

News Bulletin

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

Volume 48, Number 19

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

June 7, 2024



Brilliant Bellringers.... Delaney Russell and Matthew Dickinson were selected as East Hampton High School's 2023-2024 Scholar-Athletes. The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) honored and celebrated 346 statewide scholar-athletes at the 41st annual CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet in May. The Scholar-Athlete program annually recognizes two high school seniors from each member high school whose academic and athletic careers have been exemplary, whose personal standards and achievements are a model to others, and who possess high levels of integrity, self-discipline and courage. The event is the largest of the many honors programs that CAS-CIAC hosts each year.

Top RHAM Students Reflect on Journey

By Michael Sinkewicz

It's only fitting that Taryn Brysgel and Marina McLaughlin — the valedictorian and salutatorian respectively of the RHAM High School class of 2024 — will share the stage next week when they officially receive their diplomas.

They both grew up in Marlborough, or as they phrased it, "MES raised," referencing the elementary school they shared at the beginning of their academic journey. Their friendship blossomed as they played on the same sports teams, and their families spent summers together at Black Point Beach in Niantic.

"We've pretty much been together from preschool to now," conveyed Brysgel.

McLaughlin agreed: "We have all these weird similarities and it all just came together."

She fittingly cited Taylor Swift's song, "invisible string," which features the lyric, "all along there was some invisible string tying you to me."

Whether or not destiny had a role in their success, it's evident that both Brysgel and McLaughlin established a strong work ethic that allowed them to navigate crowded school schedules and equipped them for the exciting next chapter of their lives.

Last week, the top two students of the graduating class sat down with the *RiverEast* to discuss the memories they collected at 85 Wall Street and look ahead at promising collegiate adventures.

The Valedictorian

Brysgel's mindset was to simply always do her best, and the results would then take care of themselves.

Earlier this year, her guidance counselor revealed that Brysgel was currently leading the race for valedictorian. One of her older brothers had previously earned the same recognition

at RHAM, but she wasn't necessarily fixated on following in his footsteps.

"I didn't want to stress about it and just continued what I've been doing," she recalled.

Now that she's summited RHAM's academic peak, Brysgel is tasked with the equally daunting responsibility of delivering remarks during commencement, which will take place next Friday, June 14.

"There's so much I want to say, but how do I put that into one speech?" Brysgel wondered. But now, after penning most of her address, the excitement surrounding the spectacle is beginning to grow.

Her tenure at RHAM High School was undoubtedly impressive: four years of volleyball (the program won three consecutive state championships), four years of basketball and three years of lacrosse. This spring, she switched her allegiance to ultimate frisbee, which officially became a part of RHAM athletics for the first time this year; of course, they won the state championship as well.

Both Brysgel and McLaughlin recalled how COVID-19 impacted their freshman year, when they would drive to school before sunrise and then ultimately head home to log on for virtual learning — a circuit emblematic of the abnormal pandemic-era.

Additionally, Brysgel is a member of the National Honor Society, Leos, student council, peer helpers and tutoring program.

For any teenager, balancing school work with social activities can be challenging, and Brysgel recalled a few late evenings after games when she'd squeeze in some study time. Accordingly, she developed strong time management skills

See *Top RHAM Students*, page 15

Belltown Budget Passes on First Try

By London Brazal

On Tuesday, the East Hampton budget referendum passed on the first vote.

With contentious discussions last year and fear of another disputed budget season, the Town Council, seated in November, the Board of Education (BOE) and the Board of Finance (BOF) set goals to maintain productive workshops and hearings.

The 2024-2025 budget referendum asked the registered voters and property owners two questions.

The first question to adopt the \$18.94 million town operating budget passed with 886 yes votes to 482 no votes. This is an increase of about \$950,000, or 5.26%, from fiscal year 2024.

The second question to adopt the \$37.73 million Board of Education budget also passed with 779 yes votes to 587 no votes. This is an increase

of about \$1.87 million, or 5.21%, from the fiscal year 2024.

Overall, the town's budget was approved for \$56.67 million, an increase of \$2.81 million, or 5.23%. The proposed mill rate, which has to be approved by the BOF, is 38.04, a 1.98 increase. Properties assessed at \$200,000 will have an increase of \$396, equating to \$7,608 in taxes while properties assessed at \$500,000 will have an increase of \$990, equating to \$19,020 in taxes.

As budgets are fluid, many last-minute changes helped reduce the increase. When the BOE first proposed their budget, it reflected a 6.21% increase. However, post-deadline adjustments were presented but did not impact teaching positions, class sizes or existing programs.

Superintendent Paul Smith, who is retiring at the end of the month, was appreciative

of the supportive turnout. "Costs continue to rise, but so do the needs of our children," expressed Smith. "This year's budget reflects rising costs and not an increase in programming. At a time when a good education is crucial to our students, I am grateful that the voters supported the budget for our next school year."

To keep a moderate increase, the goal was to have a "maintain but grow" philosophy. The annual education budget was developed to provide a return on investment to both the students and the community.

A driving factor of the budget was to provide students with experiences that prepare them for post-secondary opportunities in college or careers that are based on future trends. The budget requests are geared toward a notable shift in

See *Belltown Budget*, page 26

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Para ver en español:

This is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$51,788 with 100% funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of, not an endorsement, by CDC/HHS or the US Government.

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Bulletin Board

I have to admit: I don't understand the appeal of the long-running "Survivor" TV show, now coming up on its 24th year. As you probably know, that's the show where they dump a bunch of people on some forsaken island, give them various tasks to accomplish and make them eat rats and snails while the audience watches their civilized veneer gradually deteriorate into a stew of petty bickering and mutual dislike. They then inevitably gang up on each other to vote members of the "community" off the island. The final 'survivor' of the season gets a million dollars.

Obviously, the show is incredibly popular, which doesn't mean you're not wasting your time watching it. Actually, it seems to me that just about everything on TV these days is pretty much a waste of time, but I also feel the same way about the ballet and the opera (lest you think I'm putting on airs) and any so-called music more recent than about 1974. I did used to enjoy the newspaper cartoon Dilbert, until poor Dilbert fell victim to some political correctness misstep I no longer recall and got cancelled. I continue to suspect that this was done to annoy me personally.

Anyway, millions of people tune into "Survivor" each week to see who's going to get tossed off the island, and to follow the squabbles over who's entitled to the tastiest part of some poor rat's barbecued hindquarters. Honestly, I don't see what the fuss is all about, but perhaps this is because I myself am a survivor. Yes, friends, I survived multiple summer vacations in the same house with two young sons—which can make a diet of barbecued rat seem like high cuisine on a dream vacation. My trials finally ended when the pair eventually set off on their own, leaving me to cut my own grass and shovel my own driveway. It's no million-dollar prize, but at least I'm no longer spending seemingly endless hours in hospital emergency rooms.

For those of you parents presently looking forward to the upcoming school summer vacation, here are a few memorable highlights from my own experience that you may encounter—with the caveat that, no, you do not get to voluntarily remove yourself from the "island."

—“Dad! Where's the fire extinguisher?!”
 —“Has anybody seen the snake I caught on the patio? I left him on the couch while I used the bathroom (with the toilet seat still down) and now I can't find him.” [“Holy, s#*%!”] “Is that you, Dad?”
 —“C'mon, Dad. It's only glass.”
 —“Dad, your laptop computer is waterproof right?”
 —“No, no! Direct pressure stops arterial bleeding!” [Overheard shout from the vicinity of the garage.]
 —“We couldn't find a baseball, so we borrowed the one you had all wrapped up in your dresser drawer, Dad. We tried not to hit it on the Ted Williams autograph.”
 —“Read a book? But television is so much less labor intensive.”
 —“No, Dad, I don't consider sitting here staring slack-jawed into space a waste of my summer. I'm just thinking. What am I thinking about? Nothing.”
 —“I was going to mow the lawn for you, Dad, but I couldn't find the garage.”
 —“But it's only \$50!”
 —“I was thinking of getting a tattoo of a spider on my forehead.”
 —“No, Dad, I have no idea who might have called 1-900-Big-Gals. Really? Seventeen times? In one day?”
 —“I know the chair was an antique passed down through the generations, but I needed something to stand on to reach that bee on the ceiling. I'm pretty sure it was one of those killer bees. Honestly, Dad, you should be thanking me for possibly saving our entire family. What's a little glue?”

—“Johnny's father works out.”
 —“No, Dad, I haven't seen the matches. Would you like to borrow my cigarette lighter?”
 —“Joey said it was the capital of the Virgin Islands! No wonder Mrs. Brown called you.”
 —“Broccoli is too poison. I don't care what you say.”
 —“Dad, I was doing a wheelie on my bike and...”
 —“It's okay, it didn't get him directly in the eye.”
 —“Say, Dad, where's the paint remover?”
 —“Dad, you remember that expensive hammer you used to have?”
 —“Hey, Dad, I told Sister Rosalie your joke about nuns. What does 'purgatory' mean?”
 So good luck this summer, fellow parents. And remember, not only can't you leave the “island,” it's also against the law to throw them off, until they're 18 years old. At least that's what I was told by the Marine Corps recruiter.

Jim Hallas

RIVEREAST

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Published Every Friday by The Glastonbury Citizen
 87 Nutmeg Lane • Glastonbury, CT 06033
 Telephone (860) 633-4691
 Email: bulletin@glcitizen.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 373 • Glastonbury, CT 06033

Email classified line ads to admin@glcitizen.com.
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News copy deadline for *The Rivereast News Bulletin* is Tuesday at noon. Please address all letters & news articles to: *Rivereast News Bulletin*, P.O. Box 373, Glastonbury, CT 06033

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We are the champions... Amidst fierce competition, the Bacon Academy High School Robotics Team emerged victorious at the CIAC State Championship of the FIRST Robotics Competition on May 19th. The event saw the best 24 teams from across the state vying for top honors in a test of engineering prowess and strategic thinking. Finishing the qualification matches as 1st Alliance captain, the Robocats invited Team 195 and Team 1991 to join together in their battle for the title. Together the teams won match after match in the upper bracket and defeated the remaining lower bracket alliance in three heart-stopping Finals matches. The Robocats previously described as “criminally underrated” also won the Autonomous Award as well as the Excellence in Engineering award at earlier District events. The Robocats thank Dominion, Pratt and Whitney, ABB, the Gene Haas Foundation, LMC, Tsunami Tsolutions, Ron Goldstein, InCord, Rand Whitney, insync training, Logan Steel, the Colchester Lions and Leos, Mel's Downtown Creamery, the Plum Tomato, Oz N Bones, and Constellation Community Champions for their support this season. Pictured are: (front) Captain Kevin Reas, Taylor Gerst, Alex Mauldin, Sophie Melmed; (Second Row) Evan Lovegrove, Callum Cuadro, Charlie Rose, Julia Cavaliere, Captain Abby Belding, Ben King, TJ Crowell, and Jason Belding; (Third Row) Dustin Paquette, Evan Paquette, Landon Vigil, Miles Viggiani, Eli Banks, John Dalton, Sam Ringuette, Logan Lammey, Chase Vendrillo; (Back) Lenny Vigianni, Cindy Praisner, Brian Reas, Tom Praisner, and Mark Noniewicz; (Missing) Ian Sanders, John Marks, Nate Schulze, Patrick McGregor, Seth Cramp-ton, Brad Graham, John Spaulding

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Birthday Honors

To the Editor:

A friend of the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard recently celebrated his 80th Birthday. In lieu of personal gifts, the attendees of his celebration honored him by donating to the charitable organization.

Our friend was overwhelmed by and appreciative of the donations received. In turn, the Honor Guard was greatly appreciative of the much needed donations to its cause.

As we all celebrate milestones, keep this idea in mind. Choose a local charity and do a good deed for the honoree and our town. It benefits everyone.

Thank you “E.Z.” for this great idea.

Alphonse Letendre,
 Colchester Honor Guard

Paddlers Needed

To the Editor:

Over the years, numerous invasive plants have populated the Connecticut River, mainly from boats that carry plant fragments from other water bodies, but also from the migration of waterfowl. One of those invasive plants – water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) – is being addressed by volunteer paddlers organized in the Middletown area by the Jonah Center and The Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC).

Water chestnut multiplies quickly to form large, thick mats that cut off sunlight and oxygen needed by native plants and animals, including fish and birds that feed on fish. The mats can also obstruct navigation by motorboats, canoes, and kayaks. In recent years, this problem is being taken more seriously by local governments and the business community who recognize how valuable the Connecticut River is to the economy and distinctive nature of our region. Left unchecked, this invasive plant will spread until its removal requires the deployment of expensive mechanical harvesters and the use of herbicides. And even that is not a permanent solution.

Fortunately, *Trapa natans* is an annual plant, so it can be controlled by hand-pulling if action is taken early enough in the season. Doing this work early, with large numbers of volunteers, is the key to success. This spring and early summer, the Jonah Center and CRC invite the public to join “Paddle With A Purpose” work parties

in the Mattabeset River (Middletown); Keeney Cove (Glastonbury); and Pecauset Pond (Portland). These “Paddle With A Purpose” events are scheduled on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m., and on some weekday evenings. See the entire schedule at <https://thejonahcenter.org/>. A limited number of loaner kayaks are available for those who request one in advance during the registration process.

Paddlers are urged to subscribe to the Jonah Center newsletter on their website at <https://thejonahcenter.org/get-involved/> or contact John Hall using the “Contact” tab on the Jonah Center website to register as a paddler. This will ensure that paddlers receive last-minute changes of plans due to weather or other factors.

Paddle With A Purpose work parties are a great way to get out on the water, enjoy beautiful scenery, see wildlife such as eagles, osprey, egrets, and turtles, and meet new people – all while helping to repair some of the damage to wildlife habitat caused by human activity and global travel.

John C. Hall – Portland
 The Jonah Center for Earth and Art

Vote Yes in Marlborough

To the Editor:

Marlborough needs to stop shrinking services by approving the town's budgets vote next Thursday, June 13th. If only 50 of you who didn't vote last time and who supported the last budget showed up and voted we would not be in this situation. It was a close vote.

There are people who may vote against this budget because they want zero tax increases. They also want the high level of services we get from the town and Marlborough Elementary School. They are living a fantasy. “There's no free lunch” applies to “there's no free government.” If you are one of these people please think before complaining about the cutbacks in services in this current reduced budget up for the vote. The worst case is the culvert cut from the last budget which was shot down could fail, costing twice as much to fix it.

This budget is only a tiny mil rate increase from the 2020-2021 budget of 36.27 to 36.29, two one-hundredths of a mil increase. There's no federal COVID handout for our tax needs now, which is mainly how the 2020-2021 mil rate was cut. We are on our own. We have a

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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

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one-time perfect storm of revenue shortfalls. We have urgent and long-term infrastructure needs, the culverts and roads, at least.

For those who want to have our town move ahead instead of backward, I ask you to vote for this new budget. And ask your friends and family who support this budget to show up and vote.

Please vote "yes" on Marlborough's budget next Thursday, June 13th.

Dave Porteous – Marlborough

Vote Yes

To the Editor:

I'm voting "yes" for Colchester's budget because it's balanced and reflects our spending. The last few years' budgets left Colchester's finances in bad shape because they never reflected what the town spent. For example, if the town spent \$100 on something, the last budget had it budgeted as \$80! That's no way to run a town.

This budget gets us back on track and reflects our spending.

Vote Yes!

John Farrell – Colchester

Animosity

To the Editor:

Marlborough saw an escalation of animosity towards the Board of Education during the Amy Traversa years, while she served as First Selectman, and later as Board of Selectman Chairman and Acting Town Manager. During those years she fought the implementation of a School Resource Officer and failed to cooperate in regards to school building maintenance.

That environment of confrontation has continued with our current Board of Selectmen with attacks on the BOE by Selectmen Deb Bourbeau and Betty O'Brien. It's a shame that we have to deal with a Board of Selectmen that deems it necessary to perpetuate a combative relationship against the Board of Education.

Now, the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, without formal input from the Board of Education, has decided to consolidate reserve funds, which were built up over the last several years for future school roof and boiler repairs, into a single Facility Reserves account. Furthermore, the BOS and BOF plan to withdraw \$100,000 from those reserves for use towards the third budget referendum. At the same time, Town Hall has been tasked by the Board of Finance to take a smaller \$75,000 reduction.

The Board of Education has not formally spoken about the raiding of the school reserves, and would likely favor it in lieu of a reduction to the school's operating budget, but regardless, it would have been appropriate to more fully involve the BOE in this decision.

On June 13th, Marlborough will hold its third referendum. I am not advising you to vote yes or no, but I do wish that Town Hall would implement a more cooperative relationship with the Board of Education. Doing so is way overdue.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

Take a Veteran Fishing

To the Editor:

Colchester Fish & Game Club hosted a "Take a Veteran Fishing" outing on

June 1st. The Club hosted 107 Veterans.

A special thank you to all that helped make the day a great success: Members of the Colchester Fish & Game, to Jackie and her band of bakers at "Red Rose Cafe" in Colchester for all the wonderful deserts she donated, to Kelcie and crew from the Andover Dunkin Donuts for donating coffee, donuts, and all the fixings for coffee.

Rusty Billings – Andover

Thank You

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Public Schools school nurses would like to thank the East Hampton Food Bank and the East Hampton and Marlborough Lions Club for their support of our offices and our students. Both organizations have stepped in to help us take care of our kids. They have willingly provided snacks and feminine hygiene products to our schools, so we have supplies to support our students. Your support is greatly appreciated, thank you!

Have a wonderful summer and we will see you all in the fall.

**Beth Kelpen, RN
Melanie King, RN
Jordan Morehouse, RN
Katie Williams, RN
Michelle Lemire, Health Aid**

Great Minds

To the Editor:

For years we've been discussing 17 Kinney Road, a complex property in Hebron. To live right here and understand its natural and historic complexities is one thing, but how can we convince others the land's worth preserving, especially in the face of such political odds?

In 1951, John and Robert Horton, cared enough about their Hebron land to have a State of Connecticut Land Conservation Operations Agreement drawn up for 137 acres, including 17 Kinney Road.

Rivereast, 10/9/09, "the plans (for 17 Kinney) call for maintaining the stonewalls and walking paths as much as possible on the land. 'It really is for the enjoyment of all.'" – Greg Horton

Local historian, Mary Ann Foote stated, "Stonewalls should remain; they're markers.... Some people care about history and some people say put asphalt or concrete over it." *Rivereast July 30, 2021*

2022, The Connecticut Historical Society, purchased 19th century documents connected to Kinney Rd.

2023, professors John Demos and Dr. Robert Thorson both supported preserving Kinney Road's land and laneways. Residents, New England historic and stonewall organizations, a hydrogeologist and others also support preservation. Everyone's excited this property's still intact.

