well-orchestrated holocaust remembrance event was a vivid reminder of how quickly words of hate evolve into persecution, creating a society focused on the elimination of those considered to be "different."

Our deepest thanks to the event's organizers, the individuals who generously shared their survival stories and those of their loved ones, and to First Church for hosting. As Rabbi Lazowski reminded us, the time to act is NOW.

Cindie Friedman - Colchester

Hebron's Exciting Future

To the Editor:

Last week's Rivereast perfectly illustrated the exciting future outdoor economy available to Hebron. We are fortunate to be home to a combination of unparalleled historic sites and a wide variety of outdoor activities in stunning natural settings.

The cover story of RHAM students engaged in historic preservation and study of our unique history demonstrated the important role our town can play in bringing our diverse past alive. Their work at the highly significant home site of the enslaved and emancipated Cesar Peters and his family will help expand the understanding of their unique story and preserve their legacy. Across the street at Old Hebron Cemetery, local historian John Baron captivated the students with details of the Peters' lives and Hebron's distinctive 19th century community. The fascinating story of Cesar Peters and his family, and these important sites, are treasures that can draw a variety of visitors to downtown Hebron.

See Letters, page 6

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

As stated by Connecticut State Archeologist Sarah Sportman, "If people know about them, you can kind of get a communal sense of pride with preservation, which is powerful when towns make decisions about development."

An exciting compliment to our historic wonders, the *Rivereast* also reported the beauty of Hebron's landscape will be celebrated at CT Trails Day on June 1st. Gathering at the Jagger Lane-Way Preserve, meet Hebron's Trail Rangers and kick-off Hebron's Trails Passport Program. This stunning 32-acre preserve includes the scenic Merrow Swamp, a Wetlands of State-wide Special Concern. The Way Preserve is just one of seven beautiful open space trail locations in Hebron featured in the Passport.

It is time Hebron's town leaders embrace our motto, "Historic Charm, With a Vision for the Future." Historic charm and natural beauty surround us each day, the vision for the future is written in the *Rivereast* in black and white. #Save17

Sincerely,
 Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Marlborough's Taxes

To the Editor:

As a Marlborough taxpayer, I have been following this year's budget process and am trying to make some sense of things.

By this time, we will either have an approved budget, or we will be heading towards a third referendum. The burden placed on taxpayers is significant, especially considering the high level of inflation we have been experienced over the course of the last several years.

Putting forth a 8.92% tax increase proposal certainly did not sit well with taxpayers. We were left with the question as to how the public received a lower number, which is still at 5.4%. Did the taxpayers feel that this number is still too high? Well, now we know.

Most frustrating of all is the fact that Marlborough's annual audits are two years behind schedule due to problems at Town Hall that started back in late 2021 with the departure of our long-time Assistant Treasurer. This has caused a problem when trying to formulate recent budgets due to uncertainty about the exact amount of any surpluses from recent years. This has been a real thorn in our sides when trying to formulate budgets.

At the same time, Selectmen Deb Bourbeau and Betty O'Brien have repeatedly stated that the Board of Selectmen alone possess the knowledge necessary to decide how to handle this situation and that taxpayers, and even the Board of Finance, "just don't understand." Really?

Many of Marlborough's taxpayers are struggling, especially our seniors and others on fixed incomes. Going forward, the Boards of Selectmen and Finance need to do everything they can to meet town needs while, at the same time, minimizing the burden on the taxpayers.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

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Cast Your Vote

To the Editor: On June 4, East Hampton residents will vote for the 2024-2025 Town and Education Budgets. This was my first experience working from the inside to bring a budget to the town.

The first drafts of the budget proposals were substantially higher than what has been approved by the Town Council to go to a public referendum. The Town Manager, Finance Director, the Superintendent of Schools, and members of each elected board worked openly and honestly to produce a budget that accomplishes two very important goals: it maintains existing government services and sets up a multi-year plan for improving our town's quality of life.

Among the few, yet important, additions to this budget include increased funding for road repair and maintenance, additional staff for the Senior Center, and an additional officer for our Police Department. The Town Council made a some adjustments to funding to be sure that two additional items were created. We have created a new part-time position for the town staff, a Land Use Enforcement Officer. Lastly, a small amount was put into the budget to assist our Volunteer Ambulance Association while we engage in planning for the long-term viability of emergency services in East Hampton.

On June 4 please turn out at Town Hall to cast your vote. Absentee ballots are available now at Town Hall, so if you can't be there on June 4 please make your voice heard early.

Jordan Werme - East Hampton Town Council

not just East Hampton, but the tens of small towns in our state which comprise the real spirit of Connecticut.

This problem can only be solved in our state legislature. In this time of fiscal strength for our state, it is time to bring the fight for long-overdue funding for our towns to the forefront. This is why I have accepted the Democratic nomination to run for the 34th Legislative Seat serving East Hampton, East Haddam and Salem.

Educational funding is not the only issue. As we focus on what small towns need to thrive and be who they want to be, we need to focus on giving them the tools they need to do so. That is the responsibility of state government.

Let's be the voice that will make that happen. Rich Knotek - East Hampton Democratic candidate for State Rep for the 34th

Protect Colchester Teachers

To the Editor: After the Board of Education budget was set, they belatedly released salary figures. In my opinion, they released the information to manipulate public opinion; not for transparency in the budget process. Shortly after the Superintendent entertained the citizens with an obnoxious letter complaining about comments on Facebook directed at school leadership.

To be clear, the success of our school system has everything to do with our amazing teachers and the relationship they have with students and parents. It has very little to do with who sits in Central Office at Town Hall. Leadership in Central Office should stop drinking their own bath water and get real - they're not as spectacular as they think. Recently the Assistant Superintendent complained about her approximately \$194k compensation package. How out of touch are these people?

Recently we saw the Superintendent accept the resignation of a high school track coach due to an event in Middletown. It's unclear if the coach willingly tendered her resignation or if she was coerced into providing it. The end result is the same, Colchester has lost a beloved and universally acclaimed track coach. The Superintendent should not have accepted her resignation. The Board of Education has used legal resources to go after a citizen who made a public comment directed at leadership; maybe they should focus on protecting our teachers. No wonder teachers don't feel supported by this administration.

As citizens, we don't get to vote on the Superintendent. I would ask you to vote "No" to the Board of Education budget in solidarity with our teachers, and to send a message to Colchester Public Schools leadership. Our teachers are important, not overpaid administrators at Central Office!

Sincerely, Michael Dubreuil - Colchester

Running for the 34th District

To my East Hampton Neighbors: As our Town Council and Boards of Education and Finance met in joint session to begin this year's budget deliberation in East Hampton, one thing became increasingly clear. State aid to education (known as Educational Cost Share) has not kept paced with the cost of living, and worse, is even fewer dollars than we received eight years ago.

When state government does not live up to its responsibility as a full partner in public education, the burden falls hard on property taxpayers to hold our services together. It smothers what we can and should do in other services vital to our town, such as roads, public safety, land use and senior citizens.

It has become clear to me that this retreat from state funding is beginning to threaten the very nature of who we are as a small town; and

Evening of the Arts

The music and fine art departments at RHAM High School will hold their annual Evening of the Arts event Thursday, May 30, from 4:45-8:30 p.m., at the high school.

The visual and performing arts will be celebrated with a juried art show, performing ensembles, soloists, live printmaking, and photo booth, including a catered dinner from Gina Marie's. Dinner tickets at \$25 per person are being sold only in advance using the order form on the school website.

General admission tickets to view the art show and watch performances only will be sold at the door for \$5. There is no charge for general admission for young children, students and seniors.

The Evening of the Arts will begin at 4:45 p.m. with guests being invited to peruse artwork, as well as purchase T-shirts designed and made by students. Guests can try out the photo

booth or live printmaking in the atrium to make their own commemorative prints.

At 5:45 p.m., guests who have ordered dinner tickets in advance will enjoy a buffet-style catered dinner from Gina Marie's. Guests will be treated to cabaret-style solo and ensemble performances on our small stage during dinner. Visual art show juried awards, donated by Blick Art Materials and Jerry's Artarama, will be presented during the cabaret performances at 7 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., all guests will be invited to the auditorium for the large ensemble performances. Dessert and coffee will be available for the entire evening at the concession stand.

For more information, see the flyer and order form on the school website, or contact Nicholas Kokus at nicholas.kokus@rhamschools.org, or Beverley Fisher at beverley.fisher@rhamschools.org.

AHM Golf Tournament

AHM's 21st Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on July 19. This event benefits the mental health, drug prevention, and youth & family services AHM provides for local children, teens, young adults, families, and seniors. With the support of businesses, organizations, and people like you, AHM is able to achieve our fundraising goals and continue to support our community. Visit https://ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/charity-golf-tournament/ to register your foursome and learn about sponsorship opportunities.

Play and Learn

AHM Youth and Family Services will offer a Play and Learn in the Park Group at Columbia Rec Park on Fridays through May 31, from 10-11 a.m. each week.

This group, for children Birth-5 and adults, will let children enjoy the playscape, crafts, and circle time with a story and singing. The cost is \$35/family for the five-week session. Register at ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home.

Project Grad Signs Now Available

All are invited to show their support for RHAM High School Class of 2024 graduating seniors by purchasing a "Congratulations" sign.

These signs are available for purchase at \$20 each. Each sign is an 18" x 24" yard sign with yard stake included. There is a blank space on the sign for you to write your graduates' name on it.

This fundraiser helps support AHM Youth and Family Services' Project Graduation event, a drug- and alcohol-free celebration set to take place June 14 from 10 p.m.-4 a.m.

Purchase your Project Grad Lawn signs at ahmyouth.org. From the Menu, select "Project Graduation" under "Events and Fundraisers."

Sparkler App

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

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

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

Free Developmental Screenings

The AHM Family Resource Center offers free developmental screenings to anyone with a child ages 4 months-3 years in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia.

Through activities and use of the questionnaire "Ages and Stages," AHM will learn how your child is doing in different domains of development (communication, motor, and social-emotional skills).

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



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Better Dental HEALTH. A Practice For Optimal Dental Fitness. by George M. Mantikas, DMD. THE DEAL ON SEALANTS. Aside from daily oral hygiene practiced at home, another option for tooth protection is a dental sealant. This thin, protective coating is applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth, stopping cavity formation and preventing the early stages of decay. Sealants keep bits of food, bacteria, and acids from settling on the teeth by creating a barrier that protects the teeth's surface. Sealants have been shown to reduce decay in molars up to 80 percent, which is especially advantageous for children, although adults benefit as well. Early application to molars, especially when they first erupt, can keep teeth cavity-free and help avoid costly future dental treatments. Dental health professionals can determine if sealants will benefit their patients. One of our basic philosophies is that our patients must recognize the need to take charge of their dental health and do what is necessary to prevent, arrest, or control their own dental conditions. We'll work together as a team with you to achieve the long-term benefits that quality dentistry affords. From sound advice about sealants to routine well visits to major dental reconstructions, we've got your dental needs covered. We treat both children and adults. P.S. In some cases, filling cavities can cost four times as much as dental sealants. George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC. The Ridge • 142 East High Street • East Hampton, CT 06424. 860-267-6666 • www.DrMantikas.com

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Drawing Class Offered

The Marlborough Arts Center is pleased to offer a Realistic Drawing Class for Adults, starting on Wednesday, May 22 and running through June 26, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The class will be held at the Arts Center, 231 North Main Street, Marlborough.

Rebecca Moran, artist and professor of art at Eastern Connecticut State University, will

teach the class. The cost is \$120 per student. Materials information will be available at the first meeting of the class. Registration forms can be downloaded from the website www.marlborougharts.org and a check mailed to the Arts Center. Online registration and payment is possible, also. For more information, please call 860-467-6353.

“Horsepower” Car Show

The 2nd annual car show at The Farm at Carter Hill (86 E Hampton Rd, Marlborough) will take place on Sunday, June 9th to benefit the horses of the CT Draft Horse Rescue.

Car entries must arrive between 9-11 a.m. General admission starts at 11am. Car show entry is \$15 (includes admission for the driver) and general admission is \$5 (all ages). Tickets are available on event day. Awards will be presented at 2:30pm. There will be live music by the local favorite, “Beth and the Boys”.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase (no outside food or drink is allowed). There will be raffles and games, trophy awards, and more.

The CDHR is a non-profit organization (located in East Hampton, CT) 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, www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue, or send an email to ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

Memorial Day Parade

The annual Memorial Day parade will take place again this year on Monday, May 27. The parade is organized by the American Legion Post 197 in conjunction with the town of Marlborough.

A short Memorial Day service will take place at the rear of the town cemetery off RT66. Flowers will be presented at the memorial, followed by taps and a firing squad salute. After the short ceremony, the parade will step off at approximately 1:30. The parade will be assembled in front of the Elmer Thienes - Mary Hall Elementary School on School Drive.

The parade will proceed to South Main St. and then march north to the Marlborough

Green, after crossing RT66. At the Green, a Memorial Day service will be held.

Participation will include town and state officials, the American Legion Post 197 Color Guard, East Hampton VFW Color Guard, senior and junior bands from RHAM, the Marlborough Fire Department, several Fife and Drum Corps, the scouts, youth groups, East Hampton VFW, Marlborough American Legion 197 and so much more. Come out, enjoy the parade, and help us honor those that did not return.

If your Marlborough group would like to participate, or you would like to enter a car to carry individuals, please submit a request through AmericanLegionCT197@gmail.com. The parade length is somewhat limited, due to closing RT66 for parade crossing. Please plan your travel accordingly.

In the event of rain at the time of step off, the service will move to the Elementary School on School St.