On April 22, 2024, Hebron Town Planner, Mathew Bordeaux, stated he'd been "day dreaming" about these laneways....clearly Bordeaux's been captivated.

Now, after much work, we're happy to announce Kinney Road's laneways have been rightfully included in Hebron's 2024 POCD.

#Save17's primary cause is still centered around spreading awareness concerning drinking water in our neighborhoods. The laneways are treasures that excite the imagination and spark an interest in Hebron's rich past. From acorns to hay, wildlife to water, this landscape is our responsibility. We're cautiously optimistic that Hebron's begun to recognize the cultural and environmental significance of this unique and heavily documented slice of US history. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Time for Turf

To the Editor:

Every single School in the Eastern Connecticut Conference has a turf field, besides two schools, Saint Bernards and Bacon Academy. As a student athlete at Bacon Academy I have seen firsthand how turf fields are beneficial, but more importantly I have been negatively impacted by how a poor grass field can decrease school morale and school health yet increase costs and spending.

Throughout my tenure as a high school student, I can count numerous times where either me or one of my teammates suffered an injury due to the poor field conditions. Not only has this decreased our team's condition but it's also decreased school morale. Nobody at Bacon Academy is proud of the severely underdeveloped sports facilities and everyone is aware of what our competitors have.

With the addition of a turf field these problems can be solved. There would be no fluke injuries, our school would be proud of our facilities and even the labor cost of maintaining a grass field would be eliminated. All of these solutions can be possible by fundraising, selling the naming rights of the field and also seeking donations from alumni. As I graduate this June I want nothing more than to be able to leave the gift of high school sports behind for future generations, so by attending town hall meetings and by displaying your voice, you too can be the reason that the next generation has a suitable field for their high school career

**Thank you,
Drew Ferrigno – Colchester**

Approve Colchester Budgets

To the Editor:

Please vote Yes to Colchester's Town and Board of Education budgets – Tuesday, June 11th.

To those Colchester residents who followed last year's budget presentations, you now know that the budget as presented by the previous Bisbikos administration was, in simple terms, a "fake" budget. It was created to present a budget at a "zero" percent increase. This forced the new Dennler administration to enact a budget freeze earlier this year. The budget adopted by the previous Bisbikos administration failed to budget correctly for:

- Police benefits (over \$100,000)
- Numerous Town contracts with fixed prices across almost every department
- Town Insurance and Worker's Compensation (almost \$100,000)

Massive legal bills due to lawsuits initiated under Bisbikos administration

Annual maintenance budgets for Public Works, Facilities, Grounds, Fire/Police, Youth Services and the Library

Last summer, under the Bisbikos administration, I think you saw the three feet high lawns that could not be maintained due to a lack of personnel in the Public Works Department. Some of the letters to the editor I have read in the past two weeks have had me shaking my head with misrepresentation of this

See Letters, page 6

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES

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Lisa Cozzi | 860.215.3634

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32 Fawn Run, Glastonbury
Marybeth Barrett | 860.930.2222

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5 Victoria Drive, Colchester
Kellee Smith | 860.373.8849

14 ACRE CAPE! \$539,900



51 Portland Road, Marlborough
Justin Wagner | 860.416.5545

UNDER CONTACT \$374,900



12 Stage Harbor Rd., Marlborough
Beata Gadomski | 860.418.7929

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14 Mountain Laurel Way, Portland
Michelle Collins | 860.982.4684

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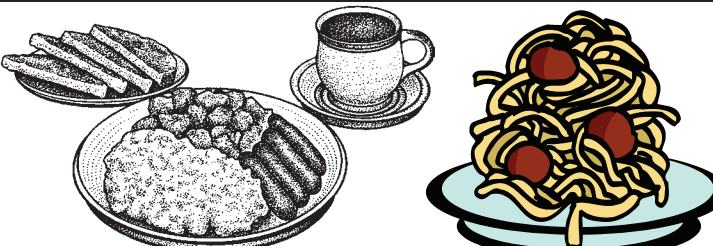
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ENTERTAINMENT



★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

year's projected budget numbers and the impact of the mill rate. This year's proposed mill rate is competitive with other Towns. Colchester would have the lowest mill rate as compared to neighboring towns – East Hampton, Hebron and Marlborough. It plays catch up by fixing the six figure errors in last year's Town budget. It restores funding to Public Works, Youth Services, Library and funds investments in adequate maintenance of our Town's fields. It is a fiscally responsible budget. Please vote "yes" for both the Town and Board of Education budgets. Thank you!

Joanne Rose – Colchester

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Kudos to Paper

To the Editor:
I applaud the *Riverest News Bulletin's* policy for letters to the editor: "Letters must pertain to local issues, news, or events. Letters regarding national issues or national public figures will not be published."

A local paper should concern itself with local matters and provide a forum for citizens to exchange views on those matters. It need not provide a platform for cranky old people (such as myself) to blviate on national figures and issues. Although it amuses me to prattle on about the larger issues of the world and see my name in print, being another crank writer admonishing and castigating the citizenry with my inflated opinions serves no good purpose, except perhaps as a foil to the other cranks out there. So, thank you *Riverest* editors for reining in we oddball zealots! I think that I can find informative and constructive things to say about Colchester... and keep my silly name in the public space. For instance: vote "yes" to pass Colchester's budget Sure, it raises taxes, but it is necessary after the errant budgets of the past two years.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Fiscal Stability and Pride

To the Editor:
This year's budget process hasn't been easy. Significant needs in many town-side areas—fields, roads, public safety, grounds, youth services, library books, buildings, to name just a few, have been put aside for many years, leaving things that should have been priorities neglected. The previous administration's errors in the police benefits, worker's compensation, insurance, and contracts needed correcting. Under-budgeting and miscalculations were systemic in the last administration, resulting in overspending, budget freezes, and cuts to services meant to keep us safe. Legal fees brought on by legacy lawsuits haven't helped.

It's time to bring back the fiscal stability and pride in our town that residents deserve. It's time to finally take care of what is important to our community through responsible budgeting that is truly transparent, caring for our investments, and keeping taxes affordable. We can do this and still have a lower mill rate than our neighbors in commercial towns.

The town budget, if passed, will allow us to fix town fields, properly maintain roads year-round, ensure public safety, maintain grounds, and restore previously cut funding to Cragin and Youth Services. The BOE budget contains no new initiatives and does not cut existing pro-

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◆ Happenings ◆

THE HEALING POWER OF MEDITATION, 6/22/24, at Odiyana Center, Glastonbury. Special Guest Teacher, Kadam Morten, will guide meditations through which we will discover a source of peace and healing. meditationinconnecticut.org

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

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

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grams or result in class size increases. Please vote yes on both questions to pass the Town and BOE budgets on Tuesday, June 11. All voting is at Town Hall from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Absentee ballots are available.

Sincerely, Monica Swyden – Colchester

Clean Energy at Brownstone Celebration Day

To the Editor: Solar: Buy it or Lease it? EV vs. Plug-in Hybrid? Heat Pump Water Heaters? Save once on upfront costs with the incentives to buy or install these systems, and save again with their low operating costs. However, while the rebates are great, navigating them can be tricky. If you've been thinking of going solar, getting an EV, or insulating your house, feel free to bring any questions to the Portland Clean Energy Task Force table tomorrow at the Brownstone Celebration Day. Our volunteer members (your neighbors) will be happy to provide some insights. That way, if you do decide to contact a vendor or visit an EV dealer, you'll be better prepared.

Regards, Andy Bauer, Portland Clean Energy

Re-Election Campaign

To the Editor: I am pleased to announce that on May 16, the Republican Delegates of the 34th General Assembly District – encompassing East Hampton, East Haddam, and a portion of Salem – unanimously endorsed my re-election as state representative.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Maureen Goff of East Haddam and Deb Cunningham of East Hampton for their nomination and unwavering support, as well as to the delegates for their resolute endorsement. A special acknowledgment is due to David Balthazar for orchestrating a highly efficient and effective convention.

Additionally, I am immensely grateful to the hundreds of constituents who have generously contributed to my re-election campaign. I am proud to report that we have far surpassed our qualifying goals, with 98% of donations originating from residents of East Haddam and East Hampton. This grassroots support stands in stark contrast to other campaigns reliant on external and out-of-state funding.

Serving in the legislature continues to be both an honor and a privilege, allowing me to advocate for the fundamental principles of smaller government, reduced taxes, local governance, and minimized interference in the daily lives of law-abiding citizens. Currently, I hold positions on the Planning and Development Committee, the Education Committee, and serve as the House Ranking Member of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee.

Throughout my tenure, I have steadfastly championed equal protection for all citizens, enhanced protections for our veterans and senior citizens, reduction of mandates, and the empowerment of local officials in our small

rural towns. Many of these initiatives have successfully been enacted into law with bipartisan support during my six years in the legislature.

If you share these fundamental principles, I respectfully ask for your support in my re-election campaign. For more information, please visit our campaign website at www.re-electhaines.com.

Wishing you and your families a very happy, healthy, and safe summer season. I deeply appreciate your kind support as I look forward to another successful campaign for state office.

Sincerely, State Representative Irene Haines

Poppy Drive

To the Editor: We would like to take this time to thank the following local businesses: Ted's supermarket, Country Liquor and Hebron Liquor stores who allowed the American Legion Auxiliary to put poppy cans into their establishments so customers could donate to our poppy drive.

All monies received will go toward our Veterans and now we will be able to donate to many Veterans organizations. The auxiliary would like to thank all the customers who generously gave a donation. Without your help our fundraiser would not have been so successful. Just a bit of history for those of you who received a poppy for your donation. What is the symbolism of the poppy? The red petals stand for the vast outpouring of blood; the yellow and black center, the nude and desolation of all battlefields; the green of the stem is symbolic of the forests, meadows, and fields where generations of Americans have perished to make this land free. The stem represents the courage and determination of our fallen warriors. The assembled product, a flower, is a symbol of Resurrection, which is sure to follow. Wear a Red Poppy! Celebrate freedom! So, that being said wear your poppy with pride and think of those who sacrificed their lives so that you may be free.

Thanks again to Ted's Supermarket, Country Liquor and Hebron Liquor and all the patrons who made our fundraiser such a success!

Darlene Opocensky, President American Legion Auxiliary Unit 95, Hebron

Support Kids and Teachers

Colchester Friends: After parents and family, for most of us, the individuals who had the most effect on us growing up are our teachers. I was lucky to have many outstanding teachers growing up. My kids have come up through the Colchester school system and have had amazing teachers, coaches and staff.

I try to thank them often. They are an immeasurable part of making my kids who they are today and who they will grow up to be. I have coached and got to know many other kids in town and I think that these kids are amazing. I hope they and their parents take the time to thank a teacher.

Right now, the best way to thank a teacher in a meaningful way is to support them by voting in favor of the Board of Education budget. Ev-

ery teacher I know teaches because they love it, not for the money, but it takes money to run the schools.

I want the teachers to be concentrating on teaching our kids, not worried about where their books, computers or supplies are coming from. I want enough teachers in the classrooms so that they can effectively teach our kids.

Responsible continued investment in our schools is the only way to maintain the level of excellence we are asking of them.

So, I urge you to stand with our kids and our teachers and vote yes on June 11th.

Respectfully, Vincent Rose – Colchester

Support Colchester's Budgets

To the Editor: Colchester's budgets that are being put forth by the Town and the Board of Education (BOE) are stabilizing budgets. Both budgets were designed to stabilize the funding and create a solid baseline to work from for the citizens of our Town.

The BOE focused on maintaining programming, class size, and staffing. As a former classroom teacher and BOE member, those are the areas necessary to provide a quality public education for our students. The budget does not contain new initiatives. For the first time in years, it doesn't eliminate programs. The budget allocates resources to maintenance as well as planning for future projects that need to be addressed. The majority of the increases in the budget are due to insurance increases and contractual obligations, all fixed costs.

The 24-25 Town budget development began with great challenges – hundreds of thousands of dollars not included in the 23-24 budget that we are required to pay for – police benefits (\$100,000), Town Insurance and worker's compensation (almost \$100,000), massive legal costs due to ongoing lawsuits, Town labor contracts negotiated but never funded, service contracts not funded at their actual cost in departments, maintenance budgets cut unrealistically and youth services and library costs cut drastically.

In addition to better financial stability and a solid financial base, this budget addresses some important needs of the community. Public Works will see funds to maintain our roads, improve facilities and ground maintenance, and will have a significant investment in our fields (over \$150,000). Youth services' budget was restored along with the library's book budget.

Let's move Colchester away from the financial chaos of the 23-24 budgets into a position of financial stability so Colchester can progress forward. Please support the budgets on June 11th, at Town Hall from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

Sincerely, Rosemary Coyle

Note: Coyle is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen, but said she is writing as an individual.



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Image of a goat head and a bag of popcorn.

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Marlborough Gets Third Crack at Budget Proposal

By Michael Sinkewicz

Will the third time be the charm for the Marlborough budget?

Residents will head to the polls for a third time next Thursday, June 13, to vote on the revised 2024-25 fiscal year budget proposal after two prior drafts were rejected. Voting will be held from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., but at the Senior Center as opposed to the normal school location, due to end-of-the-year activities.

Prior to the critical third vote, residents at a town meeting on Tuesday approved a transfer of \$100,000 from the capital non-recurring fund for the elementary school roof replacement to the South Buckboard culvert replacement project, allowing the proposed mill rate to be further reduced without drawing from either the Board of Education (BOE) or town budgets.

Additionally, last week the Board of Finance voted to have the Board of Selectmen (BOS) reduce the town budget by \$75,000. Since the original budget failed at referendum, the town budget has been reduced by \$375,000, according to Town Manager David Porter.

The new bottom-line total is \$27.65 million

Dog Licenses

Dog licenses are now available in the Town Clerk's Office. Please check and make sure your dog's rabies certificate is up to date, licenses cannot be issued without a current rabies certificate.

This year, if you come in to register your dogs between June 3rd and June 14th and bring an item to donate to the Marlborough Food Bank, your pup(s) will be entered into a raffle. We will draw the winner on June 17th. Your dog will win a gift bag, and the #1 Dog Tag (One entry per

"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".

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship and Sunday School at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., are at 10 a.m. Worship is broadcast live every Sunday and recorded for later viewing at mcc.marlconchurch.org. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. In June, instead of class time, Sunday School students are invited to participate in games, arts, and crafts. All children in the community are welcome.

Sunday, June 9 is Music Appreciation Sunday with special performances by the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir. Pastor Valerie Seaver will lead the service. Her sermon title is "Music and Love; God's Immutible Gifts."

277th Annual Program Meeting will be held in the meetinghouse at 11:15 a.m. on June 9, 2024, for church members to vote to approve the slate of officers, board and committee reports, and any other business brought to the Chair.

Thursday Bible Studies are led by Pastor Val upstairs in the Thienes Lounge. The morning study meets at 10:30 and the evening study meets at 6 p.m.

Marlborough Sings will be held upstairs in the Thienes Lounge on June 7 at 7 p.m. All who enjoy singing are welcome.

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 is usually held on the last Sunday of each month. A monthly meal and visiting with residents at Florence Lord Housing is sponsored by the church. June 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 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 10 am to 1 pm. A storewide end of season sale will be held in June with 50% off everything. 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 Valerie Seaver's direct line at 860.295.0432 or email pastorval@marlconchurch.org

dog). The fee for spayed or neutered dogs is \$8.00 and \$19.00 for unaltered. You must license your dog before July 1, 2024 or a \$1.00 late fee will be added each month. Checks should be made out to the Town of Marlborough.

The Town Clerk's hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday; and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Friday.

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.

perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring donations. A Drive Thru Café for Marlborough Food Bank patrons with vouchers is usually held on the last Sunday of each month. A monthly meal and visiting with residents at Florence Lord Housing is sponsored by the church. June mission giving will go the AHM Mental Health Fund.

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"On behalf of both the BOS and the BOE, we ask you to vote in favor of the budget for both the Town and the school district. The overall budget has been reduced based upon voter feedback from the first two referendums and is now at a 4.49% increase. Further cuts will impact our community."

They added, "We urge all voters to cast their votes on June 13th and hope that with these important adjustments, a better voter turnout will also lead to the budget passing."

Porter told the *Rivereast* that he was "cautiously optimistic" the new spending plan would be palatable for the community.

"I really hope our residents are able to approve the budget this time," he said.

He described the transfer from the school

Arts Center's Event

The Marlborough Arts Center's 4th Fridays @ the Arts Café stars Lara Herscowitch and the Highway Philosophers on Friday, June 28 at the Arts Center. Lara is a folk singer and songwriter who is known for the clarity of her voice as well as the range of her songwriting. It has been said that one can feel the emotion in her vocals and marvel at the creativity that flows through her performances. She has received many accolades throughout her career including a two-year

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

roof fund as an "elegant compromise" to help mitigate the tax burden. But he warned that if the budget was rejected once again, local officials would likely be positioned to make "painful" and "noticeable" cuts.

Porter added that the proposed mill rate is only a tick above the figure adopted by the town in 2020, and as inflation makes the cost of services more expensive, the community would essentially find itself "right back where we were before the pandemic" from a financial perspective.

The town manager speculated that reductions to library services or the transfer station would be likely starting points if the budget was shot down next Thursday.

stint as Connecticut State Troubadour, an honor which she holds dear, and now she brings her art and her Highway Philosophers trio to Marlborough.

The Arts Center is located at 231 North Main Street in Marlborough CT. Admission is \$10 at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the performances starting at 7:30 p.m. The building is fully accessible and there is ample parking.

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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From the Desk of the Town Manager

On Wednesday, June 12, at 7:00 pm at Marlborough Elementary School, the Board of Finance is convening a public hearing to discuss the third iteration of the 2024-2025 budget. Voting will take place on Thursday, June 13, from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Senior Center due to end-of-the-year activities at the school.

The current proposed budget would increase the mill rate 4.49 percent from \$34.73 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$36.29 per \$1,000 of assessed value. It is important to put this increase in context. If approved, the proposed budget would set taxes at basically the same rate as in 2020 – before the pandemic, before federal funding, and before high inflation.

For the past three years, the town used temporary pandemic funding to reduce property taxes. Here's the impact on the taxpayer: Let's use as an example a home with an assessed value of \$350,000 (not market value). The homeowner would have received an annual property tax bill for the following amounts:

2020	\$12,695
2021	\$12,544
2022	\$12,443
2023	\$12,156
2024	\$12,701 (proposed)

If the proposed budget is approved, the homeowner would pay \$6 more in property taxes than in 2020.