Town Hall Closing

Town Hall, Senior Center, and Public Works Garage will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

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From the Desk of the Town Manager...

Memorial Day offers us the opportunity to pause and remember the brave men and women in uniform who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we enjoy. Their sacrifice merits our gratitude, honor, and respect. By choosing to remember these brave soldiers we demonstrate our appreciation for the sacrifice they made to preserve our values and protect us and our allies from threats to our democracy. Thank you to all who perished in defense of our freedom and to their mothers, fathers, spouses, children, and loved ones.

The American Legion Post 197 organized our Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27. It will begin with a brief ceremony at 1:15 p.m. at the Marlborough Cemetery. The parade will start at 1:30 p.m. at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School and end on the Town Green where a solemn memorial service will be held. Town and State officials, American Legion Post 197 Color Guard, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095, RHAM Junior and Senior bands, Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, Boys and Girls Scouts, Marlborough Soccer Club, Marlborough Youth Athletic League, and others are participating. We hope you will join us in this solemn and important tradition.

More information is available on the American Legion website at www.post197.com/home.
David Porter – Town Manager

Parks and Rec Upcoming Programs

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

Youth: Skyhawks Tots (Soccer, Baseball and Basketball) – Age 2, Tuesdays, May 21 – June 18, 5:00 pm – 5:45pm at the Marlborough Elementary School. This multi-sport program is designed to introduce young athletes to a variety of different sports in one setting. Athletes will learn the rules and essentials of each sport through skill-based games and scrimmages. Registration fee \$89.00 residents/\$94.00 non-residents.

Skyhawks Tots (Soccer, Baseball and Basketball) – Age 3&4, Tuesdays, May 21st – June 18, 6:00 pm – 6:45pm at the Marlborough Elementary School. This multi-sport program is designed to introduce young athletes to a variety of different sports in one setting. Athletes will learn the rules and essentials of each sport through skill-based games and scrimmages. Registration fee \$89.00 residents/\$94.00 non-residents.

Netto Summer Day Camp – Grades K-7, June 24 – August 16 at Blish Park. Campers will enjoy camp games, arts & crafts, swimming, sports, field trips and special events. All campers are supervised by counselors and lifeguards trained in CPR/First Aid. Registration is \$175.00 resident/\$185.00 non-resident.

Swim Lessons – These classes are designed to allow swimmers to develop good habits in the water, become comfortable in the water, learn and refine new strokes, and become stronger, safer swimmers. Lessons will begin the week of June 27. All lesson levels are offered. All lessons are held at Blish Park. Registration fee is \$65.00 resident/\$70.00 non-resident.

Mad Science-Red Hot Robots With Coding – Grades K-6, June 24 – June 28, 9:00 am-12:00 pm in the MES cafeteria. Registration fee is \$128.00 resident/\$133.00 non-resident.

Lego – Minecraft Engineering – Ages 5 - 7, June 24 – June 28, 8:30 am – 11:30 am. Venture into the world of Minecraft in our unique LEGO® experience. Get ready to build your base, craft your tools, use your Minecart to harvest raw resources, and battle to stop the Ender Dragon from ending the world. Come explore the endless possibilities of LEGO® with a trained Play-Well instructor. Class is held in the Elmer Thienes – Mary Hall Cafeteria. Cost is \$145.00 resident/\$150.00 non-resident.

Lego – Minecraft Master Engineering – Ages 8 - 12, June 24 – June 28, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Bring your favorite Minecraft adventures to life with our enthusiastic Play-Well instructors. In a Minecraft world powered by LEGO® resources, we will build shelters to keep out Creepers, craft mystical items that only true masters can wield, and perfect our crossbow skills to stop the Wither from taking over! Class is held in

the Elmer Thienes – Mary Hall Cafeteria. Cost is \$145.00 resident/\$150.00 non-resident.

Skyhawks Basketball Camp - Ages 5 & 6, June 24 – June 28, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Marlborough Elementary School gym. This fun, skill intensive program is designed for beginning to intermediate athletes. An active week of passing, shooting, dribbling and rebounding. Boys and girls will also learn vital life lessons such as respect, teamwork and responsibility. Registration is \$139.00 residents/\$144.00 non-residents.

Skyhawks Basketball Camp - Ages 7 – 12, June 24 – June 28, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Marlborough Elementary School gym. This fun, skill intensive program is designed for beginning to intermediate athletes. An active week of passing, shooting, dribbling and rebounding. Boys and girls will also learn vital life lessons such as respect, teamwork and responsibility. Registration is \$179.00 residents/\$184.00 non-residents.

Dance Camp – Princess Tea Party – Ages 4-7, June 24 – June 27, 9 am – 12 pm. Join us on a magical journey of dance and crafts. Each day, your little princesses will learn how to dance with elegance and grace while also creating enchanting crafts. Dressing up like a princess is highly encouraged. Each day is dedicated to a different princess, with Monday featuring Elsa and Anna from Frozen, Tuesday starring Belle from Beauty and the Beast, Wednesday showcasing Ariel from The Little Mermaid, and Thursday celebrating your favorite princess of all. Camp is held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Registration fee is \$215.00.

Horseback Riding Lessons – Ages 5 and up, English or Western style instruction. The lessons are private and are an hour in length. The lessons days and times are flexible. The instructor will contact you upon registration to set up lesson day and time. Instruction provided by Jo-Ellen Lemanski. Registration fee is 4 lessons for \$175.00 residents/\$180.00 non-residents.

Adult: Beginner & Intermediate Tai Chi – Tuesday/Thursdays, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm at the Marlborough Senior Center. Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese health practice of slow gentle movements that research shows to help improve your balance, flexibility, physical and mental well-being. Registration fee is \$40.00 resident/\$45.00 non-resident.

ZUMBA - Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 pm in the MES cafeteria. The exciting, simple dance routines done to Latin and International music, will have you moving and grooving. Registration fee is \$50 residents/\$55 non-residents/\$12 drop-in fee. Class instruction provided by Anna Boose.

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Riffs Ready... The Modern Riffs (www.modernriffs.com) is a Marlborough based classic rock, jazz, and pop band that will be performing at the 4th Friday @ the Arts Café hosted by the Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St., Marlborough on May 24 at 7:30 p.m. This inspiring group, founded in 2008 by saxophonist Bruce Phelps, is a collaboration of exceptionally talented high school musicians and long-time experienced musicians.

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.

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

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

is open to qualified residents in need of food.

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

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

Friday, May 24: Strength & Fitness 1 p.m.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

Confirmation Community: Led by Helena

Thomas, this is a 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program. For more information, call the church office.

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

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

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

From Marlborough's Lake Advisory Commission... Safe Boating Tips

As the temperature rises and the days become longer, our minds turn to fun on the water. The following are brief safety and regulation reminders for boating at Lake Terramuggus. We hope you have a fun and safe summer!

- Boating Checklist:**
- Personal flotation devices in good condition for each passenger.
 - Fire extinguishers which are charged and operable.
 - Paddle in case of motor problems.
 - Well-stocked first aid kit and tool/repair kit.
 - Proper signaling devices (day, night, visual and audio).
 - A Marlborough town parking pass - required when parking in the lake access lot.
 - Current boat registration, trailer registration, and CT safe boating certificate.
 - Gas motors over 3.3hp are prohibited at the lake.

- Boating Actions:**
- Notify someone of your intended schedule and when you expect to return.
 - Drain all water from your boat and bilge before entering the lake and inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment for invasive plants and animals. Several lakes in the surrounding geography are currently experiencing significant difficulties with invasives.
 - If possible, remove a piece of litter from shore or in the water. Always try to leave our lake better than you found it!

Dan Dupre, Chairman - Marlborough Lake Advisory Commission

Lions 'Round the Lake 5K

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

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

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

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

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Worship is broadcast live and is recorded for later viewing at mcc.marlcongchurch.org. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service.

Bible Studies: Led by Pastor Val. The morning study meets Thursdays at 10:30 in the Thienes Lounge; the Thursday evening study meets at 6 p.m. in Pastor Val's office.

Outreach. The Church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring donations. A Drive Thru Café for Marlborough Food Bank patrons with vouchers will be May 19 from 1 to 1:30 p.m. The monthly luncheon meal for residents at Florence Lord Housing, sponsored by Youth Enrichment Team, will be

May 19. May mission giving will go the AHM Mental Health Fund.

AA. The church sponsors weekly meetings: Wednesdays and Thursdays at noon in the Youth Room; Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. in the Community Fellowship Hall. ACA meets Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the Youth Room.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located on the lower level, is open for shopping and donating Fridays, from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10am to 1 pm. Second Blessings will be closed Memorial weekend, May 25 and 26. The shop sells year-round through eBay at <https://bit.ly/MCCebay>

General Information. The Marlborough Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming faith community and all are welcome. For more information about the church or its programs, please call Pastor Val's direct line at 860.295.0432 or the church office at 860.295.9050.

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Monthly Bingo Canceled

Please note, monthly bingo for kids and seniors at the Marlborough Senior Center has been canceled for this coming weekend, May 26. With it being Memorial Day weekend and the same day and time as the run around Lake Terramuggus, we were worried about turnout. Mark your calendars for June 23rd from 2-4 p.m. To RSVP or ask any questions, feel free to reach out to us at rham@wearemaeve.org.

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Colchester Wins Democracy Cup

By Michael Sinkewicz

Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas joined local officials this week to award Colchester with the Democracy Cup, an honor bestowed upon communities with the highest voter turnout.

The program recognizes municipalities that flocked to the polls during the most recent 2023 general election. With 47.72% voter turnout, Colchester edged out Orange (45.93%) and Westport (45.55%) to win the “mid-sized” town category.

According to Democracy Cup criteria, towns with fewer than 10,000 people qualify for the “small” category; towns with 10,000-30,000 people are in the “mid-sized” category; towns between 30,000-65,000 people are in the “large” category; towns with more than 65,000 people are in the “city” category.

“When a town does have high turnout, I know it’s the culmination of having great candidates on the ballot but also word of mouth and people feeling that they’re a part of a community,” Thomas told the crowd gathered inside Town Hall. “And I think it’s important to celebrate that. If people don’t feel like their voice is being heard, like they don’t have a say — they don’t turn out to vote.”

She added, “You should be very proud here in Colchester that you did win this award.”

For roughly 25 years, the Democracy Cup has represented strong community engagement and a reward for residents who went to the polls. In

recent years, however, the honor has only been given during even years, which notably include presidential elections. Thomas decided to expand the initiative to odd-numbered election years, which largely feature municipal races.

The goal, she explained, was to spark further involvement and action with local politics, something she described as the “secret sauce that engenders high turnout.”

“The more we talk about how important it is to use your voice for all of those local issues that impact us every day, I think the better off Connecticut will be, regardless of [political] party.”

During the 2023 election, overall voter turnout throughout the state hovered around 34%, which was up from 21% in 2021. Some towns, though, dipped below 10%.

“Obviously you guys here in Colchester are far and away beating out what the rest of the state is doing,” conveyed Tara Chozet, director of communications for the Office of the Secretary of the State. “You’ve got something special going. Your citizens are obviously very engaged.”

Thomas presented local officials in attendance with the official Democracy Cup trophy, and thanked the individuals who helped facilitate early voting, including the registrar of voters, town clerk and poll workers.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler III, a Democrat who successfully won his seat with the most votes of any candidate across the ballot — 3,515 votes — celebrated the prize, stating that the

margin between municipal and presidential election turnout, which often exceeds 80%, was “frustrating.”

“I think the best bang for your buck when it comes to voting, is voting in these local elections where your vote is going to make a difference,” he said, adding that although national races are important, Connecticut residents struggle to “move the needle.”

Dennler emphasized that locally, the makeup of different boards and offices, as well as the outcome of budget referendums, was more impactful.

“Those votes are going to make a real difference in your daily life, in the school system we have, in the way our roads get taken care of, what happens with our parks and recreation facilities and our fields,” he said. “Your voice in this town matters and so your participation is important.”

While Democrats flipped numerous seats and took control of several boards following the previous election, Dennler also cited victories by Republican Art Shilosky and Cliff O’Donal, who sit on the Board of Selectmen. Dennler expressed that members of both political parties have formed a “team that I think is governing really effectively.”

The first selectman wrapped up his remarks by applauding the efforts of volunteers throughout the campaign season, whose work likely contributed to strong voter turnout.

“There is a ton of work that happens to get these candidates over the finish line on election day,” he said.

Thomas, a Democrat, told the *Rivereast* how visiting towns across the state is a valuable experience.

“I love being out and talking to real people and hearing about their experiences,” she said, adding that “it makes us move further ahead from headlines and more to what’s actually happening in communities.”

Prior to being elected in 2022, Thomas served as a state Representative in 143rd District, and before entering public office, recalled feeling that “you had to seek out government and it was a little hard to understand.”

“I also love bringing government to the people,” she explained, adding that much of her time is spent going into communities “just so people see that those who are elected and represent them in some way are accessible.”

Thomas also provided tips for Colchester, and towns across the state, to maintain or increase voter turnout moving forward. She called for civility, asserting that residents are “tired of negativity” and stressed the need to “elevate civic understanding.”

“People come out to vote when they understand what’s on the ballot,” she said, mentioning town meetings and local newspapers as common information sources. “Keeping the electorate informed is really important for anyone who wants to boost turnout. Getting nonpartisan information out just about voting — doesn’t matter what candidate — but this is how you register, this is where voting is happening, this is how you find your polling location — all those things boost turnout.”

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

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 through 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.

Tag Sale Items Needed

Boy Scout Troop 13 of Colchester is seeking tag sale items for their booth at the Colchester (Tag Sale) on the Green, Sunday, June 9. Donations such as toys, books, holiday decorations, kitchen items, and small household items accepted. No clothing, TVs, or outdated electronics. Gail at (860) 212-1743 or email troop13tagsale@gmail.com to arrange pickup or drop off of donated items.

Cragin Information

Cragin Memorial Library, located at 8 Linwood Ave has weekly activities and a website. For program descriptions, call 860-537-5752 or visit www.craginlibrary.org.

President’s List

Olivia Berard, a Senior Nursing major from Colchester, was among over 600 Bob Jones University students named to the Spring 2024 President’s List.

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.

On the Green Event

The 44th Annual Colchester on the Green event, sponsored by the Colchester Business Association (CBA), will take place Sunday, June 9 – and vendors are sought.

Applications to participate as a business or a local resident selling Tag Sale items is available on the CBA website at www.colchestercba.com.

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.

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.



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Memorial Day Participants Welcome

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

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.

The theme of this year's parade will be the

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.

Lions Breakfast for Parade Day

The Colchester Lions Breakfast on the Green will return this year, on Sunday, May 26 from 7:30 to 11 a.m. on the Town Green.

Breakfast will include pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, coffee and juice, conveniently served in a to-go container to enjoy on the Town Green or anywhere you choose.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$7, available at the Colchester branch of Dime Bank, or they can be purchased the day of the event for \$8.

All proceeds will go to Colchester Lions Charities, which supports a wide variety of community and Lions organizations.

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 27: CSC is Closed for the Memorial Day Holiday.

Tuesday, May 28: 9:00 Making Memories; 9:00 Sr. Golf League; 9:45 Tai Chi; 11:00 Memorial Day Picnic with Harry's; 12:30 In the Know; 12:30 Pinochle; 12:30; 1:30 BINGO; 7:00 SCBC Meeting.

Wednesday, May 29: 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; 11:00 Where Do I Find My People? Lunch & learn; 1:00.

Thursday, May 30: 9:00 Exercise w/Anne; 10:00 Sittercize; 10:00 Wii Bowling; 11:00 Yoga; 12:00 Chair Massage; 12:00-3:00 Sr. Benefits

Counseling by appointment only; 12:30 Dominoes; 1:00 Knit & Crochet.

Friday, May 31: 10:00 Sit & Be Fit Video; 10:15 Across the Ages; 10:30 Choral Group; 11:00 Yoga; 1:30 BINGO.

Older American's Month: May is Older American's Month. The 2024 theme is Powered by Connection. This recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being. To celebrate, we will be creating a giant CSC puzzle, a symbol of connectedness, with a piece to represent each of the wonderful programs that we have at CSC and how they all connect us together. Puzzle pieces will be available throughout the month for you to sign. We will then display the puzzle in the hallway.

Visit us on the town web site at www.colchesterct.gov or call 860-537-3911 for more information.

Westchester Church News

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

Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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

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

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

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

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Memorial Day honors and mourns U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the Armed Forces. The Haddam Neck Cemetery Association unveiled a new Veteran's Memorial for fallen soldiers buried in the Rock Landing Cemetery.

*** Haddam Neck Honors cont. from page 1**
of Thee," providing togetherness while remembering those who have served for the country. Members of VFW Troop 5059 and Auxiliaries attended the gathering and fired a 21-gun salute. Following the raising of the flag, two students from East Hampton High School, Austin Taylor and Zach Selger, played taps. Pastor Jamie Stall-Ryan of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton, who served in the Navy, said a prayer. He wished for people to remember those who have fallen, but also think about the people who continue to serve the country.

Of the four slabs, three have a total of 125 names engraved on top of those buried in the rock landing cemeteries dating back to the Colonial Wars between 1689 and 1763. Veterans listed on the monuments served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Peacetime Service. Thom Harris, a member of the cemetery association, took over the reading of all veterans interred in the cemetery from his father, who did it for the past 35 to 40 years.

At the Memorial Day Observance, Haddam First Selectman Robert McGarry was the guest speaker. McGarry graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and served for 20 years before retiring as a commander.

McGarry thanked those who came, veterans and active-duty military personnel. "Today is the day we should pause," started McGarry. "To remember their families and loved ones who supported and mourned them."

In his speech, he acknowledged how Memorial Day can be seen as the first day of summer with the day off and people gathering with friends and family. But he reiterated the importance of remembering the day's true meaning - to honor the people who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"We must honor them each and every day by using the gifts they have given us," he continued. "We can inspire people to be better, to be kinder tomorrow than we are today. Using these gifts, secured by the greatest sacrifice, to not only do good but to be good."

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ECRC Relocation Notice:

Effective June 1st, we will be closing our Colchester office and relocating our physical therapy services to our Lisbon location.

As a result of this transition, all requests for medical records can be processed through our Colchester office before 05/28/24. Any requests on or after 5/29/24 should be forwarded to our Lisbon location, you can reach us, by calling 860-376-2564 or via fax at 860-376-4812.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to being able to serve the healthcare needs of the Colchester community. We appreciate all unwavering support over the past 24 years. Your trust and patronage have been invaluable to us, and we remain committed to providing quality care in Eastern Connecticut.

Please be assured that despite the relocation of our services from Colchester to Lisbon, our commitment to serving your healthcare needs remains steadfast. Patients can continue to receive care at any of our ECRC locations without interruption.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance during this transition period, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding.

Warm regards,
ECRC Physical Therapy

RE5-2424

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Budgets Sent to Town Meeting

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Colchester Board of Selectmen (BOS) last week advanced both the 2024-2025 fiscal year town and school spending plans to the annual budget meeting.

During its meeting on May 16, the BOS unanimously sent the proposed municipal budget of \$17.10 million — a \$1.44 million, or 9.2%, increase from the 2023-24 fiscal year — along with the school budget of \$45.58 million — a \$1.59 million, or 3.6%, increase from current-year spending — to the town meeting, which will be held next week on Wednesday, May 29, at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall.

Following the town meeting, a referendum will be held on Tuesday, June 11, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Town Hall.

Prior to setting the upcoming meeting dates, the Board of Finance (BOF) met on May 15 to officially pass along the budget drafts to the BOS. During its meeting, the BOF voted 4-1 in favor of forwarding both proposals; Republican Tim Vaillancourt voted in opposition and Republican John Thomas was absent.

In addition, with an identical vote tally, the BOF voted to add advisory questions to the referendum ballot. The non-binding questions allow residents to indicate whether they thought both the town and school budgets were either “too high” or “too low.”

Previously during the budget season, the BOF trimmed the town and school budgets by \$38,512 and \$150,000 respectively; Vaillancourt and Thomas voted against both revisions.

At one meeting, Vaillancourt warned the community in regard to the overall spending increase, conveying, “When you get your tax bills in July folks, get ready. And the bigger the house you have and prettier cars you have, just wait.”

As presented, the new mill rate would be set at 28.67 — a 1.45 bump from the current rate.

Last year, the initial annual budget meeting was contentious, with residents voting down both the 2023-24 municipal and school budget proposals. While some individuals claimed the budgets could be denied by the voters during the town meeting, equating a “no” vote to rejecting the budgets and consequently preventing them from going to a town-wide referendum, others claimed that residents had no authority to reject the budgets.

Ultimately, after consulting with the town attorney, former First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos concluded that the motions made during the town meeting *not* to recommend either budget proposal were “invalid” and “contradictory” to the town charter; the referendum was held as scheduled.



Cub Scouts Den Visit Local Farm.... Jessica Stone of Cold Spring Farm in Colchester teaches the Lions Den of Pack 13 in Colchester about where their food comes from in a recent visit to the farm. The Scouts were working on their “Ready, Set, Grow!” belt loop. The Scouts enjoyed a tour of the farm learning about the different animals and vegetables they raise. Cub Scouts is a program for girls and boys grades K-5, Pack 13 meets at St. Andrews Church for more information contact colchesterpack13@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

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.

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Historic Bacon Academy

Bacon Academy, What’s in a Name?

Bacon Academy graduates have two things in common. They must explain that “no,” Bacon is not a private school and “no,” it’s not named for breakfast food. But who were the Bacons, and why did a childless couple who passed away in 1800 provide \$35,000 to endow a school that still bears their name today?

Pierpont Bacon remains a bit of a mystery. Even the spelling of his name is up for debate, with his headstone saying Pierpont and his will, Pierpoint. He was born in Middletown on May 27, 1724, lost his father when he was six, and moved to Colchester at 21, a “peniless house-joiner with just his tools on his back.” He did not enjoy this work and was frugal enough that by 1751, he had made his first land purchase and had started farming. That same year, he married a local woman, Abigail Newton, daughter of Major Israel Newton.

Pierpont Bacon did not prosper right away. As the Revolutionary War was brewing, he thought all was lost and wanted to give up and leave town. Abigail convinced him to stay and “try a bit longer.” As with most men in farming and industry at this time, Bacon held at least eight people in enslavement. He was known to toil alongside them in the fields, and he did free them upon his death. However, we must understand that his success and the academy that bears his name are not possible without the work of these men and women.

Once he became prosperous and continued to buy more land in town, Bacon was elected to several political positions. He became known as “a man of toilsome industry, of miserly saving, but not without some good share of public spirit. Honest to a proverb, clear-headed and

sound in judgment, a good citizen and not unkind.” It is his miserly ways that he became most well-known for, and allowed him to continue to buy land, ultimately owning 800 acres and becoming the wealthiest man in Colchester.

Abigail died in early 1800, and by the end of that year, Pierpont Bacon was also not long for the world. His doctor, Dr. John Watrous, who attended him and called him friend, convinced Bacon to leave his fortune to provide for “a school in the First Society.” A charter was obtained from the General Assembly, the location was secured, and the building was constructed. A lawsuit by Bacon’s Middletown family delayed the opening, but in November 1803, a group of 200 scholars surrounded the first Preceptor, John Adams, and Bacon Academy was born.

Bacon Academy is now in its 3rd building, but the original still stands as an anchor to the Colchester Town Green. The Trustees of Historic Bacon Academy invite you to learn more about this historic landmark and join them as they raise much-needed funds to repair and bring this building back to life. This year marks Pierpont Bacon’s 300th birthday. On May 26th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Historic Bacon Academy will be open and serve cake and lemonade alongside the town’s Memorial Day festivities. In honor of Bacon’s 300, consider joining the BACON 300 Society. Give \$300, payable in increments or as a joint gift with siblings or parents who attended Bacon Academy. To learn more about the Capital Campaign, visit www.baconacademytrustees.org.

Salmon River Event

Forest Bathing in the Salmon River State Forest, CT Trails Day: Sunday June 2, 10 a.m.
From Rt 16, follow Comstock Bridge Rd approx. 1.3 miles from the Comstock Covered Bridge. Meet at Airline Trail (hairpin parking lot) on Bull Hill Road. Recommend carpooling. CLT Board member Andrea Stannard will lead this moderately slow-paced three-mile hike.
This meditative, quiet hike involves the engagement of all our senses, with stopping points along the way for re-centering and observation.
Bring water and wear supportive hiking shoes as there are steep and uneven paths. Call Andrea for any questions at 860-912-0144.
Please visit our website at www.colchesterlandtrust.org to register, for updates/ cancellations. 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.

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Trip to Sight & Sound Theater

The St. Andrew Ladies Guild in Colchester, is sponsoring a trip to Amish country in Pennsylvania May 29-31, to see *Daniel* at the Sight & Sound Theater.
The trip will include a dinner with an Amish family, a bus tour of the Amish community visiting local shops, and a stop in Philadelphia to visit a museum and the Liberty Bell. The trip is \$645 per person, double. \$779 for a single. The bus will leave from the St. Andrew Church parking lot.
For more information, contact Barbara Gozzo at barbgozzo@gmail.com or 860-208-4121.

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Middle School Track Coach Steps Down

By Michael Sinkewicz

A Colchester middle school track coach stepped down last week after being accused of using a racial slur during a meet in Middletown.

According to a statement released by Colchester Public Schools, there was an interaction during a track meet held on May 13 between Beman Middle School in Middletown and William J. Johnston Middle School of Colchester, which prompted an investigation by the school district.

During the meet, a group of Beman students were singing “Faneto,” a song by Chief Keef, according to the Colchester school district.

“Thinking that the Beman students were attempting to playfully interact with her, the WJJMS coach responded by saying, ‘You are,’ the school district wrote, adding that the coach intended for the phrase to be a question and ‘didn’t realize that anymore from Beman was offended.’”

“Our coach has made it clear that she feels terrible that a student and her family are hurt by the interaction at the meet,” Colchester Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III said in a statement. “Further, she has decided to step down as a coach. She indicates that coaching is about kids, and the spotlight should always be on the student athletes and not the coach.”

Sullivan declined to provide further details to the *Rivereast* beyond the district’s prior statement, or confirm whether the individual was still employed in any capacity in the school district.

Sam Norman, president of Colchester Federated Teachers Local #1827, told the *Rivereast* that the interaction with the coach and students

was “100 percent a misunderstanding.”

“This is a teachable moment where a highly-respected coach has demonstrated what it looks like to ‘take the high road,’” he stated. “She immediately apologized to the student who misinterpreted her intentions and then stepped aside for the sake of her own athletes.”

In the aftermath of the incident, Norman said he was included in meetings with the coach and administration. The coach, he said was not asked to step down or forced to step down.

“Neither of those are the case,” he said, conveying the coach expressed that she “didn’t want to be a distraction” for her team moving forward.

After revising the details of the interaction, Norman believes there were “no intended racial overtones” with the coach’s remark.

Last Thursday, May 16, Middletown Public Schools also released a statement conveying that the Connecticut Parents Union intended on holding a press conference later that day in front of the Middletown Board of Education building.