Those taxes support three impressive entities: \$11,326,865 for Marlborough's portion of RHAM Middle and High Schools (already approved); \$8,694,081 for Marlborough Elementary School; and \$6,719,457 for the Town of Marlborough. Producing a budget that maintains high quality services without raising taxes above pre-pandemic levels was challenging. During the last four years, we have all endured uncomfortably high inflation – about 17 percent as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

To minimize the impact, we eliminated two positions that were in the 2023-2024 budget – a social worker at the Senior Center and a laborer at the Public Works Department. We opted to refurbish several of our current trucks instead of purchasing new ones. We postponed replacing several computers at the town hall. We postponed a major culvert repair project.

Between the first referendum and the second, the Board of Selectmen cut \$300,000 from their budget. On May 29, the Board of Finance voted to have the Board of Selectmen cut an additional \$75,000 and voted a recommendation to Town Meeting to use \$100,000 in the Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) fund to reduce the mill rate without further impacting the budgets of the Board of Education or the Board of Selectmen.

My team and I will always do our best with whatever resources the people of Marlborough generously provide. If the budget does not pass, further cuts likely will be more noticeable. They may include fewer hours at the transfer station, cuts to the library affecting staff, materials, or programming, and/or reduced frequency of mowing of town properties such as ball fields, cemeteries, and the park.

Before voting, Board of Finance members asked excellent questions about the CNR. I'm sharing those questions and responses to help every resident make an informed decision before the June 13 referendum.

How does the CNR work?

The CNR is a revolving fund used for equipment purchases and capital projects. Funds are deposited through the budget process, and they are withdrawn when a Town Meeting allocates money to projects. The CNR allows us to pay for significant expenses over 3-5 years while keeping taxes fairly level. As one example, we contribute to the CNR each year with the intention of using some of those funds to replace critically important protective gear for our volunteer firefighters. Likewise, we contribute smaller amounts annually so there are sufficient funds available when we need to replace our police car.

The \$100,000 from CNR was originally intended to offset costs to replace the roof at the Elementary School. Will this negatively impact the school?

The \$100,000 transfer will not negatively impact the school. The roof is in good condition. It will be five years before Marlborough is eligible for state matching funds typically used for major school capital projects. When the time comes to replace the roof, the total cost will be several million dollars. Towns routinely fund projects of that magnitude with a combination of state matching funds and municipal bonds.

Currently, The Board of Education is preparing a capital needs assessment. After the proposed transfer, there will remain \$123,000 in the school CNR account. I look forward to working with the BOE to manage the CNR – both deposits and withdrawals – to maintain one of Marlborough's finest facilities.

What will happen if there are emergency maintenance needs at the school?

If there were a major unexpected capital repair, the Board of Education would request a special appropriation. The process is described in the Town Charter, Sec. 6.6. I would present the request to the Board of Selectmen who would vote a recommendation to the Board of Finance. The BOF can approve a special appropriation up to two percent of the Town Operations Budget. If the special appropriation exceeds that threshold, the BOF would convene a Town Meeting to review and approve the appropriation. That special appropriation would come from the town's undesignated fund balance, a rainy-day fund we maintain for emergencies. After the immediate needs are met, the three boards – BOS, BOF, and BOE – would work together to replenish the fund balance.

I ask you to please vote at the referendum on June 13. Thank you.

Dave Porter, Town Manager

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

Food Bank: Located at 3 Wilhenger Drive (860-295-6008), it is open every Tuesday from 10

a.m.-noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. The food bank is open to qualified residents in need of food.

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

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

Juneteeth Recognition Day

Marlborough's Juneteeth Recognition Day be held on June 22. The day will be dedicated to 41 African American Marlborough residents who were denied burial at Century Cemetery in the 1700s and 1800s. The event will be in three parts: From 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. - Self-guided viewing of the 41 names at the Marlborough Congregational Church. At 2:30 p.m. a ceremony at Century Cemetery will begin with remarks by Romano Ghirlanda followed by a memorial service given by Pastor Val Seaver from the Marl-

borough Congregational Church. At 3:30, the distinguished Dr. Camesha Scruggs will speak at Richmond Memorial Library about the significance of Juneteenth.

A reception at the library will conclude this special day. Richmond Memorial Library will also have drop-in activities all day. Community members are invited to attend any single event or all the events. For more information, please visit www.marlboroughhistory.org.

Marlborough Greater Together Seeks Volunteers

The Marlborough Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is growing and in search of additional committee members to join us to give back to serve our community in an exciting way.

The Advisory Committee is comprised of Marlborough residents who work to identify community needs and ensure that distribution of funds yields the greatest benefit to town residents.

In November 2021 the advisory committee awarded over \$30,000 to six non-profit organizations for projects to support our Marlborough community. In 2024 over \$40,000 was awarded to ten organizations serving the community.

To serve on the committee applicants must be residents of Marlborough, not serve as an

elected town official, and be at least 14 years old. Typically, evening meetings are one to two hours per month as determined by the committee. Occasionally one to two hours of additional work outside the committee meeting is required. Previous experience in community organizations or in grant making is not required.

Anyone meeting the qualifications and interested in joining the committee should submit a simple application form for consideration. To apply visit www.hfpg.org/marlboroughcf. For more information contact the community fund at communityfund.marlborough@gmail.com. Deadline for application is July 26, 2024.

Annual Tag Sale at Town Green

The MDTC will hold its annual town-wide tag sale Saturday, June 15, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., on the Marlborough town green. Rain date is June 22. There are many items to choose from including live plants, baby clothing, a Father's Day table, costume jewelry, household goods, toys, and more.

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

ans deserve. They “Gave-their-All,” for our continued freedom.

A note of concern: it was brought to surface – allegedly, either parade spectators, and/or parade participants, were launching debris, during the parade. Let it be known, that anything of that nature, “tossing any articles” toward or away from the parade is strictly prohibited! There are underlying and logical reasons for the prohibition, safety and health concerns. There are no Second chances!

**Proudly Submitted,
Bob Mangillo – Hebron
American Legion, Post 95, Adjutant**

Tax Insanity

To the Editor:

It's clearly tax insanity. What are towns thinking, increasing taxes on the citizens again, year after year.

Town officials need a reality check. I can not support tax increases when government spending is out of control. On a local level, that's you, Colchester, asking for 3 million plus more dollars.

We have a large senior population and other families on fixed incomes. They tighten their belts, make spending sacrifices. What do Town governments do? They ask for more money to spend.

Reality check. Rents are out of control, food is up, gas is up, high town water bills, and the list goes on.

Reduce spending. Make a sacrifice. If you want something, then cut your wants out. It's a known fact that the largest expenses in the schools is not attributed to the teachers, it's the administration. The other layer of government employees; superintendent, multiple principals, multiple assistant principals, multiple secretaries to the multiple principals and multiple assistant principals. The list goes on. Really. Cut your overhead, do something instead of tapping us for more money.

Its tax insanity.

Vote no.

**Joyce A. Maine – Colchester,
Senior Citizen**

Successful Poppy Drive

To the Editor:

On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary Portland, I want to thank you all for volunteering yesterday in support of the mission and goal of the Poppy Drive to raise \$1000.

You all collected \$706. This will go to assist veterans. Our volunteers were Madison Anzellotti, Arlo Anzellotti, Rebecca Anzellotti, Anna Piascik, and Penny Christensen. Madison Anna and Penny are students at Portland High School. Job well done!

Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

**American Legion Auxiliary,
Jane Sterry – President,
Sara Sterry Rutter – Vice President,
Carol Murphy – Secretary,
Virginia Morin – Treasurer,
Sarah Petras – Chaplin**

Vote No

Dear Colchester:

Did you know that despite continuously criticizing the previous administration for saying so, First Selectman Dennler has now admitted that the town has \$1,000,000+ in collected tax dollars sitting unspent in reserve accounts? Did you know that he freely admits he “doesn't have a handle” on exactly how much is there? How is it that our town continues to collect an increasing amount of tax dollars, our hard earned money, yet continues to fail to spend what they take from us on the things they promised us they would – if they spend it at all?

Vote “no” on the budget on June 11th, at the very least until the town is willing to share with us just how much unspent money of ours they have sitting around in what appear to be hidden reserve accounts. They're sitting on a very large amount of unspent, yet already collected, tax dollars. Why are they even asking for more? Not only should you vote “no,” you should also write our First Selectman and demand a forensic audit of the entire town's finances so the citizens can finally have a holistic view of where their money is going and how it's being spent – not just the politicized view of whoever is in power during any given budget cycle.

Vote “no” on June 11th.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

Ballot Petition

To the Editor:

For the past sixteen years I have proudly served as the Republican Registrar of Voters for the Town of Hebron. In this time I have worked diligently to ensure the duties of this office are completed with integrity and that our elections run smoothly. Every four years the Registrar of Voters seat is up for reelection. Unfortunately, at their May 24th meeting the Hebron Republican Town Committee decided that my time was over and they endorsed an individual with zero experience instead of allowing me to continue in the position that I love and accomplish without errors.

I have decided to petition for an opportunity to appear on the ballot. I ask for your support in this matter and need your assistance. How may you help? If you are a Republican in the Town of Hebron I am in need of your signature. That's all, just your signature. Please reach out to myself or my wife, Gail Richmond, and we will come to you for your signature.

Thank you in advance for your help in this. It would be an honor to continue to serve the Town of Hebron as the Registrar of Voters.

**Sincerely,
John F. Richmond – Hebron**

Invest in Turf

To the Editor:

Turf is a common and a guarantee that many high schools have in the state of Connecticut. Most athletes are able to perform and play on turf fields during their high school career, along with lights. However at Bacon Academy, the athletes play on a grass field that is often muddy, filled with potholes, and very little grass. This field gets torn up throughout each season with all the teams that play on it. Rain cancellations are common as the field cant withstand any sort of water.

As a Captain of the girls soccer team at Bacon Academy, our entire senior night had to be moved and played at Lyman because of the terrible conditions the field was in, along with games in the ECC tournament and State Tournament. Our team deserves home field advantages, winning the state championship for the first time in program history this past year. We don't deserve a field that barely has any grass on it. The athletic teams and athletes at Bacon perform at high levels and should be able to compete with such companions on similar facilities. All the cancellations provide a disadvantage for us, making us play games multiple times in a row with them being rescheduled, or our practice time being cut short and canceled.

A turf field would be a great investment for all the upcoming athletes to this high school, that want to continue the great success of Bacon Academy athletics.

**Thanks,
Emily Ferrigno – Colchester**

RHAM Historians

To the Editor:

RHAM 7th and 8th grade Inquiry Academy students presented a highly commendable Witness Stones dedication on June 1st. After weeks of exploring slavery in Connecticut followed by specifically focusing on the life of Henry Peters of Hebron, RHAM students capably and creatively displayed their knowledge of an important facet of local and state history.

From writing biographies to publishing a gazette, to dancing and drumming, and incorporating poetry rich in compassion and comprehension, RHAM students articulately conveyed that African-American experiences are relevant and deserving of attention in the 21st century.

With RHAM Inquiry faculty, students explored the life of Henry Peters, youngest son of Cesar and Lois Peters who escaped abduction to South Carolina in an illegal attempt by Hebron relatives of Reverend Samuel Peters to settle their own debt to the minister residing in London. RHAM students compassionately conveyed the remarkable narrative of how an enslaved family, manumitted by Connecticut's Assembly without any provision for their well-being, were able through hard work to buy a Hebron farm and rise to the middle-class. Following Cesar and Henry Peters' lead, at least 6 other African-American families were able to do the same despite growing prejudice in Connecticut. These African-American farmers made Hebron the wealthiest town in Tolland County with the largest African-American population before the Civil War. Ironically, after the war, railroads destroyed this unique local economy.

There is much to commend and to be learned from the scholarly efforts of these RHAM students. Hebron has been slow to recognize its African-American heritage and has destroyed

many key sites including Henry Peters' farm, which stood where the CVS is and future Dollar General will be located.

It would seem that RHAM students have much to teach town leaders about the past, if officials would only listen!

John Baron – Hebron

Colchester Votes on Future

To the Editor:

I believe we need to increase spending to maintain town services. Even as a fiscal conservative, there's items I support increasing. Below are some popular town services and their increases in the proposed budget.

Library: \$31,121
Highway (Roads): \$179,874
Grounds (Rec Fields): \$143,325
Youth Services: \$27,273
Senior Services: \$10,460

I support all these increases and the total for these items comes to \$392,053. However, the town is asking for an increase of \$1.44 million. What's the other million dollars for?

Fun Fact: The school wants 3 times more money than the town, but provides 4 times less information in their budget book. Who knows how much of an increase the schools need, maybe if they were as transparent as the town we could trust their numbers. To be fair, the school has released the Superintendent's compensation – it's larger than Connecticut's Governor... so there's that for you to consider.

A new issue this budget season is reserve accounts. Money we have already paid in taxes put into designated accounts for future use. The schools have over a million dollars – they won't tell us how they plan to spend it. The town has millions of dollars, but isn't really sure of the actual total.

The future of Colchester is yours on June 11th: vote “Yes” for a large tax increase when there are unaccounted for millions in the town's bank account. Alternatively, I encourage you to vote “No” while our elected officials sharpen their pencils and work to understand the town's actual financial needs. A vote “No” doesn't mean a cut in services, it means a pause, to ensure the future tax increase will be appropriate and necessary.

**Sincerely,
Michael Dubreuil – Colchester**

Vote Yes on Both

To the Editor:

On June 11, 2024 please vote “yes” for our town and schools. A yes vote supports public safety, roads, public works, parks and rec, fields and seniors.

We need to get the town properly funded. The 2022 budget was so tight that it was overspent and required transfer of monies to cover the overage. When you defer maintenance, and gut departments to public works, facilities, grounds and fire and police you are presenting an irresponsible and false budget. It's time to properly fund our town and provide the maintenance and services to our facilities, grounds, and public safety services that we all know our citizens deserve.

Your “yes” vote will still keep the Colchester mill rate the lowest of neighboring commercial towns.

Our BOE has put forward a bipartisan and unanimously approved budget. This budget maintains current programming, services and staffing. No new initiatives are included in this budget. Class size will remain unchanged across all four schools. The BOE budget dedicates funding for school building maintenance and major projects. The 3.6% cost increase in the BOE budget is driven by insurance costs and contractual obligations.

Our fields have been a source of frustration for parents and children. I have also experience having children with injuries, disparaging comments from visiting teams, and anger when seeing the beautiful fields in other towns. “Why not us?” Well we have the opportunity to put in motion the initiatives that will move our fields forward!

This budget includes: funding for more regular seeding, funding to top dress fields twice per year, funding for aeration multiple times per year, hire additional season staffing from April to October to drag infields and set bases twice per week and ensure regular mowing of fields.

June 11, 2024 come to Town Hall from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., and vote “yes” on both! Absentee ballots available in the Town Clerks Office.

Krista Kardys – Colchester
Note: Kardys is a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, but said she is writing as an individual.

Turf For Bacon Academy

To the Editor:

Picture this... you're gearing up for a big game against a rival school. It's at home, your friends and family can't wait to come and watch while you are waiting with anticipation to play. Then the game gets canceled. Why did it get canceled? At Bacon Academy it's almost always because our fields are covered in inches or mud at even the smallest bit of rain.

This situation has happened countless times this year alone to every outdoor team at Bacon, and there is a very simple solution. If a turf field was installed at Bacon our sports teams would enjoy the comfort of knowing that their games will happen, and won't have to be moved last minute. No longer will the Boy's soccer team have to worry about having a game get canceled after warming up for an hour, the Girl's soccer team will be able to have the home games they earned during the state tournament, and the football team won't have to worry about tearing up the fields every game.

Furthermore, the installation of turf comes with a myriad of cost saving benefits. Artificial turf costs less to maintain than natural grass. According to Cory Jenner, a landscape professional, over a 20 year period a turf facility costs three times less to maintain than a natural grass facility including the initial cost of installation. The switch to artificial turf would benefit many students and also saves money, so let's make the switch!

**Sincerely,
Jonathan Curry – Colchester**

Library Support

To the Editor:

I am writing to you today to express my unconditional support for the public library system within our state of Connecticut. As a resident of Colchester myself, I find much comfort and support from my public library, Cragin Memorial.

Nation-wide spending for public libraries has been increasing over the years. However, to be able to provide the services and salaries required, it is crucial that the government spending towards public libraries increase. In 2022 the State of Connecticut spent an annual budget of \$9,277,287 on all 191 public libraries. This federal spending helps to be able to provide salaries for employees, library materials and supplies, and utilities.

Currently Cragin Memorial, which opened in 1901, has a collection of around 63,000 items and is open for 49 hours per week. The library also helps to provide programs for all ages such as events, book sales, monthly free crafts, technology accessibility, and summer reading programs. With an increased budget the library can help fund not only these programs but new and improved programs as well. All funds towards the library in return help to benefit all citizens of the town it resides in, and especially the developing youth in our town by providing a safe space for children to learn in a beneficial environment.

Data shows that increased spending on libraries not only leads to an improved library but also an increased rate of attendees and borrower numbers. Increasing the budget for public libraries increases the knowledge of its citizens.

**Sincerely,
Emma Liberty – Colchester**

Hebron's Balanced POCD

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate Hebron's Planning and Zoning Commission, Town Planner Matthew Bordeaux and consultant Michael O'Leary for an exceptional three-year effort, and unanimous approval on May 28th, of the 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development. This document is updated every 10 years to capture a moment in time and serve as Hebron's vision for the future. Former Chairwoman Natalie Woods and current Chairman Frank Zitkus guided the Commission through a staggering array of workshops and meetings. Special acknowledgement is due to Hebron's Green Committee and the Hebron Historical Society for their valuable input. However, what really stood out was the Commission's attentive engagement with Hebron's residents, allowing the people's voices to be heard.

The high quality of Hebron's POCD was recognized by the Capital Region Council of Governments, as stated by their community development planner Jacob Knowlton, “The dedication to natural resource preservation with specific focus on habitat preservation and ecological systems was impressive.”

The successful effort to create a balanced vision within the document was captured by PZC

See Letters, page 32

PZC Approves Updated Plan of Conservation and Development

By Michael Sinkewicz

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) last week approved an updated Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), concluding a revision process that began over three years ago and yielding the community a wide-ranging "visionary document" for local officials to reference moving forward.

During its meeting on May 28, the PZC voted 4-0 in favor of the document; commission member Devon Garner was absent and alternate member Terry McManus voted in his place.

Town Planner Matthew Bordeaux will polish the format and make the modifications agreed to by the PZC. Overall, the bulk of the adopted POCD is nearly identical to what was presented during a public hearing last month, and the PZC assimilated multiple changes after receiving community feedback throughout its review process.