“We understand the seriousness of this matter,” the district wrote. “The incident referenced has been under investigation by the Districts of Middletown Public Schools since the evening of Monday, May 13, 2024. As the investigation pertains to a personnel matter, our ability to share specific details is limited.”

The statement continued by conveying that the Middletown Public Schools “is firmly committed to creating and maintaining a school district where everyone feels seen, safe, and supported. This includes students, employees, families, community members, and visitors. Racist, derogatory, disparaging, and offensive language

has no place in our schools, and we do not condone it in any way.”

The CT Parents Union previewed their press conference with their own release, alleging that a racial slur was directed at a sixth-grade Black female student from Beman Middle School.

“We are demanding the removal of a Colchester track and field coach from coaching duties pending an investigation,” the group’s statement read.

The statement continued: “As a diverse community, we believe that it’s time for adults employed within the public school system to be held to the same standard of accountability as students, parents, and families. This is especially important when it comes to ensuring safe and welcoming school environments that should be of value to all students, regardless of race or socio-economic level.”

During the press conference, Latoya Dickerson, the child’s caregiver, alleged that the “exact words” from the student were, “The coach from Colchester called me a gorilla.”

“As a Black mother, I’ve never experienced

anything like this,” Dickerson expressed. “And it really put me in a very uncomfortable and frustrating situation,” Dickerson said.

Gwen Samuel, president of the CT Parents Union, expressed that she hoped the coach finds a different job moving forward.

“Get the support you need, understand diversity so that you can be a better human being,” she said during the press conference. Samuel didn’t respond to a request for comment before press time. The president of the Middlesex County NAACP also attended the press conference.

The student, who was not identified, held a sign stating, “words matter.”

The song, “Faneto,” includes explicit language and the word “gorilla” several times.

According to the statement, Sullivan is committed to working with the school community with “implicit bias to ensure that Colchester Schools are bastions of safety and inclusivity for all.”

The district added the WJJMS track team will have adequate support to conclude its season.

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.

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 amydomaika@gmail.com.

Lions Carnival Returns

The Colchester Lions Club will hold their annual Carnival on the Green from Wednesday, May 29 to Saturday, June 1.

Scheduled hours for the carnival are Wednesday and Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m.; Friday, 6 to 10 p.m.; and Saturday, 12 to 9 p.m. Weather conditions may affect operating hours.

A limited supply of discounted vouchers for ride bracelets can be purchased only through noon next Tuesday at Dime Bank, Noel’s Market, Mel’s Downtown Creamery and Westchester Marketplace. The pre-sale vouchers are \$27,

whereas ride bracelets are \$30 at the carnival. The all-you-can-ride bracelets can be used for any one night, or Saturday until 5 p.m.

There will be a food truck serving great hamburgers, hot dogs, fries and some specialty items, plus this year marks the return of the Lions’ fried dough booth.

All proceeds from the carnival go to Colchester Lions Charities, which support high school scholarships, holiday food baskets, and many community organizations through its annual Community Night of Giving.






On This Memorial Day Weekend
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Upcoming Senior Trip

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

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

On the way home, there will be a stop in

Philadelphia, where folks will check out the National Constitution Center and the Liberty Bell.

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

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

East Hampton Public Library

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St, has announced the following:

All-ages Programs:

Book Sale Donation Drop-Off: The Friends of the Library will be accepting donations of gently used books 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:

Tech Help with Sam & Nicole: Thursday, May 30, 2:00-4:00p.m. Need help with an electronic device, downloading an app, or navigating your phone? Drop by the Library and let us help you figure it out! Just bring your device with you.

Cookbook Club Summer Picnic at Sears

Christ Church Mother's Day Diaper Drive

Christ Episcopal Church, Middle Haddam, is holding a Diaper Drive to benefit young children who are served by our DCF liaison social worker in Middletown. Please purchase diapers in sizes 3-5, and 3T-5T and bring them to church on Mother's Day. Honor your mother by helping mothers and children in need. Community members are welcome to participate and may contact Patty Kloo at smallmiracles23@sb-cglobal.net, Sue Pugatch at spugatch@comcast.net or Mary Boretz at mboretz1@gmail.com. for more information.

Park: Tuesday, Jun. 4, 6:30 p.m. Cookbook Club changes things up this summer at Sears Park! This month's theme is Fresh & Fruity. Bring a prepared dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share. Food should arrive ready to eat and the Library will provide the plates and forks.

Teen Programs:

Chill Out Chess: Grades 6-12: Friday, Jun. 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Drop in to escape the summer heat, have a snack and challenge friends (and our very own Sam!) to a friendly game of chess.

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

For full program descriptions or to register for a program, call 860-267-6621 or visit us at easthamptonpubliclibrary.org

CHS Town Wide Tag Sale

The Chatham Historical Society's Town Wide Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, June 15. It is always held on the day before Father's Day. Clean out your closets and join this yearly event. Applicants will be included on the free maps that will be available at the East Hampton Library and the East Hampton Town Clerk's Office at the Town Hall. Call Debbie Day at 860- 267-4732 for further information.

Donations Sought for Concert Series

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

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

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Center School Gazebo in the East Hampton Village Center during the summer of 2024.

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

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30

a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters and crocheters are welcome.

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

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

Online Farmers Market

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

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

Class of '67 Reunion

The East Hampton class of '67 will gather on Sunday, September 8, 1-5 PM at the Town Tavern, 26 East High Street, East Hampton. We will order off a limited menu, paying as you go. Please contact Helen Curylo at 860 918-2332, Rita Gibbons at 860 267-0425 or Geralyn Yocher at 860 267-9524 to reserve your spot(s).

Absentee Ballots for Budget Vote

Absentee Ballots for Budget Vote Absentee ballots for the East Hampton budget referendum are available at the town clerk's office, located at 1 Community Drive. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday 8 a.m. 6:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For information call 860 267-2519. The East Hampton budget referendum will be held at East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday June 4.

CCEH Spring Market

Annual Spring Market on the grounds of the Congregational Church of East Hampton at 59 Main Street on Saturday May 25 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Market will include Plant Sale, Breakfast and Lunch for purchase, Bake Sale, Tastefully Simple, Photos by Barbara, Debby's Sweet Treats, Author Jack Matthews, Majoch Marketplace, Ydanis&Co French Macarons, Becca's Buddies, Itchin2Stitch4U, Buttons and Strings, maple products from Rick's Sugar Shack and much more.

The Belltown Garden Club will also be selling perennials. For more information or to reserve a vendor spot, contact Lisa at 860-918-1170.

Troop 57 Bottle Drive

Troop 57 is having its bottle drive on June 1st from 9 to noon. Bring your clean glass, plastics and cans to the American Distilling Parking lot (31 East High St, Route 66).

All redeemable containers including large juice bottles are accepted. The only containers not accepted would be milk containers.

If there are any questions, please contact Annette Kowalczyk at 860-267-2962.

The next bottle drive is July 20th. Check the website will have future bottle drives or updates due to inclement weather. <https://tmweb.troopmaster.com/Login/PickSite> (choose CT and unit 57). Troop 57 is chartered by the East Hampton Congregational Church.

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New Math Curriculum Shows Initial Success

By London Brazal

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, test scores for the district lowered, and educational staff feared how to get back on track with modified instructional settings. In addition to changing some of the staffing models, the district started to draft a multi-year plan to enhance the curriculum.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the district focused on finding a suitable math program for middle school students, as the existing Bridges program only catered to grades K-5. The student achievement data indicated that the current approach was ineffective for middle school learners. To identify a better fit, various programs were evaluated. Collaboration with the State Department of Education Performance Office provided insights, although they did not endorse specific programs.

Director of Curriculum Mary Clark described that the decision was influenced by examining math programs used by high-achieving districts. Ultimately, the Illustrative Math (IM) program, a problem-solving model, was selected. In the 2022-2023 school year, the transition began with professional development for teachers and piloting units in classrooms to assess the program's impact, ensuring it suited both teachers and students.

For this school year, the district fully implemented IM in grades six and seven. Clark and Camila Lewis, the middle school's Math Instructional Specialist, oversaw districts that used Bridges K5, helping them identify potential

alignment issues and gaps that students might encounter when starting IM in sixth grade.

The two were able to pinpoint specific units for middle school teachers to observe at Center School and identify areas to ensure a seamless transition from Bridges in fifth grade to IM in sixth grade. They felt that the discourse seen in Bridges, particularly through Number Corner and the nature of the workspaces, aligned well with the new curriculum.

Problem-based learning, the core of IM, has students take an active role, individually and in groups, to explore and discover solutions before receiving explanations or instructions. The teachers mediate student learning by ensuring students understand the context, asking questions to advance students' thinking, helping students share their work and synthesizing the learning with students at the end of the activities.

"Illustrative mathematics really facilitates that you're not a passive learner, you're an active learner in the classroom," explained Clark. "We want our students to demonstrate stamina in mathematical problem-solving and a willingness to persevere." Instead of an "I can't do this approach," problem-based learning helps students look for different ways to solve problems and apply the skills and knowledge they received.

One of the critical aspects of IM is student discourse. At the end of the lesson, students will talk to each other about what they learned

and how they solved the math problems. Lewis described the main goal of IM is to ensure that every student has access to content. The instructional routine is designed to have students think and talk about math in ways that make sense to them. When students start the lesson, there will be a warm-up followed by instructional activities, a lesson synthesis and a cool down. A warm-up prepares students for the lesson, and they try to figure out a problem independently. "The most important thing to IM is making sure that every student feels invited to the lesson," Lewis added.

Instructional activities introduce a new concept or representation. Students can define terms, identify and resolve mistakes and work towards mastering the topic. At the middle school, there are vertical whiteboards that students can use to work on math problems. It allows them to share their thinking and if they get stuck, they can reference their peers' work.

"If they're all seated separately, and they're not having those opportunities to have a dialogue to recognize when they're stuck, it doesn't facilitate

that same active classroom," emphasized Clark. During the lesson synthesis, the class comes together to go over what they learned. The cool down at the end of class is a brief assessment, typically one question, that determines if the student understands or if more instruction is needed.

The district has used grant funding to bring in an IM specialist to support teachers. They also anticipate a new pilot of the IM Aligned Intervention Program, which provides more coherence for students who receive additional math support. Regarding the teacher's feedback, a positive response was the impact of Bridges K-5 and how the students are comfortable with discourse and trying different strategies. However, a challenge they have seen is pacing the program, which Clark said was common for a new program.

She continued, "We promoted the family consumer science position because we want more math application opportunities so that our students can continue to practice the skills that they're learning in mathematics class."

VFW Post 5095 Color Guard Cemetery Rifle Salutes

Sunday, May 26: 9:10-9:20 a.m. - White Birch Cemetery, 9:35-9:45 - Jones Hollow Cemetery (Marlborough), 9:55-10:05 - Century Cemetery (Marlborough)
10:25-10:35 - Waterhole Cemetery, 10:40-10:50- Tartia Cemetery, 10:55-11:05- Skinnerville Cemetery
11:10-11:20- Old Young Street Cemetery,

11:25-11:35- Selden Yard Cemetery, 11:40-11:50- Hog Hill Cemetery
Monday, May 27: 12:00 p.m. VFW Post 5095, 12:10-12:15- Lakeview Cemetery, 12:25-12:35- St. Patrick's Church Cemetery, 12:45-12:55- Union Hill Cemetery, 1:00pm-Middle Haddam Veterans Memorial

HNCC BBQ Chicken

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is hosting a BBQ Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru Takeout Event on Saturday June 1st by reservation only. This is the famous BBQ chicken the Church has sold at the Haddam Neck Fair for over 40 years. The dinner includes a BBQ thigh/leg chicken quarter, baked beans, coleslaw and dinner roll for \$15.00 (cash only please).

Please call in your reservation to the HNCC

Church office at 860-267-2336 or email to officehncc@gmail.com and indicate your pick-up time between 12 and 5 p.m. Order deadline is May 27th.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Road in East Hampton, the road to the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

Library Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10 a.m.—2 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays 3–6 p.m.

Art Exhibit for May: A closing reception for the May exhibit of creations by local artists from Wesleyan Potters will be held on Friday May 31 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Historic Middle Haddam Public Library. Meet the artists and view the exhibit of handcrafted woven items and pottery. Some items will be available to purchase. Refreshments will be served.

Fiber Arts: Every Thursday, from 10 a.m.—noon. Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery, etc. All are welcome!

Yoga: With Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga;

Mondays & Saturdays 9 a.m., Tuesdays 7 p.m. Cost is a \$15 drop-in fee. Register at tensummitst@gmail.com

Family Yoga series: Fridays, through May 24 at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$12 to drop in or \$60 for the series. Email zenlotus860-@yahool.com with questions and to register.

Pilates: With Mary Henderson Thursdays at 6 p.m. Cost is \$12 per session to drop in. To register call 203-592-4448 or abstite@sbcglobal.net

Mahjong has started up again. Players of all experience levels are welcome. Please contact the library for more information.

Save the date for a Foraging Walk with Erin Day on Wednesday, June 5 at 6 p.m. Meet at the Historic Middle Haddam Public Library to carpool to the Dudley Seymour Preserve for an informational walk and talk on identifying edible plants that can be foraged for use in recipes. Tips on foraging responsibly will be included. Please call the library to register, 860-267-9093.

Police News:

5/7: Craig Salamone, 54, of 23 Bevin Blvd., East Hampton was issued a summons for Traveling Unreasonably Fast and Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License.

5/9: Robert Turney, 64, of 536 New London Rd., Colchester was taken into custody pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest and charged with Identity Theft in the 2nd Degree, Larceny in the 5th Degree and Illegal Use of a Payment Card.

5/10: Christopher Briggs, 49, of 19 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton was issued a ticket for Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

5/10/24: Domenic Santarsiero, 20, of 169 Pepperidge Dr., Southington was arrested for Failure to Obey a Red Light, Possession of Alcohol by a Minor, Operating Under the Influence, Forgery in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Misrepresentation.

5/11: After an investigation into a two-car motor vehicle accident at the Intersection of East High St., (Rte 66), and North Main St., Ashley Besade, 39, of 15 Bayview Ave., Niantic was arrested for Following Too Close, Illegal Operation of a Motor Vehicle While Under Suspension and Driving Under the Influence.

5/12: John Cosgrove, 77, of 85 North Main St., East Hampton was arrested for Driving Under the Influence.

5/14: James Jones, 27, of 46 School House Ln., East Hampton was taken into custody pursuant to a warrant for his arrest and charged with Falsely Reporting an Incident in the 1st Degree and Misuse of the 911 System.

5/14: Tasha Saltus, 39, of 18 Middletown Ave., East Hampton was issued a ticket for Failure to Obey a Stop Sign, Illegal Operation of a Motor Vehicle without Insurance, Improper Use of a Marker/Registration Plate and Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

5/15: Donald Jandreau, 43, of 21 Mt. Parnassus Rd., East Haddam was issued a ticket for Failure to Renew Registration.

5/15: Orlando Lopez-Pablo, 48, of 150 Spring St., Willimantic was issued a ticket for Improper Use of Marker/Registration Plate.

5/17: Katelyn Richardson, 34, of 10 Julia Ter, East Hampton was taken into custody pursuant to a warrant for her arrest and charged with Criminal Trespass in the 3rd Degree.

5/17: A 16-year-old juvenile was arrested for Sexual Assault in the 4th Degree. The juvenile had unwanted sexual contact with another juvenile without such other person's consent.

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

Henna Workshop. Monday, June 17th. 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. 6th-12th grade, \$10.



KOCO4Kids Corner

5 Simple Ways Kids Can Thank a Veteran on Memorial Day

1. Say "Thanks for your service"
2. Spend time with a veteran
3. Volunteer in your community
4. Write a thank you card or draw a picture
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Columbus (Nebraska) Telegram

koco4kids.org

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EHHS Library Media Specialist Publishes First Novel

By London Brazal

Katie Tietjen has worked in the East Hampton School District for 15 years, starting as an English teacher, and is now the high school's Library Media Specialist.

For her day job, she teaches students how to use databases and write essays, recommends readings, runs the student news club and much more. With several responsibilities during school hours, she managed to write and publish her debut novel, *Death in the Details*.

On Tuesday, two high school students from the EHHS Class of 2023, Noelle Lavender and Jewel Miranda, asked Tietjen questions about her book at the East Hampton Public Library's monthly Book Club.

To start, Tietjen read an excerpt to give insights on the main character, Maple Bishop. Bishop was determined to move on from World War II and the heartache of losing her husband, Bill. However, when she finds out that Bill left her penniless, she faces the imminent threat of losing her Vermont home.

Bishop came from poverty but studied to be a lawyer, unfortunately, she had no luck finding work. With no other options, Bishop decides to earn money through her unique talent: selling her intricately crafted dollhouses.

The inspiration behind the book comes from Frances Glessner Lee, who is considered the "Mother of Forensic Science." Glessner Lee created the "Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death," a series of eighteen meticulously designed dollhouse-style dioramas used for training homicide investigators.

Tietjen considered using Glessner Lee as the main character but ultimately decided against it because it felt weird. A new character gave Tietjen more freedom of Bishop and her backstory. Glessner Lee and Bishop are similar due to their dedication to detail and are trailblazers in their field of study. However, instead of fol-

lowing Glessner Lee's Chicago heiress lifestyle, Tietjen made Bishop a Bostonian self-starter who came from poverty.

The author first heard about Glessner Lee through an NPR story in 2017 and Tietjen was instantly fascinated with her career in forensics. For research, Tietjen traveled to Washington, D.C. to see the dollhouse dioramas at the Smithsonian, the Glessner House Museum in Chicago and Bethlehem, N.H. where Glessner Lee spent her summers and later years. She also read a photo series of *The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death* by Corrine May Botz and *18 Tiny Deaths* by Bruce Goldfarb. As a historical fiction novel, Tietjen also found herself googling random questions, such as "What people ate for dinner in 1946?" And though most of the book is time-accurate, she confessed one mistake of writing the idiom, "Don't get your pantyhose in a twist." Tietjen was told by multiple people that pantyhose was not invented yet.

Growing up in Higganum, living in Durham and working in East Hampton, Tietjen is no stranger to rural New England and took that inspiration for the setting of the book. In Elderberry, everyone knows everyone; however, people who were not born and raised there have a hard time fitting in, no matter how long they stay.

Tietjen started writing in February 2020 and was fortunate to participate in a writing program called "The 5th Semester" where she met mentors to go through the writing and publishing process.

Originally, with experience working with young adults, she thought Glessner Lee would be a guide or teacher to teenagers. A mentor at the retreat liked the idea but thought it would be better to make the apprentice the front character because it was unclear where the book would go on the shelf. "I didn't know anything about marketing a book and a lightbulb went off," ex-



East Hampton High School Library Media Specialist Katie Tietjen (left) joined EHHS Class of 2023 alumni, Noelle Lavender (right) and Jewel Miranda (middle), to discuss her newly published novel *Death in the Details*. Tietjen shared the inspiration behind her book and the process of publishing.

plained Tietjen. "I started drafting and worked in pieces to get feedback from Erin, my mentor." It was her first time eyeing the market and had the feeling the novel could be published.

In terms of publishing, Tietjen knew she wanted to go the traditional route with a hands-on agent. After sending out a thoroughly revised manuscript to 78 agents over nine months, six wrote back. Chelsey Emmelhainz, from Copps Literary, didn't say yes right away. She loved some ideas, but the book wasn't ready to sell. Emmelhainz gave Tietjen a list of suggestions, but it wasn't a discouraging matter.

"Chelsey made me work for it," acknowledged Tietjen. "I had enough experience with agents writing back 'no' or ghosting me altogether. She wouldn't have taken the time to write those out if she didn't really like this book."

The goal of her series is to base each book on a different one of the eighteen nutshells created by Glessner Lee. Currently, Tietjen is about 75 pages into book two as she writes at 4:45 in the morning with a cup of tea before her family is awake. *Death in the Details* and more information is available at katievietjen.com.

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

Sunday School: Sunday School classes are in session. Contact the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard at jneelrichard16@gmail.com for information.

Bible Study: The group meets via Zoom on

Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. Contact the Rev. Bobette Reed Kahn at bobette@kahn.com for more information. New members are always welcome.

May 26: There will be no service at Christ Church. All are welcome to attend a service honoring Maggie Labinski at 9:30 at Trinity Church, Portland.

June 2: Come and celebrate Cereal Sunday with a portion of your favorite cereal. Bring a box for the food bank as well. Milk and bananas will be provided.

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

RTC Trade Scholarship Available

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

Trades include: cosmetology, medical and veterinary services, court reporting, welding, auto/diesel mechanics, aviation and marine

services, HVAC, plumbing and electrical services, and more.

Students enrolled in public, private or home school educational environments are eligible for this scholarship. For an application, email ehctgop@gmail.com or contact the East Hampton High School guidance department.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Bike Rides for Seniors: Friday, May 24 at 10

a.m. featuring a ride on the Airline Trail at the Cranberry Bog on Smith Street. Please call the Senior Center to register. Bring your bike, helmet and water.

Yoga with Kitch: Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Stretch your limbs and build energy with this gentle session of chair yoga. Next session begins May 29 and runs through July 31, 2024. Cost is \$20. Please register at the senior center.

Chatham Health Chat: Tuesday, May 28 at 10:30 a.m. Features a discussion on Shingles. Please register in advance at the Senior Center.

Ice Cream Social in Memory of Longtime Member Bob Atheron: Wednesday, May 29 at 2:30 p.m. Enjoy ice cream with delicious toppings and music by Sue Hewes. Please register in advance at the Senior Center.

Bike Rides for Seniors: Friday, May 31 at 10 a.m. This week's ride will be at the Cranberry Bog at the Airline Trail, 69 Smith Street. Please register at the Senior Center in advance.

Line Dancing: Tuesday, June 4 at 10 a.m. Join this interactive class led by Ria and an online instructor. Please register at the Senior Center.

Design and Create a Mosaic Flower Pot: Thursday, June 6 at 1:30 p.m. Just in time for summer flowers! This interactive craft class is a fun way to create with instructor Cindy. Please register in advance.

Trips: Picnic on Laurel Island: Monday, July 29 leaving at 11 a.m. Enjoy a day at Laurel Island on Lake Pocotopaug. Bring your own lunch and we will supply dessert! Transportation from Senior Center by bus at 11 a.m. to the boat shuttle with host Jack Solomon. Donation of \$4 for the bus ride suggested. Please register at the Senior Center.

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

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

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.

Chicken BBQ: Held at the Church on Saturday, June 1st from noon - 5 p.m. Call or email the Church to pre-register and provide a pickup time.

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

Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

The Belltown Garden Club is holding its Annual Perennial Plant Sale in conjunction with the East Hampton Congregational Church's Open-Air Market on Saturday, May 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

If you have any questions, please text Hollye at 860-986-1240. Unsold plants are donated to the library that they in turn sell to help their fundraising efforts.

Library Book Sale

The Friends of the East Hampton Public Library will hold their annual book sale on Fri., May 31 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Sat., June 1 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the library, 105 Main St., E. Hampton. Gently used book donations may be brought to the library community room during library hours May 18 - 29. Please send questions to friendsofeph@gmail.com.

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Sears Park Boat Launch Operations

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an invasive and launches it into the lake. Sears Park is a resident-only boat launch and residents are reminded that boat launch passes are available at the Town Hall or the Library for the 2024 season. The fee is \$50 and boat and vehicle registration is required. Boat launch passes are required for all vessels launching though Sears Park.



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Rivereast Aloha!...Kevin and Elizabeth Johnson of Portland and their daughter Ashley Johnson of Lebanon, NH recently celebrated their retirements and birthday in Hawaii.

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.



Rivereast Goes Holy...Shari Scott-Smith and Jim Holmes of Hebron atop Croagh Patrick, Ireland's holiest mountain where St. Patrick fasted for 40 days in the year 441 AD.



Italian Connection...Terry Latimer and Corrado Nane of East Hampton vacationed in Italy, bringing the *Rivereast* along as they attended the Feast of St. Sebastian in Melilli, Sicily.



Castle Calling...Lee Hart and Charley Bayha of Portland brought the *Rivereast* and the sunshine with them to the Blarney Castle In Cork, Ireland.

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PZC Reviews Plan of Conservation and Development

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is close to finalizing an updated Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) after receiving additional community feedback last week.

During a public hearing on May 14, the PZC presented a draft of the POCD, which is separated into five sections providing goals and recommendations pertaining to the profile of Hebron, conservation, development, municipal infrastructure and compliance with state policies.

After closing the hearing, the PZC will likely adopt the draft during its next meeting on May 28, the culmination of over three years of work from the commission, town staff and former town planner Michael O’Leary, who was enlisted as a consultant.

Residents can find a copy of the draft on the town’s website: <https://hebronct.com/town-departments/planning-development/2024-plan-update/>

“This has been a long journey and I think we’ve got a good product, which obviously we’ll deliberate on the 28th,” remarked PZC chairman Frank Zitkus at the conclusion of the four-hour hearing.

According to Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes, every municipality across the state is required to amend or adopt a POCD at least once every 10 years, and Hebron’s plan was adopted in 2014.

Earlier this month, the staff of the Regional Planning Commission of the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) reviewed the referral made by the PZC and found “no apparent conflict with regional plans and policies of the

concerns of neighboring towns.”

CRCOG conveyed that Hebron’s draft was aligned with the regional POCD in “several ways.”

“The dedication to natural resource preservation with specific focus on habitat preservation and ecological systems was impressive,” wrote Jacob Knowlton, community development planner at CRCOG.

John Baron, a member of the Hebron Historical Society POCD Committee, described the draft as a “key element in preserving Hebron’s unique past.”

“However, the effectiveness of the revised 2024 POCD will only be proved by the willingness of all involved to follow what is stated.”

Jean Tulumieri, a resident of Kinney Road in Hebron, conveyed that her household has “relied on this document since 2004 to defend our neighborhood.”

She said that in 2019, local development plans would’ve negatively impacted the drinking water on her street. After reaching out to state representatives for assistance, Tulumieri said she ultimately fell back on the local document.

“In cases like ours, this important public document, while not legally binding, is still a strong line of defense for preventing drinking water contamination,” she said.

Town Planner Matthew Bordeaux told the *Rivereast* the PZC agreed in spirit to roughly eight revisions to the draft, based on comments and suggestions made from another meeting last month, which he’ll incorporate into the working document.

Previously, the Board of Selectmen endorsed the “intent” of the draft, “with the stipulation that a preamble is put in the beginning of the document that notes the POCD is not a regulation or a mandate, but it is an important advisory document.”

Selectman Daniel Larson emphasized the significance of having a preamble — which the PZC had already agreed to include — in order to ensure that the document was only a guide and not mandatory town policy.

“I know that there are people that are going to take this plan and try to use it as a sledgehammer saying, ‘Well your plan says and you are acting against it,’” he said during a meeting on May 2. “I’m so afraid of that.”

Bordeaux told the board everything in the POCD will not become town law until it’s voted on by the BOS.

“These are recommended policies, not established,” he said, describing the POCD as a “visionary document.”