By officially updating the document, the PZC complied with Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which states that every municipality must amend or adopt a POCD at least once every 10 years. Hebron's plan was last approved in 2014, and members of the PZC, along with numerous town committees and former town planner Michael O'Leary — who was enlisted as a consultant — organized a revision process roughly three years ago.

"It's a great product I think," remarked Frank Zitkus, chairman of the PZC, who added the Regional Planning Commission of the Capital Region Council of Governments (CROG) reviewed the referral made by the PZC and ap-

peared impressed by the draft.

In its correspondence with the PZC, Jacob Knowlton, community development planner at CROG, wrote that they found "no apparent conflict with regional plans and policies or the concerns of neighboring towns."

Additionally, CROG 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," Knowlton stated.

Zitkus asserted that Hebron's POCD would likely serve as a "model for other towns to look at" and speculated that CROG will potentially showcase it around the region.

"I think they're going to trot this out for other towns to look at and mirror maybe," Zitkus said, adding that he was "very proud" of the final document.

Commission member David Sousa also applauded the quality of the amended POCD, which he believed successfully achieved its mission.

"What's impressive to me is that it truly is a plan of conservation and development, meaning that those words are put side by side to emphasize the need for balance between both," he said. "That in order to have proper development, you have to have proper conservation, and vice versa."

McManus acknowledged during his own remarks regarding the POCD that he doesn't

agree with "a lot of it."

"But what I do agree with is the amount of hard work that's been put into this document by so many people in this community," he said. "This is a democratic document."

McManus added that the POCD did not represent the "whole story," emphasizing the presence of the document's preamble.

Previously, the Board of Selectmen endorsed the "intent" of the POCD 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."

The PZC had already agreed to include the preamble, and selectman Daniel Larson asserted that it was needed to ensure that the POCD 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 has previously described the POCD as a "visionary document" and while the

2024 version is largely an update to the existing blueprint, its contents and action items will not become town law until voted on by the BOS.

"Yes, the plan should provide direction, but not dictate exactly how it happens," he said during a prior interview, adding that the abundance of information included in the document will continue to benefit the town when it applies for state funding. "You can point to your plan and say, 'We considered that.'"

"It makes your application stronger," he conveyed.

Broken down into five sections, the POCD provides goals and recommendations pertaining to the profile of Hebron, conservation, development, municipal infrastructure and compliance with state policies.

Commission member Janet Fodaski stated that she was "so happy this is finished."

"Now we have the job of implementing the plan," she said.

By approving the POCD, the revision process is officially over and the updates made by the PZC do not require an additional verdict at a town meeting or referendum.

Juneteenth Celebration

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

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

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

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

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

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

place, and materials will be on display, in the Peters House.

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

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

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

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

Trail Day Gardens

In celebration of Trails Day, a Production of the Ct Forest and Park Association, and in recognition of the Hebron Trails Passport Program the community is encouraged to visit the Demonstration Pollinator Garden at the Kinney Rd entrance to the Raymond Brook Preserve and the newly planted Audubon Bird Garden at the Church Street entrance to the trails. The Hebron Pollinator Pathway group has been busy since 2017 with the mission to

restore native habitat one plant at a time.

Other gardens that have been planted to provide food (nectar, pollen, and seeds), shelter, and nesting sites for bees, birds and butterflies are located at the Douglas Library parking lot and the circle in front of the Old Town Hall.

Visitors will likely see volunteers diligently working to maintain the gardens in the preserve.

Book Sale Donations

The Friends of Douglas Library of Hebron are accepting donations of used books, CDs and DVDs in good condition for their upcoming Saturday, June 1 book sale.

Fiction, science-fiction, mysteries, romances, non-fiction, recent textbooks and children's books are requested. CDs and DVDs are also welcome. Please do not donate VHS tapes, encyclopedias, magazines, or Reader's Digest condensed books. All donated items should be in good condition, not mildewed, moldy, dirty or torn.

Proceeds from the sale have been used to purchase new material for the library, museum

passes, equipment, as well as to supplement children's and adult programs. Tax-deductible donations can be dropped off anytime in the donation box to the right of the main parking lot entrance. For assistance with large donations, please call the Friends in advance, at 860-228-9312.

The Douglas Library is located at 22 Main Street on the Hebron Green. The next book sale will be on Saturday, June 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the library's Community Room. From 1:00 to 3:00 pm, the Friends will offer a \$5 per bag sale.



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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

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Douglas Library News & Notes

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

The Douglas Library is showing newly released films as follows: June 7th- One Life -PG; June 14th-Arthur the King-PG-13; June 21st-Anatomy of a Fall-R; June 28th-Boys in the Boat-PG-13. Bottled water and popcorn will be provided. These are all shown on our 80" 4K TV with surround sound speakers.

Douglas Library Board of Trustees Meeting - June 10, 7 p.m.- The regular meeting is held via Zoom. For information see the calendar at hebronct.com.

Ultimate Red Sox Program - June 10, 6 p.m.- Take a fun and enlightening journey through Boston Red Sox history with the author of the Ultimate Boston Red Sox Time Machine Book Martin Gitlin. This presentation features exciting and nostalgic videos of the greatest and most fascinating players, teams, events and moments in franchise history. The program also includes trivia questions. Registration is not required. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Cookbook Club-June 18, 6:30 pm. Each month we'll read a different Cookbook, and each person will choose one recipe from the book to make and share with the group. This month's book is "Watermelon & Red Birds" by Nicole Taylor and is available near the Main Desk.

Medicare Information - June 19, 3 pm or 6 pm. Come and learn the ins and outs of Medicare and the differences between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage with Mark Macrina a local insurance agent. This is strictly an informational seminar, and no individual health will be discussed.

Life Insurance Information-June 19, 2 pm or 5 pm.-Come and learn about Life Insurance options with local agent Mark Macrina. This educational presentation is open for anyone age 18+.

Book Discussion - June 19, 7 pm - We are reading and discussing "Identity" by Nora Roberts at the American legion, located next door. Copies of the book will be available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk. *Must be over 21 YEARS OF AGE.*

The Sporting Events that Changed America -June 24, 6 pm- This program with Martin Gitlin features exciting videos of sporting events through more than 100 years that greatly impacted society and/or the sports themselves. Included are the sale of Babe Ruth to the Yankees that kicked off the greatest dynasty in American sports history to the Magic Johnson-Larry Bird rivalry that brought the NBA back to life and much more. This presentation features a lot of fun trivia questions for patrons to ponder as well.

Book Purse Craft- June25, pm-Learn the art

of making a purse from a book with our Director Drusilla. Materials will be provided. Registration is required.

Book Folding Art - June 29, 10am-Come and learn the art of book folding with Carol Gregoire. Materials will be provided. Registration is required.

Teens who Code-June 3 & 17, 4 pm- Learn HTML, Scratch and other exciting programming languages in this program. Ages 12+

Teen Pin Party - June 5, 5 pm - Come design your own pins! From pronoun to puns, the possibilities are endless! Ages 12+ Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Teen Jackbox Night - June 12, 5 pm - Join us for pizza and fun Jackbox games like Quiplash and T-Shirt KO! Ages 12+

Teen Finger Loop Braiding - June 19, 5 pm-Learn all about finger loop braiding to make bookmarks, belts and more with Castle Nitor! Registration is required. Ages 12+ Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Teen Make & Mend - June 26, 5 pm - Lost a button? Split a seam? Learn how to solve these clothing repair problems and more to make your clothes last longer! Bring in your damaged clothes and we'll help you bring them back to life! Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Learn to Crochet - June 18 & 25, 2pm - Have you ever wanted to learn to crochet? Now is the time to learn the basics and then you can make your own hats, scarves, animals...whatever you can think of. Ideally for ages 8 to Adult. Please register for the first session. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Ferncroft Opossum Rescue - June 17, 6pm - We are welcoming Ferncroft Opossum Rescue to give us an overview of wildlife rehabilitation and the role of rehabbers with a focus on opossums and our rescue efforts with them. They will bring live Opossums for you to meet. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Children's Lunch & Story Time - June 19 & 26, 12 pm - Join Ms. Lida for stories, songs, and a take home craft while enjoying your lunch! Bring your picnic blanket!

Messy Art - June 20th 10:15am - Come and explore a variety of art mediums. Ages 0-5.

Dissect Owl Pellets - June 20th - 2pm - Did you know that owls cannot digest bones? Let's figure out what animals the owls eat. Ages 5+. Registration is required. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Make a Musical Instrument - June 21, 12-2pm - Create your own musical instrument from recycled materials, then you can join in with the town on Make Music Day. Ages 3-12.

Crafternoon - June 24, 1-3 pm - Come and create art! There will be a variety of items available to use. Ages 4-12.

Paint a Pot - June 25, 11 am - Each person will get their own mini pot to decorate however they wish. Ages 4-12. Registration is required.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

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

Church of The Holy Family News

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

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The Church of the Holy Family collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. The needs listed below are very specific due to limited storage space and the center's new hours of operation: Open 24/7, 365 days/year. We cannot accept clothing donations other than items 7 & 8. (1) Paper Towel & Toilet Paper

Parks and Recreation News

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

Woodland Yoga: Woodland Yoga is a unique experience that allows you to connect with nature and rejuvenate your mind, body, and soul. Surrounded by natural beauty, you will be guided through gentle yoga postures, breath-work, and guided meditation designed to ground you and awaken your senses. This class is suitable for all levels of experience. Thursday, June 13 from 6:00-7:15pm. Grayville Falls Town Park. \$18.

Outdoor Sound Healing: Join The Calming Corner at Grayville Falls Town Park for a powerful mindfulness experience that combines different healing sounds, music, and special sound instruments. Enjoy the outdoors while immersing yourself in vibrations that will take you into a deep meditative state. "Creation begins with vibration and sound." Deep relaxation, improved focus, accelerated healing, pain management, enhanced mood, stress reduction, lowered blood pressure, and more. Saturdays, June 8-July 13. 1:00-2:30pm. Grayville Falls Town Park. Want to try out a session without committing to each day? Not a problem, register only for the days you wish to attend! Register for the first session, and if you like, feel free to register for other days. \$40 per session.

The Hebron Community Theater will be holding auditions for Shakespeare in the Park: A Midsummer Night's Dream. This adaptation is perfect for beginners or seasoned actors. Auditions will be held June 10 and 11 at the Hebron Parks and Recreation Office from 6-8pm. Registration is open for auditions and stage crew. 16+

RHAM Softball Camp: "Softball is for everyone, fastpitch is for athletes." Come and join us in learning fastpitch softball from coach Raymond Bell! Learn the fundamentals of the sport and build your skills as well as play games during this four-day softball camp. **Camp t-shirt provided! ** July 29-August 1. 9:00 am-12:00pm. RHAM Softball Field. \$100.

NEOS Basketball Camp: Hosted by New Eng-

Journey Group: For high schooler youth! The mission of the Journey Group is to support the youth of Hebron and surrounding towns in their spiritual development. Let's walk through the awesome journey of discovering and knowing Christ together! For grades 6-12. Meets every other Sunday directly after the service during the school year. Lunch Provided! Upcoming meeting: June 16

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

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

(always needed; supplies run low quickly), (2) 4-gallon trash bags for bathrooms & 13-gallon (kitchen size) trash bags, (3) Insect repellent (Wipes preferred but spray OK); Sunscreen; and Q-Tips, (4) Men's & Women's Deodorant and Razors, (5) Men's & Women's Flip-flops (Used as shower shoes; Sizes M, L, XL), (6) Dryer sheets & Bleach, (7) Men's & Women's crew & quarter socks, (8) Men's boxer briefs & Women's briefs or "Boy Shorts" (M, L, XL, 2XL), (9) Disinfectant hand soap & Refill bottles, (10) \$15 Stop & Shop gift cards for gas & \$25 Walmart gift cards for client emergencies

Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the Church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

land Officiating Services and Development, this camp will have a heavy emphasis on skills training and development. There will be daily league play for seeding in the March Madness tournament with contests on the last day. NEOS camp will also cover all aspects of the basketball industry and supply a unique view of all the opportunities the game of basketball has to offer both on and off the court. The staff of NEOS has over 30 years of experience in all facets of basketball from coaching, playing, and officiating. August 12-16, 9:00 am-3:00pm. RHAM High School Gym. \$200.

Basketball Scrimmage Camp: Join coach Lee McPeck for a four-day Basketball Scrimmage Camp. Each day will include a warmup as well as mini fundamental lessons. Then, spend the rest of the day playing scrimmage games. These will be full court games with fouls called and in-game instruction. To add to the fun there will be a daily half-court contest to win a free basketball. All basketball skill and ability levels are welcome. Grades 6-9. Boys Session 1: July 8-12, 9:30am-12:30pm (no session Wednesday). Boys Session 2: July 22-26, 9:30-12:30 (no session Wednesday). Girls Session: August 5-8, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Hebron Elementary School, Main Gym. \$119.

30+ Basketball Summer Session: Drop-in games and friendly competition for all skill levels ages 30 and over. Tuesdays, 6/18-8/20, RHAM Middle School Gym, 7pm-9pm. \$20 for the session or drop-in Cost \$3 (cash only) each visit. Drop ins must register online and pay at the door each night they attend.

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.

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.

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‘Bittersweet’ Ending to Classic Hebron Store

By Michael Sinkewicz

After nearly 50 years in business, Colonial Country Store is closing its doors.

While an exact end date hasn't been announced, owner Susan Young expects to officially adjourn her tenure in the Hebron Village Shoppes Plaza — located at 127 Main Street — later this month after 47 years of selling furniture and other accessories.

“It’s bittersweet,” acknowledged Young, who also owns the plaza along with her siblings. “This is the right time.”

There’s still time to stop by the store to make one last purchase, and nearly everything is on sale; most products are discounted by 30%, with some items even closer to 40% off.

For Young, 72, her attention will immediately shift to four grandchildren. But for now, she thanked the residents who visited her store — some on a weekly basis.

“I’m very grateful to the Hebron community,” Young conveyed, adding that she “loves all the people” in town, but patrons would also make the trek from neighboring states. Those custom-

ers, Young speculated, probably traveled from Massachusetts or Rhode Island because of Colonial Country’s “charm.”

“Most of the people know me,” she expressed, explaining how recently one woman asked for an autograph, and she excitedly signed her purchased item. Young fondly recalled how the loyal customer proclaimed, “I want to remember you and this store.”

Creating a welcoming and fun environment was always one of Young’s goals. Accordingly, anyone who entered her piece of the plaza was always in a good mood.

“Everybody that comes in here is happy,” she joked. “Even the men who don’t like to shop, we can get them happy.”

Of course, longevity could only be achieved if the community embraced the merchandise, and Young believed people would continue to come back if you showed them good value.

“They know I run the lowest price to be in business basically,” she explained, adding that recently, the economics of operating her store

were no longer sustainable. The price of maintaining the inventory she required wasn’t viable. “I guess I could buy cheaper stuff, but I don’t want to.”

In July 2022, a devastating fire shut down most of the plaza, and last summer — one year after a painstaking restoration process — all of the businesses were once again operational. One by one, each store opened its doors, and Colonial Country — which was spared from the worst of the damage — was able to reopen relatively quickly in January 2023.

But even before the fire, Young was beginning to contemplate retirement following a decline in foot traffic.

“When we opened after the fire, we gave it a year,” she recalled.

Additionally, COVID-19 also appeared to impact how some residents engaged with the local marketplace. Young conveyed how groups of ladies used to shop around town during lunchtime, a leisurely endeavor that’s much rarer now.

“Since the pandemic, that kind of stopped,” she said.

Young originally launched the business along with her mother. Young’s father, who owned the plaza, suggested that she open a small gift shop and outfit the store with inventory from another business in Massachusetts, owned by a family friend. Her father urged her to pick out items she liked and continue building from that point.

“It snowballed from there,” Young recalled.

At the time, she was a teacher, and the initial plan was to have Young’s mother run the new store during the week, and she’d takeover on the weekends. Her father later extended the building, giving them much more space.

Did Young ever envision a 50-year business venture?

She explained that her mother worked at the store into her 70s. “She said you’ll never work until the age I am,” Young joked. “Here I am working.”

Annual Classic Golf Tournament

The Annual Chorale Golf Classic will be held on Monday, June 24 at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. Registration is at 9:00 a.m. with a 10:00 Shotgun start.

The Hartford Chorale is the primary symphonic chorus serving the Greater Hartford community. The Chorale provides experienced, talented singers and college interns with the op-

portunity to study and perform at a professional level of musicianship. Our annual tournament is an end of season celebration and fundraiser.

There are many ways to participate in our golf event. Play golf, become a sponsor, bid on-line in our auction. For more information visit our website: golf@hartfordchorale.org. Golfers may also sign up on the Blackledge CC website.

St. Peter’s Tag Sale

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church will hold a huge tag sale on Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th from 9 – 3 each day.

There will be a variety of items: tools, household items, linens, small furniture, jewelry, children’s toys, decorative items, antiques, kitchen items, glassware, and more! Perennial plants from the gardens of parishioners will also be available as well as a limited number of parishioner-created crafts. There is something for everyone!

A simple breakfast of donuts, bagels, and coffee will be available on both days.

On both days, the luncheon served will include egg salad, tuna, pulled pork and kielbasa and sauerkraut sandwiches as well as hot dogs, chips and a drink.

As part of the St. Peter’s outreach program, a portion of the sales will be donated to the Columbia Food Bank.

The church is located at 30 Church St. (Rt. 85) in Hebron. For more information, please contact the church office at 860-228-3244 or visit the church website at www.StPetersHebron.com.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

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

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

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

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

center is open to all children regardless of faith. Immediate openings are available for children. Summer camp is offered for children also. For more information, call center director Jennifer Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are available at www.clecchebron.org.

Caring Shepherds Social Ministry Group: Holds regular food pantry days to distribute food staples, household and hygiene items as well as Bibles and prayers. For more information about donating or participating in food pantry days, call 860-228-1152.

St. Peter’s News & Notes

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

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

days at 10 a.m.; Boy Scouts, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Vestry, third Thursdays, 7 p.m.; Building Networks International, Fridays, 7:30 a.m.

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

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

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following programs. For more information and full program descriptions, and to register, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. Pre-registration is required for all programs. The senior center newsletter is online at hebronct.com/seniorcenter.

Free Lunch & Learn, Tuesday, June 18th at Noon. Join us for a free lunch and learn. Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut presents Protecting Our Seniors from Scams. Lunch is a choice of a deli sandwich (turkey or ham), chips, cookie, and water. Must pre-register by Friday, June 14th at Noon, 860-228-1700.

Wanted: Sunshine Singers on Thursday mornings from 10:15am to 11:45am. The Sunshine Singers welcome any and all who enjoy singing and would love to share their talents with others. Join the Sunshine Singers who are a group who love to sing. This is a free program, but pre-registration is required if it’s the first time attending class. Please call 860-228-1700.

Bus Trip—Lunch at Marker 37 & Shopping at Goodspeed Station Country Store Thursday, June 20: Bus leaves at 10:30 am and will return approximately 3:30 pm. Lunch will be at Marker 37 in Chester, CT. Enjoy Modern American Cuisine from their beautiful newly built riverside restaurant inside Chester Point Marina. A great way to spend the first day of summer. After lunch we’ll head up “old Rte. 9” and stop at Goodspeed’s Country Store in Haddam, CT for a little shopping, which is also along the Connecticut River and next to the historic East Haddam swing bridge. Transportation is \$5 and lunch is on your own. Space is limited to sign-up call 860-228-1700.

Dedicated Transportation Line: We are happy to announce we now have a dedicated transportation line. When you call this number it will go directly to transportation. If a live person is not available to answer at that moment, please leave a message as you always have. The new TRANSPORTATION PHONE LINE IS 860-228-5977. We ask EVERYONE who has

anything related to transportation, to now call THIS number 860-228-5977. Thank you

Mindful Meditation: Monday’s starting at 11:25 a.m. The class is free. Mindful meditation is a mental training practice that teaches you to slow down racing thoughts, let go of negativity, and calm both your mind and body. Led by Mandy Rocznik who has been practicing mindful meditation for 17 years. To register call 860-228-1700.

Congregate Meals: Congregate meals will again be available Monday through Thursday. Meals are served at noon and with a suggested donation of \$3. The updated menu is available on the Senior Center page website, hebronct.com/town-departments/senior-center/. You must sign up by 9:30am the day before or 9:30am on Friday for Mondays, 860-228-1700.

Weekly Shopping Trips: Pre-registration is required by Thursday at 10 a.m. June 7th Stop and Shop, June 14th Walmart/Aldis, June 21st 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.

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Rivereast Bolts to Bermuda...Miles and Evan Burdick, brothers from Portland, visited Horseshoe Bay in Bermuda and brought along some reading material.

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 Pilgrimage...Mary Ann Wall of East Hampton and Jeanne Bishop of Portland went to Zakopane Poland on a Pilgrimage. They were entertained by Simon and his band at Hotel Redyk.



Castle Cover...Tom and Peggy Krempecki of Colchester brought their favorite tabloid to the Windsor Castle in England.



Rivereast Boarding...The Cerreta family from East Hampton visited "Connie" at the TWA Hotel at JFK Airport and brought along some local flare.

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★ Top RHAM Students cont. from page 1
and always tried to think ahead, avoiding any unforeseen scheduling conflicts.

Her parents helped prevent her from becoming too stressed, and she credited her favorite teachers: Patricia Dorman, Shaun Keane and Alexa Mitchell.

Understandably, the reality that high school life is coming to a close has sunk in, generating a bittersweet feeling. While Bryssel will miss seeing her friends on a daily basis, she's "excited to move on to the next chapter and experience beyond that."

In the fall, she will attend the University of Massachusetts Amherst to study animal science on a pre-vet track. Afterwards, she'll enter veterinarian school to fulfill her lifelong dream.

As she grew up in England and was constantly traveling, Bryssel recalled seeing numerous stray dogs.

"I'd go up and pet every single one," she expressed. "I've just always loved animals. I've been telling people since I was seven that I was going to be a vet."

McLaughlin interjected that Bryssel even wrote in their sixth-grade yearbook that her future goal was to become a veterinarian.

Bryssel took a number of Advanced Placement courses, which helped advance her education. But she highlighted one specific class that was not technically offered through RHAM, which aided her career path. Because the school provides VHS classes, which essentially allow students to take online instruction, Bryssel was able to enroll in an animal behavior and zoology course — something directly related to her intended college major that she otherwise wouldn't have access to.

"The fact that RHAM offered that is just amazing," she asserted.

Through the RHAM curriculum, clubs and sports teams, Bryssel concluded that RHAM "taught me how much hard work pays off and the amount of effort you put into something will pay off."

The Salutatorian

"For me, it was really just doing my best and I didn't care about any award that came with it,"

said McLaughlin, explaining that her speech during the graduation ceremony would aim to recognize the entire class of 2024. "As hard as we've worked, there are so many other people who have worked the same in school, or in sports, and they deserve as much recognition too. So I'm glad I can be that liaison for our class."

McLaughlin also boasts an impressive menu of clubs and hobbies, notably four years of volleyball, which included an all-conference appointment. She also played basketball and tennis during her high school career.

Additionally, she participated in DECA, tutoring, and was president of the National Honors Society.

What was her secret to success?

"It's all about balance," McLaughlin explained. "It's great to work really hard at school and it's great to put everything into sports, but you have to find that balance."

RHAM's salutatorian emphasized the need to shift focus away from schoolwork when it was appropriate and embrace friendships. Those snapshots she said, would serve as the souvenirs from her time roaming the campus halls.

"In reality in five years, it's going to matter a lot more about the memories than a sash," she said. "It's a great accomplishment, but I made sure I was getting a lot more out of high school than just that academic experience."

Her volleyball teammates, for example, were the "best group of girls," and surrounding herself with hardworking individuals likely contributed to her overall development at RHAM.

"It was amazing," she recalled.

McLaughlin expressed that she would be "forever grateful" to her parents and siblings "for always being there for me."

She also pointed to the influence of her Spanish teacher, Mary Rametta, and the school's foreign exchange program, which allowed McLaughlin to embark on the "the best experience of my life."

In the fall of 2022, a student from Spain came and lived with McLaughlin for nearly two weeks, and likewise during the following spring semester, she traveled overseas to spend time



Seniors Taryn Bryssel and Marina McLaughlin, RHAM High School's valedictorian and salutatorian, have a friendship that goes beyond grade point averages.

with her new exchange family.

"I have such a close relationship with them," she conveyed. "I still text them, they text me on my birthday."

Besides expanding her language skills — a worthwhile endeavor in itself — the trip showed McLaughlin the "power of immersive learning." It also inspired her to continue pursuing her passion for Spanish. This fall, she will attend Clemson University and pursue a double major of finance and Spanish. For now, she's eyeing a similar profession as her aunt, who does wealth management in Latin American countries.

Initially, Clemson was not on McLaughlin's radar. But after visiting her perceived "dream school," she pivoted and decided to become a tiger.

"I'm a big 'trust my gut' person," she said. "I believe in signs from the universe, and I kept

seeing people in Clemson sweatshirts, and stickers on cars and orange and purple everything. And I was like, this is Connecticut, this is a little weird."

Although she's joining a massive school, McLaughlin identified a tight-knit community. "I felt like they saw me," she asserted.

McLaughlin is undoubtedly plunging into an entirely new environment that is roughly 900 miles away from her current school headquarters. However, she explained that each graduating senior is prepared to enter a new phase beyond RHAM, whether it's trade school or immediately jumping into the workforce.

"I'm so excited for the next chapter," she said. "I think there's so many more opportunities that are going to be offered that I know we and everybody else in our grade is going to take advantage of and really make the most of."

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Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

As another high school sports season reaches the eleventh hour, here is a look at the recent standout athletes:

Noah Decker - Portland High School (Track & Field): Decker destroyed the competition at the Class S State Championship at Willowbrook Park in New Britain on May 29. Decker, a senior, won the javelin with a throw of 154' 9" — 10 feet longer than the runner-up Sae'Vion Melendez of St. Bernard.

Decker was part of a slew of top-five finishes from the Highlanders, who also got second and third place finishes from Sam LaMalfa in the 400 meters and 200 meters, respectively. Kylon Martinez placed fifth in the triple jump.

On the girls' side, the 4x800 relay of Lily Tabellione, Cristina Austin, Ariana Hettrick-Rivera, and Meghan McPhee placed second. Tabellione (1600 meters) and McPhee (800 meters) each had individual fourth place finishes, while Austin placed fifth in the 400 meters.

Luke Stennett - Portland High School (Golf): Stennett finished atop the leaderboard for the fourth straight season at the state divisional championships, winning the Division III state title after shooting a one-under (71) at the Tallwood Country Club in Hebron on June 3. Stennett, a senior and University of Rhode Island commit, shot birdie on five holes to hold off East Windsor's Ryan Willey and East Catholic's Adam Eskin — who tied for second after shooting a 73.

Fellow senior Quinn Lapinski (a Merrimack College commit) placed fourth individual after shooting a 75 as the Highlanders placed second overall as a team, finishing ahead of 15 other teams and behind only the champions from East Catholic.

Evan LoPresti - East Hampton High School (Track & Field): LoPresti finished as the runner-up in the 1600 meters at the Class S state championship at Veterans Stadium in New Britain on May 28. LoPresti, a junior, ran a 4:23.22 — placing behind only Parker Cook of Old Saybrook and ahead of 19 other competitors.

The Bellringers 4x100 relay team of Aidan Maiorino, Declan Russell, Matthew Dickinson, and Alex Rivard-Lentz also earned a spot of the podium with a third-place finish. Rivard-Lentz (800 meters), Bryson Milton (javelin), and Brian Collisson (pole vault) each placed fifth in

their respective events.

Chelsea Woods - East Hampton High School (Golf): Woods placed seventh at the Shoreline Conference Championships, shooting an 81 at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain on May 21. Woods, a senior, shot a birdie on the ninth hole and shot par on nine other holes to wrap up for solid day on the course as the Bellringers placed fifth overall as a team, shooting a combined 348.

Andrew Fenton finished 23rd (87), Jacob Woods and Chase Palmer tied for 28th (90), and Colin Neary placed 30th (92).

Samantha D'Attri - Bacon Academy (Softball): D'Attri was outstanding from the mound as the Bobcats upset Watertown, 2-1, in the quarterfinals of the Class M state tournament on May 31. D'Attri, a senior, pitched a three-hitter over seven innings, striking out four as the No. 8-seed Bobcats shocked the top-seeded Warriors to reach the state semifinals. Both Bobcats runs came in the opening frame as Natalia Vernali tripled with two outs in the top of the first inning, scoring Reina Hill and Jazlyn Small-Yu for what proved to be the winning RBIs.

Four days later, Bacon Academy's tourney journey came to an end in the semifinals where they lost to Sheehan 9-2.

Liam Sweeney - Bacon Academy (Track & Field): Sweeney won a state title in the discus at the Class M state championships at Veterans Stadium in New Britain on May 28. Sweeney, a sophomore, blew away the competition by covering a distance of 159' 0", eight feet longer than the runner-up (Enzo Valenti of Montville). Sweeney also placed fifth in the shot put and was one of five Bobcats with individual top-five finishes at the state meet.

Ashleen Walsh placed second in girls discus, Weston Dzwonchuk placed third in boys high jump, Joshua Fenton placed fourth in the boys pole vault, and Jessica-Willow Harris placed fifth in the girls pole vault. The boys 4x400 relay of Kaden Treat, Ethan Fleurose, Douglas Howard and Aaron Fidrych also placed fourth, as did the girls 4x800 of Skyelyn Schoen-Rene, Emma Cote, Avery Anderson and Lorelei Romasanta.

Garrett Levesque - RHAM High School (Lacrosse): Levesque won 12 of 15 faceoffs, allowing the Raptors to dominate time of possession during a 14-4 victory over E.O. Smith in the second round of the Class M state tournament on

May 29. Levesque winning 80% of his faceoff allowed the team's offense to cook as James Celio tallied four games and an assist, while Ben Zigmund scored three goals and had a pair of helpers. Luke Auteri and Josh Weers also netted two goals apiece. Thomas Packer made seven saves in net.

Two days later, RHAM fell to Brookfield in round two, ending a season in which the Raptors won a total on 16 games and a captured a conference championship.

Fayz Baig - RHAM High School (Baseball): Baig was solid from the mound, striking out six over six innings to earn the win as the Raptors defeated Brookfield, 3-1, in the Class L quarterfinals on June 1. Baig, a junior, allowed just four hits and one run, before giving way to reliever Nolan Plourde, who pitched the final inning to earn the save.

The Raptors broke a scoreless tie in the bottom of the fourth inning when Joey Dronzank doubled on a line drive to center, driving home Daniel Chomick. In the following innings, Sean Connolly scored to make it 2-0 before Joey Tyler singled to drive home Camden McPeck.

Three days later, the No. 3-seeded Raptors knocked off the second-seeded Daniel Hand Tigers 7-1 in the semifinals to reach the state championship for the second time in program history. RHAM will play top-seed Woodstock Academy in the Class L state title game at Palmer Field in Middletown on Saturday, June 8. First pitch is at 7 p.m.



Portland High School senior Noah Decker won a state title in the javelin at the Class S State Championship in New Britain.

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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.

Sunday Morning Worship begins at 10:00 am. We are a welcoming church, and all are welcome.

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.
Saturday, June 8th Plant Sale 9AM-2PM
Friday, June 21st Bingo and Baskets. Dinner 5:30 PM. Game 6:30 PM \$12.00 per person includes dinner and game.

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Essay Excellence... Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Auxiliary 5095 proudly announced the 2023-2024 Patriot's Pen Essay winner at the Middle School's May 24th Memorial Remembrance Ceremony. (pictured, from left) Laura Allen, Frank Roche, Arianna Blancato, Jessica Blancato, and Judith Barnes.

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.

Ambulance News

In the month of April, East Hampton Ambulance responded to 108 incidents. 6 incidents went to mutual aid (2 of which our ambulance was already on a call). Response Times (Time of Dispatch to on-scene) were 08:13 mins for East Hampton, and 08:13 mins for all calls, including other towns. On May 18, members of East Hampton Ambulance participated in a disaster drill held at

Bradley Airport. This training is held once every three years and provides EMS personnel with an opportunity to participate in patient care, triage, and transportation. As of May 20, East Hampton Ambulance responded to 444 calls for service with 82% of calls resulting in patient transport, compared to 421 calls last year.

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. Visit the senior center online at www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center.

Senior Resources offers meals at the East Hampton Senior Community café. Meals are offered five days a week, M-F. Please call the Center to reserve your meal or sign up online through MyActiveCenter.com. The Eligibility requirement is one must be age 60+. Reservations for the next day's meal must be made before 11:00am the day before.

Meals are funded through the Federal Title III grant, Elderly Nutrition Program. The meals are free, but a \$3.00 donation is requested to help cover costs the grant does not. No one registered will be denied a meal due to lack of a donation.

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.

Weekly Activities: Quilting Group- Monday's at 9:00am Quilter's bring their own projects and use each other's talents to use as a guide, as needed. New members are welcome! Pre-registration required. Mexican Train Dominoes- Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. New members welcome but you must pre-register. Bible Study- Tuesday's at 1:00pm. This non-denominational group shares and studies scripture Pre-registration required. BINGO- Tuesdays from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. In person and Zoom Pre-registration required. Wii Bowling - Begins again on Wednesdays starting June 5 at 11 a.m. Please Register at the Senior Center. Yoga with Kitch - Wednesday at 1 p.m. Stretch your limbs and build energy with this gentle session of chair yoga. Current session full at this time.

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.

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.

AARP Safe Driving Class: Monday June 10, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 for AARP members or \$25. Payment in exact cash or check due at the class. Please register in advance at the Senior Center.

Self Defense Information Session: Tuesday, June 11 at 10 a.m. East Hampton Police Department will be putting on a workshop focusing on elder abuse and self-protection for seniors in our community featuring a presentation on Elder Abuse, Common Scams Targeting Seniors, Situational Awareness, and Basic Self Defense Skills. After the presentation there will be an optional hands-on self-defense class going over basic escapes and maneuvers to keep yourself safe. Please register at the Senior Center.

Blood Pressure Screenings: Monday, June 17 at 12:30 p.m. No appointment needed, drop-ins welcome.

Nature is All Around Us: Wednesday, June 19 at 11 a.m. Join Naturalist Lynn Kochiss for an informative talk on Bearwise techniques. Please sign up at the Senior Center.

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 khemphill@easthamptonct.gov. The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a prearranged designated spot.

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Old Home Days 2024: A HORRAY for Hollywood Spectacle

Get ready to roll out the red carpet because East Hampton's biggest event of the year is back, and it's shining brighter than ever. Old Home Days 2024 is set to take place on July 11 - 13 and this year, it's bringing all the glitz and glamour of Hollywood. With the theme "Hooray for Hollywood", attendees can expect three days of Carnival Thrills, Musical Chills, Local Flavor, Crafty Delights, Rails to Trails 5K, Nightly Bicycle Giveaway, Community Support, Raffle with 17 great prizes and Hollywood Themed Parade. We've now begun planning for our 44th year of providing residents of East Hampton and surrounding towns with over \$75,000 worth of free entertainment. The Old Home Day As-

sociation is not financially supported by the town, state, or any other organization. We are again asking for help from the people and businesses of East Hampton. Without your support we would not be able to bring this event to the community year after year. Please remember every dollar goes directly into Old Home Day activities-nowhere else! Donate online at EHOHD.ORG or mail a check to: East Hampton Old Home Day PO Box 213, East Hampton, CT 06424. For more information on becoming a sponsor or to stay up-to-date with the latest news, visit www.EHOHD.org and follow us on Facebook (East Hampton Old Home Days) for all the behind-the-scenes action. Contact John Tuttle at 860-558-0890.

Concert Series

The 25th annual Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series will be held at the Center School Gazebo in the Village Center on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. starting June 20th with the Frank Sinatra tribute band "Sounds of Frank". Bring a chair or blanket. Picnics and pets are welcome. Concerts continue until June 27 with Flamingo, performing Big Band; July 18, Goza, performing Latin Jazz, July 25, Bebobaloubob,

performing classic soul and rock, Aug. 1, Big Deal Rock performing classic hits from 70s to 90s, Aug 8, Broken Roads performing country. Goffhouseehct.blogspot.com for information. Tax deductible donations to the concert series welcome and can be mailed to Josep N Goff House Museum, PO Box 337, East Hampton, CT 06424. Make checks to The Joseph N. Goff House Inc.

Sears Park Boat Launch Operations

In an effort to stop the spread of invasive plants and organisms in Lake Pocotopaug, all boats, trailers and other watercrafts that are being launched at Sears Park will be inspected. If boats etc. need washing, they will be asked to get them washed at the local car wash or at home before coming back to the park. There is a state fine of \$95 if someone brings a craft with

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.

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 Geryl yn Yocher at 860 267-9524 to reserve your spot(s).

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Five Years of Community Music

By London Brazil

An annual tradition that started in 2018 brings singers and instrumentalists of various ages together to perform in a concert.