He continued, “It may help guide regulation, but any regulation is considered for its own merits.”

During his interview this week, Bordeaux explained that the POCD is carefully crafted to stay “flexible” as the community moves forward.

“Yes, the plan should provide direction, but not

dictate exactly how it happens,” he said.

The document is wide-ranging, covering a variety of topics and providing numerous action items for officials to consider. Bordeaux stated that the abundance of information and issues addressed in the POCD will benefit the town when it applies for state funding.

“You can point to your plan and say, ‘We considered that,’” he explained. “It makes your application stronger.”

Michael O’Leary, who previously served as Hebron’s town planner for roughly 25 years, said that a POCD provides “policies, goals and standards for the physical and economical development of the municipality.”

While amendments can be added after the plan is approved, the POCD essentially supplies a 10-year outlook.

“By its very nature, it’s long-range,” O’Leary said.

Although a majority of the PZC agreed to close the public hearing, member David Sousa expressed that it should be extended to the May 28 meeting. A lot of detail was presented, he said, and by continuing the hearing, more residents could provide feedback.

“But because [the meeting] ran so late and because it’s voluminous, I don’t think we’ve given the public adequate time to really digest it,” he said.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

Weekly Shopping Trips: Pre-registration is required by Thursday at 10am. May 24th Walmart, and May 31st Big Y. Pick-ups will go back to spring/summertime and begin at the general time of 9:00am based on where pick-ups will be— To sign up, please call 860-228-1700.

Yoga: Mondays & Wednesdays 10:15 a.m.—11:15 a.m. through Wednesday, June 5th (6 sessions for \$18). (no class Monday, May 27th). Drop-in fee is \$5 per class. Our instructor, Laurie Pasteryak, has extensive teaching experience in yoga. Her classes will be suitable for both the

experienced and beginner yogis who can do their practice on either the floor or in a chair. Laurie has tremendous energy and will bring that positivity to her classes. To register, call 860-228-1700.

Massage Therapy: Massage therapist, Beverly Williams will be here every Monday and Thursday. Appointments on Monday are available from 9:00am – 3:00pm (last appointment at 2:00pm for 50minute) and on Thursdays she will be here 9:00 -3:30 (last appointment at 3:00pm – 25 minute or 2:30pm if you want 50 minute). She offers 25minute or 50-minute chair or table massage or hot stone massage for \$25/\$50 accordingly. To make an appointment, please call 860-228-1700.

Fitness Evaluation/Fitness Planning for the Exercise Room: Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m., through early May. Certified athletic trainer Samantha Freeman will evaluate your current fitness workout, give tips, and help create a plan if you’re just getting started. To set-up an appointment, call the senior center.

Exercise Equipment Room: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon.

Recurring Daily/Weekly Happenings: Some programs have a fee, and some are non-cost, most require pre-registration. Detailed information in the monthly newsletter or at the senior center. Mondays - Enhance Fitness via ZOOM with Paul Smith 9:00-10:00, Massage 9:00-3:30, Yoga 10:15-11:15am, Mindful Meditation 2x per month 11:25-noon (call for dates), Movie Monday (twice per month call for date & title); Tuesdays - Knitting/Crocheting/Needle Group 10:15-11:45, Mobile food truck & HHS Food Bank transportation 11:00am, Hand and Foot Canasta (cards) 12:45-3:15, Card Making 1:00-2:15, Wednesdays - Enhance Fitness via ZOOM with Paul Smith 9:00-10:00, Yoga 10:15-11:15am, 1st & 3rd 10:15-11:15, RHAM Bingo 3rd Wednesday of the month (October through May) 2:30-4, Thursdays -Massage 9:00-3:30, Sunshine Singers 10:15 – 11:45, Mahjongg 12:45—3:15, Bingo 1:00-3:00, Fridays - Enhance Fitness via ZOOM with Paul Smith 9:00-10:00, Grocery Shopping (varies between Big Y, Stop & Shop, and Walmart) 10:00, Fun with Stitches Open Quilting Group & Created to Create Open Arts Group 10:15 – 12:15.

TTCP News & Notes

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

Calling All Musicians – Make Music Day Hebron: Make Music Day is an international event dedicated to the celebration of music. This year’s festivities will be held Friday, June 21. All levels of musicians are welcome, and all genres. TTCP is looking to line Main Street, bringing back the “Mile of Music.” Sign up online to participate in the event.

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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

This Week’s Scheduled Events/Meetings: Saturday, 5/25 – Youth Group: Covenant Soup Kitchen at 9:00 a.m., Yoga at 9:30; Sunday, 5/26 – Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. (Livestreamed), *NO Bible Study* in honor of Memorial Day; Tuesday, 5/21 – AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 5/22 – Yoga at 9:15

a.m.m, Choir Practice at 7:00 p.m.

Card Making with Gayle: Our next class is scheduled for Sunday, May 26 at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 with a portion of proceeds going toward the CT Food Bank. You can get in touch with Gayle to sign up for class via the GCC administrative office.

Children’s Sunday: Celebrating youth involved in GCC’s Youth Group and Sunday School programs on Children’s Sunday, June 9, with a special slideshow during worship at 10:00 a.m.

AHM Golf Tournament

AHM’s 21st Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on July 19. This event benefits the mental health, drug prevention, and youth & family services AHM provides for local children, teens, young adults, families, and seniors. With the support of businesses, organizations, and people like you, AHM is able to achieve our fundraising goals and continue to support our community. Visit <https://ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/charity-golf-tournament/> to register your foursome and learn about sponsorship opportunities.

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Highlander Open a Smash Hit

By Josh Howard

As his Capstone Project, Portland High School junior Aidan Peterson organized and hosted the Highlander Open — a golf tournament at Portland Golf Course on May 5.

The funds raised from the event will support the PHS golf team, along with starting a fund to help future students in need.

“I lost my home and all of my belongings in March of 2022 and wanted to use this opportunity to repay all of the generosity I received from this community,” stated Peterson.

Peterson, who was born and raised in Portland, added that he originally came up with the idea before speaking with PHS golf coach Joe Santavenero.

With the support of his coach, Peterson began working on the logistics of the events and the plans quickly fell into place.

The project combined his love for the links with allowing him to pay it forward after the local community helped out him and his family following a house fire two years ago.

“I wanted to give back to our community because they had helped me out so much,” said Peterson, who was a freshman when the fire destroyed the family home.

With the help of a variety of volunteers and over 50 participants and sponsors, the tournament was a huge success.

42 golfers, including 20 PHS alumni, played competitive golf for nine holes, which culminated in a two-way tie for first place at seven-under par between the duo of Zac Stennett and William Karkos and the brother’s team of Ben and John Lucas.

Once the final shot was sunk, Peterson’s Capstone idea had raised over \$1700.

Peterson noted that the event “totally ex-

ceeded his expectations”, adding, “When I first started thinking of it, I thought I would just get a couple of businesses to raise some money and when I went around town there was so much more support than I was expecting.”

It turned out that Peterson’s vision made for an ideal Capstone Project, which is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary task that PHS students compete during their junior year. It’s a chance for students to apply their knowledge and skills to solve real-world problems and can take many forms.

Peterson added that the overwhelming support is one of the benefits of a place like Portland.

“We live in a great community,” noted Peterson. “It’s a small town – all the people are so nice.”

Peterson gave special thanks to Portland Golf Course, Portland West Golf Course, Chris Cote’s Golf Shop, Quarry Ridge Golf Course, Tallwood Country Club, Campagna’s Restaurant, Farrell’s Restaurant, Primavera Restaurant, Wing Yum Chinese Restaurant, and Ace Hardware. He also credited Santavenero, Stennett, The Kelley Family, Rosario Rizzo, Rob Wallace, and Dave Smith for their time and effort.

“It’s heartwarming to see how much people care,” expressed Peterson.

The hope now is to make the Open a tradition, possibly something that Peterson can continue to be involved with as an alumnus over the coming years.

“I didn’t know at first if I was going to make it annual, but everybody loved it and there was so much positive feedback,” noted Peterson, who said the tourney could expand to 18 holes in the future. “We’re going to figure out a way to carry it on.”

For Peterson, the project tied in his desire to give back with his passions for athletics.

Chip Sealing

The Portland Department of Public Works expects to begin chip sealing the following roads on or about May 28th and continuing through the month of June:

Ann St, Arvid Rd, Bartlett St, Bell Ct, Brainerd Dr, Carousel Dd, Church St, Covell Hill R, Edgewood R, Edwards Rd, Fairview St, Freestone Ave Ext, Hale Rd, Highland Ave, Homestead Ave, Indian Hill Rd, Joelle Dr, Olsen Ave, Palmer Rd, Strong Ave, Taylor Dr, Waverly Ave, Woodland Rd.

The chip seal process consists of distributing a liquid asphalt emulsion on the roadway and covering the liquid asphalt with crushed stone

to provide a new wearing surface. Chip sealing extends the life of a roadway by protecting it from moisture, ultra-violet degradation and any other exposures that could damage a roadway. Drivers should exercise caution as loose stone will be present on the roadway. It is recommended when travelling on a recently chip sealed road to slow down and allow additional space between vehicles.

The Department apologizes for any inconveniences and urges residents to use alternate routes where possible. As a quick reminder, please use caution and consider worker safety when driving through a construction zone.

“Fill a Public Works Truck” Event

Portland Public Works and the Portland Lions Club will hold the fifth annual “Fill a Public Works Truck” event at Adams Market. All proceeds are going to support the Portland Food Bank. The goal is to raise funds for the Portland Food Bank by asking customers to “Round-Up” at the register. The event will run in the Portland Adams Hometown Market from now through Saturday, May 25, 2024.

One of our Public works Trucks along with members of the Portland Lions Club will be on site on Saturday, May 25 from 8am-2pm. This

event, cosponsored in recognition of National Public Works Week, recognizes the work the Portland Public Works Department performs to improve our community and keep us safe. These tasks include, but are not limited to, Road Maintenance, Refuse/Recycling Operations, Park/Grounds Maintenance, Building Maintenance, and Water & Sewer operations.

Please show your support for our hard-working town employees by donating to our Portland Food Bank. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

Next Week’s Programs: **Monday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Cline; Syncosize II Dance and Fitness, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Cooking for One, 11-45-1; 11:30 Joanie on the Sport **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m., making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients – donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more, for making bears (to donate, call 860-342-0809); Watercolor Class, 9:30 a.m.-noon (last class of session - to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com); 10:30 walking club. Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m.; **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Syncosize II Dance and Fitness, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; noon, Lunch & Learn with Na-

tional Health – “The Warning Signs of Dementia”; Bridge, 12:30 p.m. **Thursday:** Knit & Stitch, 10 a.m.; 10:30 Nutritional Cooking Class with UCONN; Mahjong, 12:30 p.m.; Scrabble, 1 p.m. **Friday:** Light aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m..

Special Events: Thursday, May 30: Sound Healing with Gina at 10 a.m.

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

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

Free Hearing Screenings: The second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m., with Virginia Duclos of “All Ears” in Portland. No registration is necessary.

Learn Mahjong with Laurie: Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon, starting May 24. This is a six-week session.

Sound Healing with Gina: Thursday, May 30, 10 a.m.

Foot Care: Taking appointments for the Foot Clinic with Stacey Cormier RN. She will be offering many services for \$35.00. Please call to register and for more information.

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



Participants at the Highlander Open golf tournament, organized by PHS junior Aidan Peterson. The fundraising golf tourney took place at Portland Golf Course on May 5.

Along with playing golf at PHS, Peterson plays soccer in the fall and basketball in the winter. He is currently in his third year with the Highlanders golf team that just won the Shoreline Conference Championship (SLC) on Tuesday.

It marked the fourth straight season that the Highlanders have brought home the conference banner.

Peterson’s senior teammates Luke Stennett and Quinn Lapinski finished in the top two spots on the leaderboard in the latest conference triumph, with Stennett finishing as the medalist after shooting a 72 and Lapinski finishing as the runner-up with a 73.

It was the third consecutive spring that Stennett finished atop the leaderboard at the conference finals.

Peterson tied with sophomore teammate Jonah Lavallee for a share of eighth place after shooting an 82.

The team now turns their attention to the Division III state championships, which are slated to tee-off on June 3. The Highlanders will be seeking a fourth straight state title.

Peterson, who is also part of the school’s National Honor Society, said it’s been great to be a part of the resurgence of the golf program at PHS and hopes they can continue the championship success.


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 com-

munity. There are three categories, including in-ground plantings, container gardens, and professionally designed gardens.

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.



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Officials Discuss Moving Forward with Consolidating Schools

By London Brazal

After taking time to absorb a lengthy presentation about consolidating three elementary schools into one and moving grade 6 to the middle school, members of the Board of Selectman (BOS) and Board of Education (BOE) gathered last Tuesday to provide thoughts on moving forward.

BOE Member Dave Murphy explained the town is looking at a \$44 million project to create one large elementary school. In an ideal scenario, the project would receive a 49% reimbursement rate. "If we actually get 49%, which Dr. Britton thinks is a strong possibility, we could be at \$34 million," said Murphy. "I know we have to plan the worst-case scenario, but there's also a more likely scenario that could be in that 34 to 36 range."

Superintendent Charles Britton and the Assistant for Business and Financial Affairs Stephanie Fragola have explored other forms of reimbursement. In the state's Open Choice Program, the district has to apply to get reimbursement. "In the K-5 structure, we have 23 open choice students out of 600. So when you divide that, it's 4.6%, so we would get an additional 4.6% reimbursement," said Fragola. With the two forms of reimbursement, the project could get about 53% back. However, the rate changes on July 1 when the state reevaluates the districts. "We try to keep our Open Choice number at 5%, that's always our target," Britton added. "That's just generally been where we try to be because we get the added incentives."