East Hampton High School (EHHS) band director Andrew Groves got the idea for a community band from his alma mater in Bolton. When presenting the idea to choral director Ehren Brown, he was quick to jump on board.

"I love the way strangers can sit next to each other, sometimes with significant age gaps or experience gaps between them, and create music together so quickly," expressed Groves. "Within minutes of starting the rehearsal, we get to create something beautiful together."

And though the first performance was six years ago, the June 10 concert will be the fifth, they skipped 2020 and 2021 due to COVID restrictions. This year, there will be three ensembles: concert band, jazz band and choir.

During rehearsal, Brown loves working with the singers. "This is the most non-stress musical thing we do," he exclaimed. He noted that the group doesn't necessarily need to meet perfection as long as it's fun and relaxing.

One of Brown's favorite stories of community choir was having the high school's French teacher, Emily Van Dyck, join the choir even though

she was skeptical. Van Dyck told Brown that she was nervous and wanted to sit with someone she trusted. A student offered to stay with her, proving the power of togetherness. "Optimism and joy, the music feels like Spring," explained Brown about the music selections for this concert. "For the Beauty of the Earth, 'I Dream a World,' 'I Sing Because I'm Happy,' It's right there in the title," he said.

Brown also described the benefits for students who participate. He said that it builds connections with the community and creates generational relationships. "The students see what the next level is."

While current students make up a good amount of the ensembles, community members, parents and alumni come to play as well. Kate Marshall, EHHS '23, sang in the school's choir for four years and the select vocal group "Voices" for three years. "I came back because Mr. Brown is a good musical director and is so much fun to be around," she explained. "I missed singing." Marshall's mom, Denise, also joined the community choir because it brings everyone together from all walks of life.

Even though she didn't graduate from East Hampton, she has been singing since fourth

grade and was eager to participate. Her favorite song is "I Sing Because I'm Happy" because it is upbeat and gets people moving at the end of the long workday.

Alumnus Carolyn Lynch, Class of 2016, played French horn then went on to play in the Villanova University Pep Band. Lynch performed at campus events and basketball games, including ones at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, Penn. After recently moving to Stonington, she started playing in the Noank-Mystic Community Band. "I play weekly. Community bands are a great outlet for adults to continue playing music," expressed Lynch. And though she lives an hour away, she said it was worth it to come back, play music and see some familiar faces.

A junior at EHHS, Baylee Olzacki, is a member of the choir and Tri-M, the musical honor society. For the community concert, she decided to pick up the clarinet again, even though the

last time she played it was seventh grade. "This is a perfect time to experiment with music again since people come from different backgrounds," Olzacki noted.

Concert On Monday

Anyone, regardless of experience, may join in the future and are encouraged to. With only two rehearsals, people can feel more relaxed and have less pressure to make everything perfect. However, Brown and Groves already know it will be a great concert after running the first rehearsal this past Monday. "I'd like to see more community members join us," added Groves. "This really is a low-commitment event, and it can be a lot of fun getting people from all experiences and backgrounds together."

The community concert will be held in the EHHS Auditorium, 15 North Maple St, starting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 10. The concert is free for anyone to enjoy, all are invited.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10:00 on Sunday. All are welcome for worship. In order to connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with Rev Diana Rogers, Priest-in-Charge.

Donations: Food items for the 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.

Recognition Sunday: On June 9, recognize the work and participation that goes in to our worship and church life.

Church Picnic: The Church Picnic will be held from 12:00 to 4:00 after the 6/9 service at the home of Linda and Dick Napolitano. See the church bulletin for directions and information about what to bring.

Information/Assistance: Contact the Senior Warden, Donna Hyrb at 860-633-0472 or donnaadubehyrb@gmail.com.

East Hampton MS Soccer/Cross-Country Registration

East Hampton Middle School soccer and cross-country registration is open. Student/athletes who are interested in trying out for boys soccer, girls soccer or boys/girls cross-country teams can register online at www.FamilyID.com.

Athletes must have all the proper paperwork submitted online and have an updated physical in order to try-out. Registration should be completed by Monday, August 19, 2024. For further information please contact EHMS athletic director, Michael Mercaldi at (860)463-6837.

Epoch Arts Summer Kick Off

Epoch Arts Summer kick off Teen Game and Hang Night on June 21, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at 27 Skinner Street, East Hampton. Teens come chill out and hang with your friends as we kick off the beginning of summer. There will be tons of different games to play, art activities as well as lots of ice cream to eat. Grab your friends and come hang out for the evening at Epoch Arts. 6th grade and up, \$10. Visit www.epocharts.org for more information.

Middle Haddam Library Event

A Blues Show with Shakey Lee will be held on Saturday, June 8 at 4 p.m. at the Middle Haddam Public Library.

Shakey is a blues harmonica and bottleneck guitar player from Philadelphia. On electric or steel guitar, this talented artist is sure to rock your soul with some old-fashioned Blues. Please call the library for tickets - \$20 in advance - \$25 at the door - 860-267-9093.

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.

CHS Town Wide Tag Sale

The Chatham Historical Society (CHS) of East Hampton will again sponsor the Town-Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, June 15th. The yearly event has become a great time for residents to clean out their closets, basement and garage. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. rain or shine.

Applications will be available at the E. H. Li-

brary and the E. H. Town Clerk's Office in the new Town Hall Building. The cost is \$15 per location. The deadline for applications is due Saturday June 8th. Free maps will be handed out the day of the sale showing all the participants who are supporting the CHS. For more information call Debbie Day at 860-267-4732.

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Bowling Fun...Senior Bowling League - 2024 Spring Fling Bowling Tournament was held on Wednesday May 29. Ten teams of three, compete in a double elimination format. Pictured (left to right) Linda Anderson tournament director, Arnie Bishop, Carol Lanigan, Jean Icaza, and Brian Miner, manager of Kickback n' Bowl.

Police News

5/9: After an investigation into a two-car motor vehicle accident that occurred at the intersection of Lakeview St. and East High St., Glen Carlson, 47, of 22 Colchester Ave., East Hampton was issued a ticket for Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

5/23: Richard Hills, 38, of 11 Hale Rd., East Hampton was issued a summons for Reckless Endangerment in the 2nd Degree and Breach of Peace.

5/28: Nicole Chambers, 30, of 10 So. Main St.,

East Hampton was issued a summons for Disorderly Conduct.

5/30: Robert Light, 61, of 1 Timber Trl., East Hampton was arrested and charged with 2 counts of Disorderly Conduct, 1 count of Interfering with an Officer and 1 count of Violating Conditions of Release in the 2nd Degree.

Between Monday May 28, 2024, and Sunday June 2, 2024, Officers responded to 15 medical calls, 2 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 6 alarms, and made 13 traffic stops.

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.

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 tensum-

mitst@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. starting April 18. Cost is \$12 per session to drop in. To register call 203-592-4448 or ab-stite@sbcglobal.net

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

CommuniTea: Saturday, June 8 at 10 a.m. Join us for tea, coffee, and conversation.

Fly Fishing: Cancelled for June.

East Hampton Public Library

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

Adult Programs: Book Club in the Park: Tuesday, Jun. 18, 6:30 p.m. Bring your own comfy chair and come

together at the picnic shelter at Sears Park to discuss The Five-Star Weekend by Elin Hilderbrand. Copies of the month's book are available for checkout at the circulation desk. Register online for information in case of inclement weather.

Tech Help: Thursday, Jun. 20, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Looking for help with your personal technology or curious about the digital resources the Library has to offer? Drop by the Library during our dedicated Tech Help times and let us help you figure it all out. No registration required, just bring your device with you.

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.

Summer Lunch Bunch: Grades 6-7: Tuesday,

Jun. 18, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Students entering 6th grade in the fall along with 7th graders bidding 6th grade goodbye, are invited to join the Summer Lunch Bunch. Bring your lunch and the book you're currently reading for an hour of book chat, crafts, and activities.

All Age Programs: Summer Reading Kick Off: Friday, Jun. 21, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Head over to the fields at Center School to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Program. Enjoy a free donut from Dude's Donuts, face painting by Epoch Arts, an inflatable obstacle course, adorable goats from Circle K farm, and a Ticket Tornado. No registration required, all ages welcome.

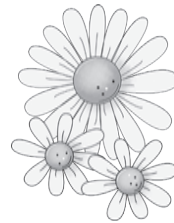
The Library hosts several storytimes for ages 0-5 years each week! Please see the calendar on our website for more details.

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

Blues Show

A Blues Show with Shakey Lee will be held on Saturday, June 8 at 4 p.m. at the Middle Haddam Public Library.

Shakey is a blues harmonica and bottleneck guitar player from Philadelphia. On electric or steel guitar, this talented artist is sure to rock your soul with some old fashioned Blues. Please call the library for tickets - \$20 in advance - \$25 at the door - 860-267-9093. reverbnation.com/shakeylyman/ for information on the artist.



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Bethlehem Lutheran News

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

Dean's List

Adam Wacht of East Hampton, CT, a student in the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences at the University of New Haven, has been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2024 Semester.

Dean's List

Isabella Bafumi of East Hampton made the spring 2024 Dean's List at Penn State University in State College, PA. A member of the Class of 2027, Bafumi is majoring in Forensic Science with a concentration in Molecular Biology.

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Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

Children's Ministry: Children's Ministry, for children in kindergarten through 5th grade, is held in Fellowship Hall during our worship service. The theme is "Friends with God" and is taught through Bible stories where the characters are friends with God and tell about God's love for us. A toddler nursery is also available. All

are welcome.

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

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

Women's Fellowship: The next gathering will be on June 20th from 6 to 8 p.m. at the church with a pot-luck dinner.

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

Epoch 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.

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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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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

BUT YOU CAN NEVER GO TO HEAVEN WITHOUT CHRIST; who said

"I am the way the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the father, but by me." John 14:6

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EHVFD: Road Closure

With the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department's mandatory pressure testing of all fire hose cancelled due to inclement weather on May 15th, hose testing is now scheduled to be conducted on Friday, June 14 in the area of the Fire Department's pump house located at the western end of Walnut Avenue.

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

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

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

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.

Strawberry Shortcake Festival

The Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam will host a strawberry shortcake festival on Saturday, June 22, 4-7 p.m., take out or eat in, \$10 per order. Please call 860 510-8102 for reservations. The church is located at 52 Middle Haddam Rd, Middle Haddam and is handicapped accessible.

Waste Collection

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection – The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a HHW collection event on Saturday, June 15, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at The Lyme/Old Lyme Middle School, 49 Lyme St., Old Lyme.

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region which includes East Hampton and Portland. No commercial or business waste allowed. Please visit <https://rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste/> to learn more.

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Todd Seymour Memorial Fund to benefit his family

Organized by: Duffy (Grandfather) and Cheri Robley (Aunt)

Todd Seymour passed away unexpectedly March 3, 2024, age 38. Todd and his wife Shannon were high school sweethearts, married for 14 years and have three children: Konnor 13, Kollin 8, and Kallie 2. Todd has a distinguished military career, was a massage therapist and personal trainer as a civilian. He loved helping others improve their health.

Todd's military career as an Aviation Operations Specialist started at age 18 after high school. His extensive service record included stations in South Korea, Fort Drum, New York, Iraq, and Baghdad. He was involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Iraqi Presidential Surge Campaign. One of his most significant achievements was his role in the Total Army Implementation of the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). Through all these avenues his efforts directly impacted hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

Staff Sergeant Seymour's contributions have not only transformed the Army fitness training and affected 1.3 million soldiers but also exemplified his unwavering commitment to excellence and readiness. Through his leadership and innovation, he has left an enduring legacy that will continue to shape the physical readiness of the United State Army for years to come. He completed 20 years of service October 24, 2023.



Todd Seymour holding daughter



Todd Seymour's wife and kids



Todd Seymour with wife

Contributions can be made payable to "Todd Seymour Memorial Fund"

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Huge Tag Sale

Tag Sale at St. Andrew Church Hall, 128 Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Saturday, June 15 8:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Something for everyone. Come and see for yourself. No early birds please.

College Graduate

Grace Reilly, of Colchester, recently earned a degree from Grove City College on May 18, 2024. Reilly earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Arts.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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 Kingstown, 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.

Naugy Scenic Train: Naugatuck Railroad Friday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. Start your day at Black Rock Tavern in the heart of Thomaston, CT for a full course lunch of your choice (Chicken Marsala, Salmon with Lemon, or Pork Tenderloin) with vegetable, potato, dessert, and beverage. Take a scenic ride on a vintage diesel pulled locomotive, The Naugy. Enjoy a ride through the Naugatuck River Valley over bridges and along the river. In Waterbury the train will make a stop at Fascia's Chocolate Factory where you will learn its history and purchase some treats before the train returns to Thomaston Station. (Please note the platform at Fascia's is not suitable for guests with wheelchairs or walkers) The cost is \$129 per person. Sign up before August 13th.

Covered Bridges of New Hampshire: Tuesday, October 1 at 7:45 a.m. Enjoy a family style lunch at the Inn at East Hill Farm, a working farm and Inn in the shadow of Mount Monadnock in Troy, NH. Delight in homemade soup, fresh breads, fritters with maple syrup, hot entrees, sides, and delicious desserts. Then grab your camera and explore several covered bridges (kissing bridges) in southern NH with a guided tour with a local experienced guide. The cost is \$134 per person. Sign up before September 1st



Bobcats Honored.... Christopher Lusignan and Carolyn Baehr were selected as the Bacon Academy's 2023-2024 Scholar-Athletes. The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) honored and celebrated 346 statewide scholar-athletes at the 41st annual CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet on May 5. The Scholar-Athlete program annually recognizes two high school seniors from each member high school whose academic and athletic careers have been exemplary, whose personal standards and achievements are a model to others, and who possess high levels of integrity, self-discipline and courage. The event is the largest of the many honors programs CAS-CIAC hosts each year. The honorees are chosen by the member schools and are submitted to the CIAC.

Special Education Records Disposal

The Colchester Board of Education will destroy any and all special education records of students who graduated or would have graduated with the class of 2018. These records will be destroyed on August 1, 2024.

If any student, as described, would like a copy of their special education records, they must request a copy of the records prior to

the destruction on August 1, 2024. Forward all requests to the Dept. of Pupil Services and Special Education, 380 Norwich Avenue Colchester CT 06415, or by calling the Pupil Services Office @ 860-537-3103. Upon request, records will be available for pickup at the Department of Pupil Services.



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ECRC

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Please join us in extending our warmest appreciation to Kirsti Stennett, PT for her many years of professional physical therapy care in our Colchester location. We congratulate Kirsti for completing her tenure at ECRC. She has decided to take a well-deserved retirement! We are immensely grateful for Kirsti's dedication and contributions to ECRC and the community.

We are delighted to announce that Sherry Ringuette, PT, will continue to bring her wealth of experience and expertise to ECRC at our Lisbon location. Sherry's ongoing commitment to exceptional care ensures continuity for our valued patients.

Kirsti and Sherry have been exemplary professionals and have been honored to serve the Colchester community throughout their tenure. Their dedication to delivering outstanding care has positively impacted the lives of many in the surrounding areas.

The ECRC Management Team recognize that we have been proudly represented by these two physical therapists and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Kirsti and Sherry for their unwavering dedication and the excellent quality of care they have provided over the years. We commend their exceptional service and wish Kirsti a fulfilling retirement while looking forward to continued success with Sherry in joining our Lisbon location.

Warm regards,
ECRC Physical Therapy Centers

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 ob-

ervation. 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.

Theater Workshop

The Colchester Community Theatre (CCT) announces its Summer Children's Theater Workshop, July 8 through July 19. Auditions will be held Wednesday June 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m. and Sunday June 9, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Congregation Ahavath Achim (Colchester Synagogue) on 84 Lebanon Avenue in Colchester. The workshop is open to all children entering grade 2 through grade 12 in the fall. Every child must audition to attend the program. There are NO exceptions. All children who enroll are accepted. Auditions are solely for the purpose of cast placement. Each child is to

bring sheet music or an instrumental recording and be prepared to sing. An accompanist will be provided. Required pre-registration must be completed at: www.colchestercommunitytheatre.com/summer-workshop/. The workshop fee is \$135.00/child. Additional forms required to be completed by a parent/guardian will be available at auditions. The workshop will be held at Bacon Academy Auditorium, July 8 through July 19, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-noon, culminating in a show on July 20 at 2:00 p.m.

Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church is an Open and Affirming church located at 60 Main St. Pastor is the Rev. Lauren Ostrout. The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The office can be reached at 860-537-5189 or cfc06415@gmail.com. Worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m. For those wishing to worship from home, the service is broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday. Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page. Sunday School: Held during worship from

September through June. Children in grades pre-K through 8 are welcome. The nursery is located just off the sanctuary. Visit the church website for more information and to register for Sunday School. Twelve-Step Meetings: AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room. Boy Scout Troop 72: Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m. from September through June.

Colchester Cougars Camp

Colchester Cougars Football & Cheer is open for boys and girls ages 4-14, welcoming residents of Colchester, Lebanon, Bozrah, East Haddam, Salem, and East Hampton. 2024 camp dates are (Monday) June 24, (Tuesday) June 25, (Monday) July 1, and (Tuesday) July 2 from 6-8 p.m. at Cougar Field. To learn more, visit colchestercougars.org. Early bird pricing has been extended. Register before July to take advantage of a four-month payment plan.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual. For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

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.

for chicken. This is a free workshop, but registration is required. CSC will be closed for the Juneteenth Holiday Wednesday, June 19th

- Monday, June 10: 9:00 Making Memories; 9:00 Exercise w/Anne; 10:00 Sittercize; 11:00 Learn to Sign; 11:15 TVCCA Food Safety at home; 12:30 Mah Jongg; 12:30 Bridge; 12:45 Setback. Tuesday, June 11: 9:00 Making Memories; 9:45 Tai Chi; 10:00 Regional LTC Ombudsman Meeting; 12:30 Pinochle; 12:30 CHOICES Counseling; 1:30 BINGO; 7:00 SCBC Wednesday, June 12: 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; 1:00 Sewing Circle; 1:30 Cardio Drumming; 2:30 CSC Staff Meeting Thursday, June 13: 9:00 Exercise w/Anne; 10:00 Sittercize; 10:00 Wii Bowling; 10:30 Shopping Trip to Norwich Wal-Mart; 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, June 14: 10:00 Sit & Be Fit Video; 10:00 No Choral Group; 10:15 Across the Ages; 10:45 BP Clinic; 11:00 Yoga; 11:15 Chatham Health Education Series; 1:30 BINGO. BBQ Tips, Tricks & Rubs: Tuesday, June 18 9:30 a.m. Join Jodi's husband, John Savage, before our BBQ Luncheon, as he shares his passion for grilling and smoking meats with the crowd. He will share stories from his time attending BBQ School in Georgia last fall with Myron Mixon, the winningest man in BBQ. You will leave with some great tips as well as a sample of an easy spice rub that you can make

Father's Day Luncheon: Tuesday, June 18 11:00 a.m. Marking Father's Day with a cookout is as American as apple pie. Join us as we welcome the Howling Hound Dogs who will entertain us with their toe tapping swing standards and country jazz. After their performance we will feast on a freshly smoked BBQ lunch featuring some of the best pulled pork by a great cook, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, lemonade, and berry shortcake. The cost is \$9 per person. Space is limited. Shrinky Dink Repeat: Tuesday, June 25 10:00 a.m. Back by popular demand. Join Jodi as she shares the resurgence of this popular toy of the 1980's. It is now being used to create creative jewelry (earrings, brooches, and pendants), ornaments and plant stakes. No Experience needed. The cost of this program is \$5 per person and includes two sheets of shrink plastic per person, colored pencils, jewelry findings for up to three pieces, a sealer, and the use of the oven to shrink your creations. Open to all. Space is Limited. 4th of July Luncheon: Wednesday, July 3rd 11:00 a.m. In July our monthly luncheon will take place on Wednesday, July 3rd and will be a 4th of July Picnic. Join us for beef burgers on buns with cheese, lettuce, sliced tomato & onion, potato salad, coleslaw, lemonade, and ice cream treats. We will enjoy some patriotic songs from our Senior Serenaders, partake in picnic-style games and enjoy each other's company. The cost is \$9 per person, Space is limited. Must register by June 26th Visit us on the town web site at www.colchesterct.gov or call 860-537-3911 for more information.

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Colchester Budget Vote Next Week

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester residents will head to the polls next Tuesday to vote on the 2024-25 town and school budget proposals, following a budget season that has been at times contentious.

After being advanced at a town meeting, the municipal budget it slated at \$17.10 million — a \$1.44 million, or 9.2%, increase from the 2023-24 fiscal year. Meanwhile, the drafted school budget is \$45.58 million — a \$1.59 million, or 3.6%, increase from current-year spending.

As presented, the mill rate would increase to 28.67 — a 1.45 bump from the current rate.

Voting will be held at town hall on Tuesday, June 11, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

Previously, the Board of Finance (BOF) officially endorsed the budgets by a 4-1 tally; Republican Tim Vaillancourt voted in opposition and Republican John Thomas was absent.

During the budget season, the BOF trimmed both the town and school budgets by \$38,512 and \$150,000 respectively; Vaillancourt and Thomas also voted against those revisions, with the board's four Democratic members all supporting the changes.

Vaillancourt has argued that the overall budget is a "big number," and it was difficult to support the increase without an updated report on the town's unedited fund balance account or the reserve accounts.

"We're in a budget freeze imposed by the first selectmen because of the severity of the issues in the financial office," Vaillancourt said during a prior meeting. "How we can talk about new spending when we don't really know what we have for money is irresponsible and I can't support it."

He added that residents would be handed a severe tax increase if the budget was approved: "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."

Thomas, meanwhile, consistently scrutinized the ratio of school to town spending, arguing that the current formula "doesn't sound very fair to our citizens."

Currently, Colchester spends close to 75% of its budget on the school system, and Thomas generally suggested the number should be closer to a 60-40 split.

"I want to support this but I am having a very hard time because I believe the town needs a bigger percentage of the tax dollar," he said during a budget workshop.

During the initial budget hearing in April, Dennler presented his budget blueprint — and the associated bottom-line increase — with outlook that Colchester was in need of a "correction year."

"I don't believe that this is an unrealistic ac-

counting of what we need to spend as a town," he said. "I think this is just what happens when kick the can for many, many years."

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

"We've reached a point where we've run out of runway on this stuff and we're at a crossroads," Dennler said. "We either need to make a correction or we're going to have to cut services, but the level of the budget is not sustainable with the services we provide at the moment. That's a decision we have to make as a community."

Other areas of the current operational budget wrongly reflected actual costs, according to Dennler, or were inaccurately accounted for, including police benefits and FICA calculations.

In February, when Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan III originally presented his bud-

get to the Board of Education, he asserted that the district would not be pursuing new initiatives following a expensive 2023-24 fiscal year budget.

"We've worked really hard to have good opportunities for kids at the most responsible cost possible," Sullivan said, adding that they were "asking for a maintain status-quo budget."

Later during the budget season, following multiple workshops and the BOF-approved reduction to the school budget's bottom-line, a resident read a statement written by Sullivan, who was unable to speak during the citizen's comments portion of the meeting, as he's not a Colchester resident.

His statement called attention to a persistent "negative tone" surrounding budget deliberations and asked people to focus on academic information, rather than commentary posted on social media, which he described as "Facebook's greatest hits."

Library Book Sale

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library will hold its Summer Book and Bake Sale at The Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Avenue from June 7-12. The sale begins on Friday, June 7th from 4-7 pm with a pre-sale admission of \$5.00 to pick the cream-of-the-crop. The sale continues with no admission charge on June 8th from 10am-4pm, June 9th from 11am-3pm, and June 10-12 during regular library hours. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are the \$5.00 special days — fill a box or bag for only \$5.00.

There will be books galore, music, movies, puzzles, and games. Baked goods will be individually wrapped for safety. All proceeds ben-

efit programs funded by the Friends. These programs include, but are not limited to, Museum Passes, Adult Programs, Children's Programs, Summer Reading Programs, and other materials to benefit patrons of The Cragin Memorial Library.

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.

Colchester Giving Garden

The Colchester Giving Garden is up and running for 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.

Colchester Veteran's Coffee House Meetup

The town of Colchester invites all former military members, males and females, to meet on Saturday, June 15, 10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Cragin Memorial Library. A 2021 Center for Disease Control and Prevention report named suicide as the eleventh leading cause of death overall in the U.S. claiming close to 50,000 lives. Further, veteran suicide-related deaths are increasing at a greater rate than that of the general public.

June's veteran meetup will include a 90-minute presentation on suicide awareness and ways to provide help to someone who might need it. Coffee and light snacks will be provided. For questions, call Mary Emerling at (860) 537-2921.

Ahavath Achim News

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

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

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

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.

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New Summer Art Camps

The Color House creative arts studio is excited to announce the kick-off of their first Summer Art Camp program series. The camps will be held weekly, and each week will feature a different theme. Themes for 2024 include Sand & Sea, Fantasy & Dreams, Nature, Magic & Curiosities, and Animals. Campers will experience a variety of creative opportunities from clay to painting, crafting, and even slime making. There will be 2 sessions each day with a morning session for kids ages 8-12, and an afternoon session for teens ages 13-16. Camps will be held for 3 weeks in July and 2 weeks in August. Each session costs \$225 and will be held at The Color House's new location at 738 Middletown Rd in Colchester. Sign up online at www.cohoct.com/summercamps

Celebrate Juneteenth and Commemorate Peter Maguira

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 Maguira on June 16 at Colchester Federated Church at 1:30 p.m. with a reception to follow.

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

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

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



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Bacon Students Reflect on High School Journey

By Michael Sinkewicz

Before they walk across the stage next week and officially mark the conclusion of their remarkable high school careers, Carolyn Baehr and Abigail Belding — the valedictorian and salutatorian respectively of the Bacon Academy class of 2024 — took a moment to reflect on their academic journeys while looking forward to an exciting new chapter.

After navigating the halls of 611 Norwich Avenue in Colchester the past four years — collecting countless memories that will serve as priceless souvenirs from their voyage through Advanced Placement courses, sporting events and after-school clubs — commencement represents a bittersweet moment for Bacon's top two students.

Each will be tasked with addressing their classmates, along with the teachers, faculty and family members who helped guide them along the way. Their addresses are the culmination of early mornings, late nights and numerous dashes from classroom to classroom to beat the bell.

"I want to say something that I hope our classmates can think about and go with moving forward in this next chapter," conveyed Baehr.

Belding added: "What I wanted to get across in this speech is that everyone should be proud of everything that they accomplished, even just by being able to sit in the audience wearing the gap and the gown and walking across the stage — it's a huge feat."

Bacon Academy Principal Amy Begué, who had a front-row seat over the past four years to witness both students' development, asserted that their academic excellence was not an accident.

"They are incredibly dedicated," she said. "There is so much drive and focus that it's hard to ignore. They have worked very hard to get where they are, so we can't discount that in any way, shape or form."

This week, both Baehr and Belding sat down with the *Rivereast* to offer a snapshot of their high school adventures and preview what comes next for two of the district's most outstanding students.

The Valedictorian

By being named valedictorian, Baehr was the highest-performing student in her class — a distinction she wasn't necessarily expecting, but one she had previously identified.

"I kind of had it on the radar," she recalled. "It was one of the goals that I set."

COVID-19 impacted school districts across the country, and hit the class of 2024 as it transitioned into its freshman year of high school. Besides academic limitations, the pandemic-era provided social challenges. Baehr conveyed how during that school year, the class was separated, meaning that they essentially encountered only half their peers during the day.

"And you only saw the top half of their face because we were all in masks," she explained.

Still, during her four years at Bacon, Baehr played on the volleyball team, including a two-year stint on the varsity squad.

"It was a great experience," she said, adding that last year, with the seniors who graduated, "it

was really fun and it felt like a family."

Additionally, Baehr was a member of the National Honors Society, Be Well at B.A. — a mental health advocacy club — and was class treasurer.

Balancing a plethora of activities on top of course work is always a delicate task for any student, but Baehr said she was able to utilize her study hall periods and occasionally, ask for a little bit of assistance.

"Even at times when I just felt that I was running out of time, I found that if you just asked your teachers for extensions or help explaining a concept, they'll go out of their way to help you," she said.

One of her favorite teachers was Angie Parkinson, a veteran social studies instructor. Even though Baehr hasn't been enrolled in one of her courses since sophomore year, she still remembers everything she learned.

"Just because of how good of a teacher she was," Baehr asserted.

At home, her parents and grandparents were also very supportive.

"They made it so I could focus on school these past four years without worrying about anything else, which I really am grateful for," Baehr said.

In the fall, she will participate in the UConn Honors Program to study mathematics with a focus on physics: "I really want to get into a quantum physics related field when I'm older."

Originally, she always envisioned going into a business field — perhaps working with a hedge fund. But as the college search began, Baehr recognized that she would've been making a mistake.

"I realized that I needed to do what I would be happy doing," she recalled. "I didn't really have any passion in the business side of things. But I've always been into space and astronomy."

At the time of the interview, Baehr was 10 days away from graduating. How does that feel?

"It definitely hasn't sunk in," she said, adding that next week, when she's not as swamped with finishing her assignments and final projects, and there's some down time before the ceremony, reality will catch up. "I feel like it'll sink in and I'll get sad."

Baehr continued, "I feel like it's hard because this is all we've know. This is the only aspect of life we've ever known — being a student in Colchester."

Along with individual friends, Baehr conveyed that you're constantly seeing the same group of people on a daily basis.

"They've just become a staple in our life," she said. "Now that we're graduating and there's really no reason to see these people, it's kind of scary how abrupt the transition will be."

The Salutatorian

Belding will attend the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) to study biomedical engineering. For her capstone project, she shadowed some graduate students working in the bio-med lab at WPI, which gave her confidence in her career path. Additionally, she combined her love for engineering with biology, meshing her two interests into a promising field of study.

At Bacon, Belding was a member of the school's successful robotics team — which required her to spend over 400 hours in the tech



Carolyn Baehr (left) is Bacon Academy's valedictorian. Abigail Belding is Bacon Academy's salutatorian.

wing, perfecting their robot for competition — and the effort paid off; they won the state championship.

Her tech classes helped prepare her and served as valuable instruction for the team.

"It's nice to be able to take those skills that I learned from there and then apply it in robotics and learn more and build on those skills," she said.

Belding also participated in the school band and choir, environmental club, STEM club, student advisory, National Honors Society and was the vice president of the senior class.

What was her secret to success?

"I was always known as the person in robotics who always had her textbook with her," she said. "So you'd just see me at off-moments working on whatever homework I had."

But the community of friends Belding established on that team also helped balance her course load.

"I could take those breaks," she said. "But then they'd pull me back in and make sure I was still having fun. It's important to not just study all the time."

Without those breaks, Belding expressed that "your brain just doesn't work well anymore."

One of her favorite teachers was Amy Hopkins, who retired at the end of the prior school year. Her parents, however, were essential with making sure she approached her workload in a healthy manner.

"You get in the mindset of you have to be good at everything," she said. "You have to not fail, you have to keep achieving. And the pressure builds up over time. And I've definitely been feeling

that the past couple of years, but they have always made it a point to make sure that I know it's okay to fail."

Sometimes, Belding continued, you don't do well on a project or a test, but that doesn't need to shatter your self-confidence.

"They've really helped with figuring out I guess how to be human," she expressed.

Because Belding had to submit her transcript as she applied to different colleges, she knew her ranking was towards the top of the class, but was unaware that was near the peak.

"It was a very nice surprise, that's for sure."

In the closing days of the school year, she's become hyper-focused on every detail inside Bacon in an attempt to soak up as much as possible.

"I realized I don't know how many more times I was going to walk down this hallway," she said. "It's hard because you can see all of the 'last times' coming up."

Accordingly, Belding is collecting her peers' phone numbers, allowing perhaps for a continued sense of normalcy in the months ahead. However, saying farewell to faculty members is somewhat different, she explained.

"I think what I'm going to miss most is the relationship I have with my teachers," she said.

"There's definitely something to be said for being at the same school four years, because you just get to know all of the teachers. Even if you don't presently have them for a class, you know that you can go them and ask for their advice or ask how their day is going. It's just that relationship — it's going to be sad when I have to say goodbye and not have that anymore."

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★ *Belltown Budget cont. from page 26*

college majors and careers such as a dramatic increase in STEM-related fields. In terms of funding personal growth, club stipends were promoted in the budget as they are low-cost activities for students to stay involved.

BOE Chairperson Nancy Kohler and Vice-Chair August Arndt were also happy to pass the budget the first time around. Kohler explained it was the collaborative work of the three boards that helped get positive results. "It showed that, 'we can do this,'" expressed Kohler.

Town Council Chairperson Dean Markham complimented the great efforts from the Council, BOF and BOE. He referenced the facts the finance would have been a unanimous vote if it were not for the lack of funding for the am-

balance and after some changes, the Council unanimously sent the budget to referendum.

"We incorporated great programs that residents wanted and added some last-minute changes with the zoning enforcement official to help around the lake," explained Markham. After noting the award-winning library and senior center, he said, "We're a community well ahead of the curve."

Markham highlighted a major increase in road repair and maintenance since that was a big concern for many citizens. In May, the Council decided to provide some funding for the ambulance. Originally, the East Hampton Ambulance Association (EHAA) approached the town in 2021 for assistance in funding.

Chief Donald Scranton said he was "ecstatic" for the budget to pass and is grateful for the town to work with the ambulance, including the new task force. "It's a cooperative adventure from here," acknowledged Scranton. While the funding isn't as much as they had hoped, "It's a step in the right direction."

While East Hampton has had times when it took more than two times to pass a referendum, it is common for it to pass the first time when residents get involved early.

Town Manager David Cox is thankful for residents who came out to vote. "Financing local government has always been difficult. It is an ongoing balancing act of priorities and ability and willingness to pay," said Cox. "Nevertheless, I think the three elected bodies, the Board of Education, the Board of Finance and the Town Council, worked hard and worked well together to attempt to understand the current costs and priorities and put out a budget that continues to move East Hampton forward."

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Portland Fair/Portland Fish and Game Fundraiser

On July 20, come on down to Portland's Riverfront Park for an afternoon/evening of great food and music. The event will start at 4 p.m. and go until 8 p.m. The adult meal will be a BBQ Chicken dinner consisting of BBQ Chicken, Corn on the Cob, and French Fries. The Child's dinner (for children under 12) will consist of a Hot Dog, French Fries and Corn on the Cob. The food will be served from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. The music will be live local bands playing for the entire event. Tickets are \$25/Adult and \$10/Child. Come on down and see your friends and neighbors and support not one - but two great organizations.

To get tickets, you have options: Contact anyone on the fair committee or in the Fish and Game Club. Visit Quarry Days on June 8th at Riverfront Park, we will be selling tickets there. Send a text to Sue Colby (860-398-1990). Send a check to - Portland Fair, PO Box 862, Portland 06480 (with your address and phone number) and we will arrange to either mail your tickets, arrange a pickup/drop-off, or we will hold them for you at the door.

If you have any questions/issues, please call Joyce Murphy at 860-759-3860 or email: jmurphy5_06480@yahoo.com.

Chip Sealing

The Portland Department of Public Works expects to begin chip sealing the following roads in late-May 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.

Zion Lutheran Church News

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

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

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

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

First Congregational Church News

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

Worship: Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. and is led by Intentional Interim Minister, Rev. Dr. Barry McCarthy. On Sunday, June 9, his message is titled, "Be Still." Coffee Hour follows the worship service and is a time of fellowship for all. All are invited to participate in the worship service and coffee hour.

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

Adult Choir: All are welcome to join the choir, which sings at Sunday worship services. Choir practice is held on Thursday evenings at 6:30.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: The Women's Fellowship of the church sponsors a Prayer Shawl Ministry. All knitters are invited to be part of the knitting group that makes the shawls on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Twelve Step Groups: Alanon meets at the church on Sunday evenings at 7:00. Living Clean meets at the church on Wednesday evenings at 7:00.

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

Nursery School: The First Church Nursery School offers a program for three-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and the four-year-old program runs on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

Huge Artisan Craft Fair

A huge artisan craft fair is coming to Riverfront Park on Saturday June 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Over 75 craft vendors and 10 local non-profit organizations will be there. There will be live entertainment, food trucks, kids' bounce houses, games, face painting, etc.

Top Dog, Eggs Up, Ted's Steamed Cheeseburgers, and Yummy Wagon are providing food options as well as ice cream for patrons and visitors. Children's activities are planned by Legacy Land Inflatables, Portland's Youth Services and the Friends of the Portland Library. Entertainment will include musicians

and dancers on the Riverfront Park's stage.

All proceeds will be used to support the Portland Riverfront Park, located at 284 Brownstone Avenue, where Brownstone Quorum volunteers are removing harmful invasive plants, and replacing them with native plants, trees and pollinator gardens. The Brownstone Quorum would like to thank Quarry View Historic Park, Town of Portland and Portland Historical Society for their co-sponsorship of this Quarry Celebration and Craft Fair. Rain date is Sunday June 9. For more information, contact Tom at 860-538-3607.