Michael Sorano from Friar Architects said it is best to look on the conservative side, but from his experience, he thinks the district will land in a better spot. With a potential question at the November election, Sorano explained how the reimbursement grant works. The town would receive initial funding for cash flow and apply for reimbursements every two months during construction, using short-term bonds. After

construction, there will be a five-year period for state audit preparation. The final audit will determine if additional funds are needed or if there will be a refund. Borrowing will increase during construction and stabilize after the audit.

Selectman Shaun Manning suggested saving costs with the design, such as eliminating the second floor so a stairwell and elevator do not have to be built. "I'm not necessarily against this plan, but I am against the numbers," said Manning. "I think there's a way we can save money on the school." Ultimately, many members of the community fear the costs and the burden that will be put on the taxpayers.

Selectman John Dillon mentioned the idea of passing \$11 million off as a future problem in regard to the improvements needed at the secondary school. "We're talking about potentially a 30-year bond on this school and repairs that need to be done at the secondary school within 10 [years]," clarified Dillon. Britton responded saying there are several unknowns such as the reimbursement rate, the money back from Open Choice and the savings from overhead costs being cut with consolidating.

Furthermore, Britton described how there are many "exciting developments" in Portland that also have an influence on the project including Brainerd Place and the opening of the Nordic Spa. Given these opportunities, Britton thinks it is not advisable to request \$11 million for the high school now. Instead, the focus should be on the elementary schools and addressing the high school's HVAC system while a 50% reimbursement is available. He noted how it is important to consider the upcoming financial changes, such as the retirement of bonds and fluctuating interest rates, to avoid overcommitting immediately.

Murphy explained how the schools need to get ahead of the curve when it comes to the facilities improvements. "We should be putting a

chunk of change every year in our budget for capital expenses, \$100, \$200, \$300,000 - whatever that number is and anticipating these things," Murphy declared. "So, in 20 years, we're not looking for another 20 million to fix this building. So we need to get ahead of that curve, but I think the savings on the consolidation is going to be a big step towards that."

Another primary worry is what happens to Brownstone and Gildersleeve if they were to be decommissioned. Dillon pointed out that more than 80% of respondents to the survey from the fall about the project wanted to know that answer before going to the polls. Manning said the town has a poor track record on repurposing or employing old buildings, referring to Central School sitting for 20 years, the Old Firehouse and the old Senior Center.

BOE Chairperson Laurel Steinhauser said the groups have time to create solutions and plausible options before the question goes to referendum. "We've explored these and the professionals and the experts who have a lot of expertise in this industry have looked at these [solutions] and agree that these two or three things are distinct possibilities right now, not just a maybe," said Steinhauser.

First Selectman Ryan Curley jumped in to say the school facility committee has talented and hardworking members even though they don't have answers yet. "I'm starting to see why Central School may have sat for so long because

these are not easy answers on what you do with the school," Curley acknowledged. "We found out with Friar Architecture that demolishing Gildersleeve is estimated to cost us \$4 million which is more than the land itself is worth. So selling that is not an option." Curley went on to say that a "win" on the properties would be to break even and sell; keeping the properties would be an additional expense to the town.

A challenging part of this project is balancing what is best for the taxpayers and what is best for the students and staff who will use the facilities. BOE member Kim Nagy-Maruschock identified many concerns with the proposed site plan with students on a second floor and having Pre-K students close to the road. Sorano said the Educational Specifications Plan (EdSpec) is important to ensure the student's needs. Murphy expanded on that point, saying it would take some time to develop the final design. "All these things that bubble to the top can be incorporated in the new design with the architect," Murphy added.

Both boards silently nodded the approval for Britton and Fragola to submit a reimbursement grant, due by June 30. And, in that, there needs to be an approved EdSpec plan by the BOE, an approved bonding question from the BOS and a series of resolutions. Then, the public would vote on the school project in November. Of those who participated in the audience of citizens, a majority favored the consolidation of schools.

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.

Service Schedule Update: Trinity Church on Sunday, May 26 at 9:30 a.m. with a Holy Eucharist service.

CT Humane Society Project: Trinity monthly service project is supporting pet adoption for the CT Humane Society. We are accepting donations of new dog and cat toys and food bowls in the collection bin outside the front doors of the church. We are also collecting "soft" dog and cat

treats inside any church door on Fridays from 11:30 am-1:30 pm and Sundays 9:30 am - 11:00 am. 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, please call 860-262-3251.

The church is open for prayer and meditation and for Anglican Prayer beading from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. All are welcome. No prior beading experience is required. Visit www.trinity-churchportlandct.org for more information, our calendar of events, donate or listen to past sermons.

Portland Memorial Day Veterans Activities

Saturday 5/25: Portland's American Legion Ormont Post #69 will kick off the 2024 Memorial Day activities with the Veterans Breakfast on May 25, starting at 7:30 a.m. and serving until 10:30 a.m. or when the food runs out, whichever occurs first. The menu includes baked omelets (ham, cheese, or plain), creamed beef on toast, bacon, sausage, toast, grits, and coffee, tea, or orange juice. American Legion Hall, 12 Freestone Ave, Portland. There is a suggested donation of \$8.00 per person with kids under 10 admitted free.

Sunday 5/26: The American Legion Ormont Post #69 honor guard will visit and render honors at each of the cemeteries in Portland

in remembrance of our veterans starting at approximately 1230 at St. Mary's Cemetery. Following this, the American Legion Ormont Post #69 honor guard will lead the Annual Portland Memorial Day Parade, which kicks off at 1400 from the corner of Victoria Rd and Main St. Following the parade, there will be a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park, behind the Town Hall, 33 East Main Street.

Any Portland veteran interested in marching in the parade or being a part of the color guard can contact the American Legion Post Commander, Tim Dickerson at ormontpost69@gmail.com.

Memorial Day Parade – Invitation to Participate

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

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

The procession will stop for a brief ceremony at the Civil War monument on Bartlett Street, it will continue down Main Street as usual. A reviewing stand will be stationed at the Brownstone Intermediate School. The pa-

rade will then turn left on Waverly Avenue, left onto East Main Street, and right onto Fairview Street, ending at Veterans Memorial Park.

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

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

Juneteenth Celebration

On Saturday, June 15, the Committee on Solidarity of the Town of Portland, CT will host the 6th Juneteenth celebration from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Portland Middle School, 93 High Street.

There will be live music including local bands "At Last" from Middletown and "For Fun" from Portland, a StoryWalk® featuring the book *A Flag for Juneteenth* by Kim Taylor, free ice cream from the Ice Cream Emergency truck, arts and crafts, games, food and merchandise vendors and a diverse group of informational booths. Also featured will be a treasure hunt focused on Black artists – complete with prizes.

Performers will include Nzinga's Daughters, whose program includes a variety of Afri-

can, Caribbean, and African-American music, drumming, storytelling and poetry; the Harmonizing Hearts of Zion youth choir from Zion First Baptist Church in Middletown, and poetry from Portland's Poet Laureate, Naji Chester-Payne.

Sponsors include Portland Public Schools, True Vine Holiness Church of Portland, Portland Historical Society, Portland Public Library, Portland Youth and Family Services, Middlesex Habitat for Humanity, Middlesex County NAACP, Liberty Bank and Gospel Lane's Del Printing. For more information, email portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com.

Flags For Portland Veterans' Graves

The Portland Veteran Affairs Committee and the American Legion Post 69 members have placed flags on graves of veterans buried in Portland Cemeteries for Memorial Day. If residents notice that a flag was inadvertently missed for a Portland Veteran, or because a grave marker does not indicate they are a veteran, the Portland Town Clerk's Office has additional flags.



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Obituaries

Colchester

Estelle Jones

Estelle Marie (Lee) Jones, 91, of Canterbury, CT, formerly of Colchester, Ct passed away surrounded by her family on May 10, 2024. She was born on July 7, 1932, in Manchester, CT, to the late William and Gladys Taylor.

Estelle is survived by her nine children Lee Miller, Melvin Jones Jr, Suzanne Stalcup, William Jones, Thomas Jones Sr, Rosemarie Jones, Alice & Stephen Robbins, Kathleen and Russell Gleason, a daughter-in-law Lorriane Friend, and one brother David Taylor. She is also survived by 28 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents, her daughter Tina Marie Jones, and her siblings Earle Bryant, Madolyn Bryant, Rose Stickland, Mary Lafountain, Donald Lee, William Lee, Janet Taylor, William Taylor, and Robert Taylor.

A graveside service will be held on June 11 at 11 a.m., at North Lebanon Cemetery on 85 Synagogue Rd, Lebanon, CT.

Estelle will be remembered for her love for her family and her kind spirit. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.



East Hampton

Albert E. Cantara

After a decline in his health following a fall in late March, Albert E. Cantara, age 93, died peacefully at his home in Kittery.

Born in Biddeford, ME, he graduated from St. Louis High School in 1950 and served in the U.S. Air Force stateside during the Korean War. He retired from American Airlines as a reservation agent.

He was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Lorraine (Caron), in 2012. He is survived by four children: Guy Cantara and his wife Anita of Cape Neddick, ME; Michael Cantara and his wife Teresa of Portland, ME; Diane Chase of Providence, RI; and Nancy Cantara of East Hampton, CT; as well as four grandchildren; Tiffany Nelson and husband Jesse of Westbrook, ME, Shaun Cantara of Cape Neddick, ME, Jason Swan of Middletown, CT, and Valerie Chase and husband David Pinsonneault of Providence RI; and one great-grandchild; Bradley Swan.

He had a passion for railroads and would spend time trackside or in railroad yards watching the trains pass. He enjoyed big band music and was a talented piano player of standards from that era. He was a fan of all the professional sports teams of Boston, and he knew all the angles of shooting pool.

Al wished to be remembered as a hard-working man devoted to his family, who enjoyed life and was very grateful for all he had.

A visitation will take place at the JS Pelkey & Son Funeral Home, 125 Old Post Road, Kittery, Maine, 03904, on Tuesday, May 28th, from 1-4p. The Funeral Mass will take place on June 13th at 11:00am at St. Patrick's Church in East Hampton, Connecticut, followed by the burial. To leave online condolences, please visit www.jspelkeyfuneralhome.com



Marlborough

Donald Favry

Donald W. Favry, 83, of Marlborough, husband of Lindalee (Fritsch) Favry, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 10, 2024, after a brief illness.

Born in Hartford, CT, on June 3, 1940, to Walter Favry and Isabelle Frances Favry, Don grew up in Wethersfield where he graduated from Wethersfield High School with his future wife. After moving to Marlborough in 1965, Don became the owner of M & L Landscaping and later the Glastonbury Fish Market. He also served as Marlborough's animal control officer for twenty years.

An avid outdoorsman, Don was a past member of the East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club and the New England Field Trial Association. He raised championship hunting dogs as the owner of London Kennels, which inspired him to purchase the Millstream Hunting Preserve in 1996. There he was proud to offer a premier sporting and bird hunting experience, accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

In addition to his wife, Don is survived by three daughters: Michele Lampert and her husband Jonathan, Leahbeth Lewandowski and her husband Dan, and Melissa Abbotts; five grandchildren: Caitlyn and Melinda Lampert, Alexis and Jessica Abbotts, and Daved Lewandowski; several brothers and sisters-in law, as well as cherished nieces, nephews, and cousins. He also leaves his beloved German shorthaired pointer, Gigi. He was predeceased by his parents; his brother, Robert Favry; his sister, Frances Ann Falk; and his stepmother, Virginia Favry.

A private graveside service will be held in Marlborough Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital, an organization to which he regularly donated. <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>



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★ Band Director Retires cont. from page 1

A few years ago, he recalled thinking about the idea of retirement, but he concluded: "I wasn't ready."

Now at 63 years old, the longtime Colchester resident believes it was time to exit.

"I'm finished," he declared. "It's over. I've been doing band for 41 years, I'm done. It's the natural end of a working life."

When he first started teaching and saw the seasoned instructors at the time, it was difficult to envision reaching that point in his own life, Kessler conveyed.

"I understand now," he continued. "But it's noting I could've prepared for."

When asked what he'll miss about directing band at Bacon Academy, Kessler stated, "making great music with students eager to play as best as they can."

In his mind, his effectiveness as an instructor was due to one simple tactic: "show up every day."

"Respect the students' lives in and out of the band room," he explained. "Keep them busy; challenge when necessary; back off if you have to."

At the Berklee College of Music High School Jazz festival, the Bacon Academy band would frequently be on a "bands to watch" list, which Kessler cited as a significant accomplishment. Without even knowing the quality of his group or their scheduled performance, fellow music directors would go out of their way to see Kessler's band in action.

"It was a wonderful compliment from contemporaries," he said, adding that those types of lists were generated on "straight reputation."

While Kessler's groups have racked up numerous awards and provided the community with a variety of services, including pep band at sporting events, he also instilled valuable lessons to the students who enrolled in band, and made a conscious effort to eliminate drama from the classroom.

"Preparation is the most important concept to learn and use," he asserted. "Occasionally the execution may not be as desired, but if they were prepared, students could always recover easily, regroup and move on."

Kessler added that Bacon students "have evolved as professionals, tradesmen, educators, moms and dads, band parents," and of course, "many, many musicians."

The alumni network remains strong, as well. Kessler conveyed that adult musicians share their successes with him, and it's "extremely important" for current students to "recognize the high level of achievement" of those who came before them.

"These 'Heroes of Colchester' took their already strong high school musical skills elsewhere and found that they were just as good as everybody and anybody else," he stated. "Our

students know that their work now will be favorably compared with the 'rest of the world.'"

"I had a great year"

"I loved bringing the band places," Kessler expressed.

He referenced four trips to Toronto as some of his favorite voyages, and often his bands would enjoy great success during the competitions they attended.

"It was on a trip in the early '90s that the band, some students and the color guard won recognition awards, most outstanding musician [and] best in show," Kessler recalled. "It was on that trip that the cymbal player showed up to the parade formation in full uniform, but without cymbals, left in Colchester, of course."

Kessler took the band to Disney World, which he described as "outrageously fun."

The jazz band ultimately went to Boston thirty times for the Berklee festival, and was awarded over 25 times. One memorable experience, he recalled, was the jazz band playing in front of 2,500 "screaming teenagers."

"The place was nuts!" Kessler expressed. Additionally, the jazz band would attend a springtime festival in Waterford, and Colchester would host a state concert band festival.

"There were many wonderful student performances on our stage," Kessler said. "Featured solos, student conductors, and hijinks. Theme concerts were ridiculous fun, from 'The Year of Water,' the 'Food Concert,' 'Batman,' 'Elvis,' 'Tubby the Tuba,' dance team features, two Irish Concerts 34 years apart. There was a time I dropped spiders from above during the Halloween concert."

Kessler added, "A parent wasn't pleased."

This weekend, the band is preparing for the Memorial Day Parade, which Kessler has participated in for 33 years; there were two rain outs and two cancellations during the pandemic.

"I'm preparing to work it," Kessler said, embracing a "business as usual" mindset.

Looking ahead to the final concert next month, Kessler said he'd like to spotlight the students, especially the graduating seniors. Students have been asked to come in early to school, before normal hours to supplement normal band instruction — something Kessler said required "sincere dedication" from his musicians.

Last September, Kessler kicked off his retirement year with a performance live-streamed on the social media platform "X" — perhaps a gig he couldn't have envisioned when he first took over the job.

As he enters his final weeks at Bacon Academy, Kessler confirmed that the closing chapter has been what he hoped for.

"Everything is the last time," he said. "I had a great year."

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LEGALS

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the May 16, 2024 meeting, the following actions were taken: Approved with Conditions Application #23-09: 850 Portland Cobalt Road. Request for a Site Plan Review for a proposed retail fueling station and convenience store with drive thru. Application of Jannat LLC and property of MJS Realty Venture LLC. Map 31, Lot 23-2. Zone B-2.
Dated at Portland, CT this 17th day of May 2024
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 5/24

PUBLIC NOTICE

To enrolled members of the Republican Party of the Town of Colchester, CT – Pursuant to the Rules of the Republican Party and State Election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on Tuesday May 28th, 2024 at 7:00 pm to be held at the Town Hall 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT. The caucus will endorse a candidate for Registrar of Voters to appear on the November 5, 2024 ballot and to endorse Justice of the Peace for a 2 year term as well as transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus. Dated in Colchester, CT on this day May 17th, 2024.

1TB 5/24

TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on May 15, 2024, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2024-3098 - 337 Pa rum Rd; Michael Marvin - Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 03-07-040-001; Proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit with excavation, filling, and erosion & sediment controls within 100' Upland Review Area. -**APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS.**
Dated May 15, 2024
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 5/24

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on June 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:
Text Amendment Regarding Amendment to Section 3.1 to add Section 3.1.H of the East Hampton Zoning Regulations
Text Amendment Regarding Required Setbacks on Non-Conforming Lots in the R-1 Zone: Section 8.2 of the East Hampton Zoning Regulations
Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860 267-7450.
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman

2TB 5/24, 5/31

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER PUBLIC HEARING

On June 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM, the Board of Selectmen will conduct a public hearing for the purposes of discussing the discontinuance of Shugrue Road No. 1 – the portion of Shugrue Road located between Lake Hayward Road and State Road Route 11. The public hearing will take place during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen at Colchester Town Hall.

1TB 5/24

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 29, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in the Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive. APPLICATION #ZBA-02-24 – Daniel Villar (Applicant) Natalie Villar (Property Owner) 8 Myrna Drive - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 a Front Yard Setback, Article Six D. 2 b Side Yard Setback, in order to construct a 26' x 28' garage with a Front Yard Setback of 34.5 feet where 50 feet is required and with a Side Yard Setback of 9 feet. Interested parties can review the application materials in the Land Use/Building Department during normal Town Hall hours. Written testimony should be sent at least 24 hours ahead of the public hearing date to building@marlboroughct.net, and oral testimony may be given during the public hearing.

2 TB 5/17, 5/24

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

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on June 5, 2024, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s):
PZC 2024-008 of John Dalamagas (Applicant/Owner) – Special Permit for existing multi-tenant, mixed-use building to allow day care/nursery school and retail sales/service development (in Assessor's Building #2) upon 1.42± acres of land located at 76 Amston Road (CT Route #85) (Assessor's ID 15-00-019-000). Zoning District: Suburban Use (SU)
At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this application is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday).
Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 5/24, 5/31

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF ACTION

The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals took the following action at their Special Meeting held on May 16, 2024:
Approval of the application of Walter Tedford, owner/applciant, for property located at 25 Lakeside Drive. More specifically, the board approved the reduction of the side-yard setback by 9'; from 25' to 16' so as to allow for the construction of a 4.5' x 10' deck as depicted on the application/plan on file in the Building and Land-use Office of the Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road.
For further information please contact the Zoning Agent at 860.742.7305, ext. 4220 or zoning@andoverct.org.
William Desrosiers
Chairperson – Zoning Board of Appeals

1TB 5/24

TOWN OF COLCHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At its Regular Meeting of May 15, 2024, the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decision:
PZC 2024-003 of Anton Smith (Applicant) and Robia Kruse (Owner) – Zone Change to establish an Arterial Commercial (AC) District Overlay upon 5.5± acres of land located at 475 Parum Road (CT Route #354) (Assessor's ID 03-05/019-000). Zoning District: Rural Use (RU). **NOT APPROVED**
Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chairman

1TB 5/24

Legal Notice Town Of Hebron Connecticut Water Pollution Control Authority Public Hearing (Virtual) June 11, 2024 6:00 PM

Please join My Meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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You can also dial in using your phone.
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United States: +1 (646) 749-3122
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Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-250/7-255 of the Connecticut General Statutes, that the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Town of Hebron shall hold a Public Hearing on June 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM. This hearing will be to adopt the budget for year 2024-2025 and to set the annual sewer use charge at \$642 per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU). Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 20th day of May, 2024
Chris Hemberger
Chair, Town of Hebron W.P.C.A.

2TB 5/24, 5/31

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Hebron Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. in the Town Office Building Meeting Room, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut, to receive comment on the proposed transfer to Savy Brothers LLC of a 3.40 acre parcel known as Parcel # 10-10 Church Street. In exchange for this parcel the Town of Hebron will be acquiring an 8.04 acre parcel from Savy Brothers LLC which is located at 594 Church Street. This Public Hearing will also be available remotely by following this link:
BOS Public Hearing - Church Street Property Transfer
June 6, 2024, 6:45 PM (America/New York)
Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://meet.goto.com/904076165>
You can also dial in using your phone.
Access Code: 904-076-165
United States: +1 (224) 501-3412
Residents are invited to attend the Public Hearing to comment and ask questions regarding the proposed transfer of property. The property transfer will be subject to approval at a future Special Town Meeting.

Andrew J. Tierney
Town Manager

2TB 5/24, 5/31

TOWN OF COLCHESTER ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING – May 29, 2024 REFERENDUM – June 11, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Colchester and those qualified to vote at town meetings of said Town are hereby warned to meet for the Annual Budget Meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 6:30p.m., to be held at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT for the following purposes:

- To consider and act upon the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget of the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$17,102,056 as recommended by the Board of Finance.
- To consider and act upon the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget of the Board of Education in the amount of \$45,576,075 as recommended by the Board of Finance.
- To adjourn said Annual Budget Meeting, pursuant to Section 7-344 of the Connecticut State Statutes and the Colchester Town Charter Section C-1105a.E, for a Referendum vote on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to be held at the Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT.
Dated at Colchester, CT this 21st day of May 2024. Gayle Furman, Town Clerk

Bernard Dennler, 1st Selectman
Rosemary Coyle, Selectman
Arthur Shilosky, Selectman
Clifton O'Donal, Selectman
Denise Turner, Selectman

Budget Summary

	FY 2021-2022 Actual	FY 2022-2023 Unaudited	FY 2023-2024 Adopted	FY 2023-2024 Projected	FY 2024-2025 Proposed
Property Taxes	42,448,686	42,263,541	43,369,159	44,098,999	46,648,493
Intergovernmental - Town	449,087	726,687	420,252	868,006	476,505
Intergovernmental - Education	12,298,077	12,510,135	12,739,970	12,491,786	12,490,218
Charges for Services	2,321,710	2,318,882	2,106,610	2,133,737	2,010,915
Revenues from Use of Money	59,591	890,879	660,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Other Revenues	54,836	54,342	47,500	58,878	52,000
Other Financing Sources	589.161	266.000	296.000	1.167.153	0
Total Revenues	58,221.148	59,030.466	59,639.491	61,818.559	62,678.131

Expenditures

General Government	3,840,111	4,014,349	3,961,659	4,386,566	4,446,879
Public Safety	3,373,329	3,385,251	3,235,482	3,564,034	3,595,000
Public Works	3,979,835	3,488,146	3,903,394	3,802,666	4,413,268
Community & Human Services	1,707,365	1,776,890	1,831,041	1,781,705	1,918,345
Debt Service	2,075,164	1,850,164	2,075,164	1,839,164	2,075,164
Transfers to Other Funds	901.180	1.186.013	653.400	1.405.061	653.400
Total Town Expenditures	15,876,984	15,700,813	15,660,140	16,779,196	17,102,056
Education Expenditures*	41,407,831	42,021,910	43,979,351	43,979,351	45,576,075
Total Expenditures	57,284,815	57,722,723	59,639,491	60,758,547	62,678,131

Mill Rate Calculation

	Education	Town	Service	Capital	Total
Appropriations	45,576,075	14,373,492	2,075,164	653,400	62,678,131
Estimated Revenue	12,871,413	4,263,760	0	0	17,135,173
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	32,704,662	10,109,732	2,075,164	653,400	45,542,958
Mills	20.34	6.29	1.29	0.41	28.33

	Dollars	Mills
Amount to be raised by taxation	45,542,958	28.33
Reserve for Uncollected Revenue (estimated 98.8% collection rate)	546,516	0.34
Total Tax Warrant	46,089,474	28.67

Grand List	1,607,447,400	2024-25 Proposed Mill Rate	28.67
Estimated Prorates	1,500,000	2023-24 Mill Rate	27.22
M. V. Supplement	19,500,000	Increase in Mill Rate	1.45
Less Estimated BAA & adjustments	(4,500,000)		
List Net	1,623,947,400		
Less Bloom Energy assessment	(16,100,000)		
List Net for Mill Rate calculation	1,607,847,400		

1TB 5/24

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WOMAN IN HEBRON HOUSEHOLD: is looking for someone to help in her home, part-time, regarding chores, food shopping, laundry, etc. \$17/hr. Call 860-228-0809.

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Part Time Speech Pathologist

Andover Elementary School currently has a part time Speech & Language Pathologist opening for the 2024-2025 school year. **Qualifications:** **Certification/License:** Appropriate Connecticut State Certification for subject/grade level. **Education:** Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university. Master's Degree as per state requirements. **Experience:** Student teaching, practicum, and/or state-approved preparation. Experience working with children is desired. **To Apply:** Applicants who wish to apply should go to the school website to locate a copy of the application and submit a copy of their Resume, Certification, Transcripts, and three (3) current letters of reference directly to the Principal: Taylor Parker, 35 School Road, Andover, CT 06232, or via email to: parkert@andoverelementaryct.org.

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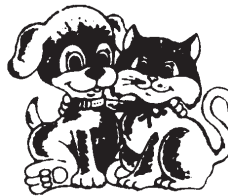
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- **The Glastonbury Citizen**, mailed Thursdays to 5,700 paid subscribers in Glastonbury
- **Rivereast News Bulletin**, mailed Fridays to 27,500 homes in Portland, East Hampton/Cobalt/Middle Haddam, Marlborough, Hebron/Amston, Andover and Colchester

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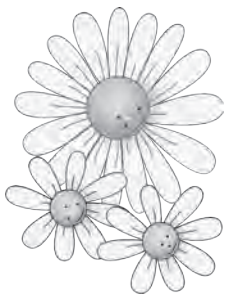
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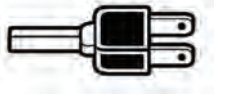
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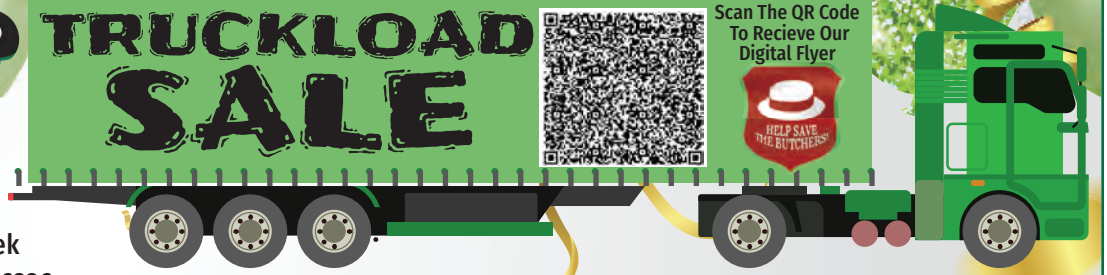
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68¢
lb.



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2.5 lb. Pkg



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