"Connections" in the Hubbard Farmstead Gallery

Brownstone Arts announces a Spring exhibition and sale at the Hubbard Farmstead Gallery in Portland. The show, titled "Connections," opens with a reception on Friday, June 14, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wine and refreshments will be served and there will be musical entertainment by Deep Ellum — the acoustic musicians Jon Swift and Rich Johnson, playing and singing an Americana mix of blues, old jazz, bluegrass, and oldies.

Founded in 2007 and based in Portland, Brownstone Arts consists of members from towns up and down the Connecticut River Valley. The artists work in a variety of mediums including oils and acrylics, watercolors, pottery,

pastels, photography, glass, sculpture and printmaking. For members and those who show with them, this event marks an opportunity to gather once again to share the fruits of their creativity with each other and with the public. New members are welcome and membership forms will be available at the gallery.

The Hubbard Farmstead Gallery is located in the restored barn on the historic 1852 property owned by Elwin Guild and Joan Giesemann at 332 Middle Haddam Road.

Gallery hours for visitors to the show: Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., June 15, 16, 22, 23, or by appointment: 860-342-1547.

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. Clini; Sincosize II Dance and Fitness, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 11:30 Joanie on the Sport; 10:00-11:00am Tai Chi- \$5 per class/registration required; **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); 9:00 walking club. Coupons for Troops, 1-4 p.m.; Setback, 1 p.m.; **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Sincosize II Dance and Fitness, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 10:00am Day Trip to Foxwoods Casino- Attendee is responsible for food and gambling

expenses' noon, Lunch & Learn with National 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.; 10:30 a.m. Family Fun with Ken Doney.

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.

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 home-bound Monday-Friday. The delivery usually takes about an hour. For full details, call Holly at 860-342-6761.

Center will be closed on Wednesday, June 19 in observance of the Juneteenth Holiday.

Donations Needed

Each year the American Legion Auxiliary Post 69 in Portland sponsors two girls to attend Laurel Girl State. They are seeking donations to reach a goal of \$800.00 for this year.

Checks can be made out to: American Legion Auxiliary, Post 69, 117 High Street, Portland, CT 06480.

Horseshoe League Seeks New Members

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

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

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

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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.

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 2:00-4:00 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.

Office Hours Change: We have shifted the time for our church office hours, for prayer and meditation and for Anglican Prayer beading back to 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Fridays. We welcome all. No prior beading experience is required. It's a great time for relaxed fellowship and socializing. Check out our website, www.trinitychurchportlandct.org for more information, our calendar of events, donate or listen to past sermons. If you have any other prayer requests to lift up, please email the church office at trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

Library Closing: Wednesday, June 19 in honor of Juneteenth.

Movie: Wednesday June 12, 1:00 p.m. - One Life

One Seed One Community: Intergenerational Green Bean cooking class: Friday, June 21 at 10:30 a.m. at the Waverly Senior Center. Buried in beans? Learn a simple green bean recipe from our friends at Fire Ring Farm at this fun community/ intergenerational program at the Waverly Senior Center Kitchen! Open to chefs ages 6 and up. Please register all who will be present in the room because space is limited. Registration can be done through our website calendar or by calling the library at 860-342-6770.

Multi-Generational Drumming Circle: Monday June 17 6:30 p.m. Gather on the Waverly Town Green for a West African-inspired drum circle led by Mark Zarrillo, knowledgeable in West African music, culture and with 40 years drumming wisdom. Drums will be supplied.

Your Edible Landscape: Thursday June 13 from 6:30 — 8:00 p.m. Hunting for wild edible plants doesn't have to mean hiking in exotic locations far from home; many delicious and nutritious wild foods grow in your own backyard. Join Karen Monger as she teaches about the fruits, nuts, flowers, and greens found right outside your back door. Registration Requested.

Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday June 18, 1:00 p.m. *Everyone in my Family has Killed Someone* by Benjamin Stevenson.

Summer Reading Program for Children and Teens: Adventure Begins at Your Library! Visit the library on or after June 17 to pick up your reading log or visit the Summer Reading

portal on our website to track your reading electronically. Each day you read 20 minutes or more counts towards your summer reading goal. Earn prizes each time you reach 5 days.

Storytime Adventures. Mondays at 10:30 a.m., June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. Join us in our Mary Flood Room to enjoy stories, rhymes and songs. A craft project will be offered at the end of the program. Registration is required and begins on Monday, June 3.

Summer Adventure Club. Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., June 26, July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. For students going into Grades K-2. Join us for six weeks of summer adventures in building, the great outdoors, cooking, circus activities, crafting and Olympic games. Registration is required and begins on Monday, June 3.

League of Adventurers. Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.; June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. For students going into Grades 3-5. Join us for a new adventure each week, from traveling the Oregon trail, to participating in the Greek Olympics, to solving an ancient Egyptian mystery. Registration is required and begins on Monday, June 3.

Family Show: The Poop Museum. Wednesday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. Fast paced and highly interactive, The Poop Museum is the perfect combination of fun, fabulous, fascinating facts, so that kids (and parents) never forget what they learned. Registration is required and begins on Monday, June 3.

Teen Program: The Gene-ius of Taste. Thursday, June 20 at 3:00 p.m. For students going into grades 6-up. The Connecticut Science Center will be at the library to help us extract our own DNA and turn it into a necklace. We'll learn about the genes that affect our taste buds and figure out our tasting genotypes. Registration is required.

Adult Program: Monthly Writers' Cafe: Saturday June 15, July 20, & Aug 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the Van Beynum Room. Our monthly Writers' Cafe is continuing on the third Saturday of each month from 12:30-2pm. The first hour will be quiet, communal, writing time, with the final 30 minutes set aside to chat about your project with fellow writers.

From the First Selectman's Desk

Dear Portland Residents,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and ready for an enjoyable summer. June is here, bringing some great upcoming events in town. I hope to see you at the Quarry Celebration Day this Saturday, June 8th, at Riverfront Park from 10 AM – 4 PM. The following Saturday, June 15th, is the Juneteenth Celebration sponsored by Portland's Social Justice Coalition, running from 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM at Portland Middle School.

Below is an update on some of the projects we are currently working on at Town Hall:
School Facilities Project: The plan to renovate and expand Valley View Elementary School into a Pre-K through Grade 5 school is moving closer to a referendum vote that will coincide with the November 5, 2024, National Election. Last month, the Board of Education approved the education plan for this proposal. The action items now move to the Board of Selectmen, where several requirements must be met to have a bonding question placed on this year's ballot. A Public Hearing on the proposed plan is scheduled for June 18th at 6 PM in the Buck-Foreman Community Room, located at 265 Main Street. Directly following that meeting, the Board of Selectmen will hold a Special Meeting at 7:15 PM to send the Resolution to a Special Town Meeting. That meeting will be held in the Buck-Foreman Community Room on June 26th at 6:30 PM. At the Special Town Meeting, the meeting will adjourn to the November Election.

Jobs Pond Flooding: Water levels at Jobs Pond continue to rise to record levels, flooding homes and displacing residents. I am pleased to report that help may soon be on the way. The Town has been notified that state funds have been made available to cover the local match necessary to fully fund the project of pumping out Jobs Pond. Many thanks to State Senator Norm Needleman and State Representative Christie Carpino for their efforts in helping us secure these funds. These state funds will now be combined with federal funds from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. NRCS has put the total cost of dewatering Jobs Pond at \$750,000 and has committed to funding \$562,500 of the cost. The state will now fund the remaining \$187,500. There are still several items that need to be completed before work can begin, but this is a wonderful step forward. More details to come.

Water Source Project: The Town continues to work towards its goal of achieving water independence. To meet timeline targets, hydrogeological engineers from GZA GeoEnvironmental have advised the Town that a fully established well needs to be drilled this year to allow time for the necessary permitting and pump testing. Timing is critical as the Town's current contract with MDC is set to expire on January 1, 2026. If we do not have an alternative water source in place, we may have no choice but to sign another long-term contract with MDC. Because of this, the Board of Selectmen have asked for a plan that would fully fund the next phase of this project. More information on these next steps will be coming soon.

High Street Road Repair and Reconstruction: A drainage project on High Street is scheduled to begin this month in preparation for a road repair and reconstruction project later this year. The plan would be to mill and pave High Street from the intersection of Marlborough Street heading north to the entrance of Portland High School. The area of High Street north of the High School is slated for a water main replacement project that that is currently in the design phase.

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

Sincerely,
 Ryan J. Curley
 First Selectman

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Obituaries

Hebron

Susan Ramsey

Susan Ramsey of Wethersfield, CT, formerly of Hebron, CT.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Susan Ramsey, a cherished mother and grandmother.

Susan peacefully departed this world on October 21, 2023, at the age of 75, surrounded by the love of her family. She was born on November 4, 1947, in Canton, Ohio, to her parents William and Gloria Horner.

A dedicated mother, Susan leaves behind a legacy of love and unwavering support. She was the proud mother of her son Jason Ramsey, her daughter Kristin Garrison and her loving son-in-law William Garrison. Susan was also a proud Grandmother to her adoring Grandchildren Lexi and Austin Garrison and extended family members. Her influence in their lives is immeasurable.

Susan's warm smile, nurturing presence, and boundless love have shaped her family's character and values.

Susan will be remembered for her warmth and boundless love. She possessed a remarkable ability to connect with people from all walks of life, and her friendships ran deep, a testament to her caring nature.

She will be deeply missed by her friends, neighbors, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

In this time of sorrow, we remember Susan for her kindness, compassion, in all the hearts of the people she touched and everyone that met her were fortunate to have her in their lives. May she forever rest in peace and be forever in our memories.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to American Cancer Society in



her memory.

We welcome you to Celebrate Susan's life on June 15, 2024 from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m., at Heartstone Farm & Winery, 468 Connecticut 87, Columbia, CT 06237.

Marlborough

Sandra Dougan

Sandra (Foley) Dougan, 75, of Marlborough passed away on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at Hartford Hospital peacefully with family by her side. She leaves her husband and best friend of 53 years Patrick J. Dougan.

Born in Hartford, Sandra was the daughter of the late William J. and E. Lorraine (Girouard) Foley. She worked in the banking industry for many years, retiring as a Vice President at the Manchester Savings Bank in 2012. In retirement, she enjoyed her Wednesday Portland par-T-gals Golf League and her Blackledge Friday Ladies Golf League.

In addition to her husband, Sandra was beloved by her two sons and their wives, Patrick J. Dougan, Jr. and his wife Leontine of VA, Michael Dougan and his wife Kerry of RI, her daughter Kelly Juliano and her husband Joe of Glastonbury and her grandchildren Connor and Trevor Dougan, George and Jane Juliano, Flynn and CJ Dougan, her brother William J. Foley III and wife Janet of Hebron, her sisters Patricia Foley of West Hartford, Denise Foley of Guilford, and sister-in-law Juli Shamback of Eastford. Aunt Sandy will be missed by Katie, Meaghan, Colleen, Billy, Tim, Molly, Alex, Ernie, and Cristin and their families.

Funeral services and burial will be private. Friends may call on Friday, June 14, 2024 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.



Colchester

Jennie Lenkiewicz

Jennie Theresa (Boluck) Lenkiewicz, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at her home on June 3, 2024. She was 91 years old.

Jenny was also born in Colchester, on March 11, 1933, a daughter of the late Samuel and Julia (Makyk) Boluck. The family was a Gold Star Family with her brother being memorialized as the Adler Boluck, VFW Post 6990, Colchester. Jennie later went on to become a member of the VFW Auxiliary there.

Jennie was a graduate of Bacon academy with the class of 1951. She later went on to earn her degree in Nursing. She married her husband, Thomas Walter Lenkiewicz on August 15, 1953. The couple made their home in Colchester where they raised their three children. Tom predeceased her on March 30, 2019. She was a communicant of St. Andrew Church and former President for two terms with the Colchester Historical Society. Jennie retired several years ago. Her career changed over time, working as a nurse in Colchester for the late Dr. Israel, Borrow Clerk for the Town of Colchester, S&S Worldwide, Clerk for Belmont Funeral Home and, overnights at Backus Hospital in charge of the Pediatric wing. Jennie loved gardening in her own backyard, and most importantly, she was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

She leaves her children and their spouses, Lori (Peter) Desautel of Colchester, Thomas (Kathleen) Lenkiewicz of Hebron, Dave Lenkiewicz of Lebanon; grandchildren, Jennie Desautel, Adam (Kylie) Desautel, Jason (Ingrid) Lenkiewicz, Allison Lenkiewicz; a great grandson, Parker; a nephew, Brian Bourgoin; and many extended family members and friends including her in-home caregiver, Theresa. In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a grandson, Matthew Desautel, a niece, Linda Bourgoin and siblings, John (KIA), Nicholas, and Frank Boluck, Dorothy Gorick and Ann Smyk.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Andrew Church in Colchester on Wednesday, June 5th, followed by burial in Linwood Cemetery. There are no calling hours. The Aurora-



McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. To share a memory of Jennie or a condolence message to her family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Robert Elliott

On May 25, 2024, Robert Michael Elliott, a loving and cherished husband, father, grandfather, and endearing friend to many both personally and professionally, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly as the holy father called him home.

A lifelong New Englander and Wethersfield CT native, Robert was well-loved in Marlborough, CT, where he lived and raised his family, and currently resides with his wife in Glastonbury, CT.

Robert was a vibrant 78-year-old man and an accomplished professional with an ambitious entrepreneurial spirit who will be remembered for his many God-given blessings and gifts with which he touched the lives of many people because he was happiest when he was giving and sharing of himself with his family, and friends and community. His exuberance for life, his passion and curiosity for the law, his love of sports and athletics, history and reading and collecting books, and his reverent love for his family and friends were his greatest joys.

Robert had a natural capacity for giving and was a giver from the heart until his last day and was always thinking of others. He especially loved to travel and always shared that experience with those friends and family around him, whether it be trips to Hawaii, the many adventures in Ireland, Greece, the Caribbean, Paris, Italy, Maine, Florida or his beloved Nantucket. He always wanted everyone to have a good time and experience life to the fullest. He persevered and lived a big life which he filled with his love of family and life. He never walked away from a challenge. He saw challenges as opportunities. He was competitive and never gave up. Robert's eyes would light up when he spoke of his children and grandchildren, proudly boasting about their accomplishments.

We will also remember him for his own athletic accomplishments in basketball, baseball, soccer, golf and tennis. He was a three-sport varsity athlete at Wethersfield High, going on to play in college on an athletic scholarship. There is a record he holds at Wethersfield High that has yet to be broken of thirty-one (31) points scored in the first half of basketball and his batting record of (.756).

Robert will be remembered for his love of the law with a life-long career of more than 53 years servicing families and supporting clients in CT. He was a graduate of Wethersfield High School and he received his Bachelors from St. Anselm College in New Hampshire. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University in Boston and went on to practice law in CT. Robert taught school at the Washington Street School in Hartford, CT, prior to taking the bar exam. Subsequently he was a Member of State of CT Bar, Federal District Court of Connecticut, Supreme Court of the United States, American Bar Association, CT Trial Lawyers Assoc. and the CT Bar Assoc. He was Town Attorney for East Haddam CT and Marlborough CT. And he was a lifelong member of the Adare Golf Club in Ireland. He was always working to better the lives of others through his love of law.

Robert is survived by his loving wife and best friend of nearly 20 years Denice Renee Elliott of Glastonbury, his three beloved children Krystn



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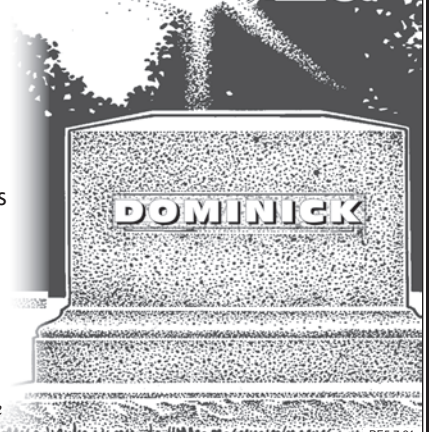
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Obituaries

Elliott Forcina of Wilmington MA, Robert Elliott II of Wilmington MA, and Brandt Elliott of Milton MA, their spouses Ray Forcina, Jeanne Savoy Elliott, and Sara Chamberlain Elliott, his brother John Elliott of Wethersfield and sister Susan Elliott Carroll of Wilmington, MA and his 7 grandchildren: Ryan Forcina, Ava Elliott, Corinne Forcina, Robert Elliott III, Charlotte Forcina, Caroline Elliott, and Evelyn Elliott. His kindness and love present in our lives every day is deeply missed by his family.

Calling hours were held on May 30, 2024, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Robert's life on May 31 in Corpus Christi Church of Christ the King Parish in Wethersfield. Burial followed in Village Cemetery, 1 Marsh Street, Wethersfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to St Jude for Children, or a Children's Charity of your choice. To extend condolences, please visit Farleysullivan.com.

Portland

Mary Brown

Mary Kelly Brown, 61, of Cromwell, passed away peacefully on Sunday May 26th surrounded by her loving family.

Mary was born in Hartford on July 7th, 1962, to Alice Kelly & the late Thomas Kelly Jr. of Cromwell. Mary graduated from Mercy High School in 1980 and went on to become the first female volunteer firefighter and EMT for Portland Engine Co. #1. Mary continued her career as an EMT for Professional Ambulance and as a pharmacy tech at Middlesex Hospital.

Mary was a devoted wife of 42 years to her high school sweetheart and soul mate Richard Brown. She was the proud mother of her two beautiful daughters, Caitlin Brown Charest, her husband Kevin, and their son Dylan of Portland, and Jordyn Brown Misseri and her husband Nicholas of Cromwell. Mary leaves behind her brother Daniel Kelly and his wife Donna of Cromwell and was predeceased by her brother James Kelly of Cromwell. Other surviving loved ones include an aunt, eight nieces and nephews, three great-nieces and nephews, as well as numerous cousins and friends.

If you knew Mary, you knew she was the sweetest, most empathetic person you could meet. Whatever she felt, she felt with her whole being. Mary was a passionate photographer and artist and an admirer of musical theater. She was also very proud of her Irish heritage.

The family would like to say a special thank you to the ER & Hospice staff at Middlesex Health for their compassionate care.

Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland on Saturday, June 8th from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m., followed by burial in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland.

Colchester

Norma Torzsa

Norma Jean Torzsa, 87, of Colchester, passed away on Sunday June 2, 2024, at Apple Rehab in Colchester. Born December 5, 1936, in Eagle Lake, Maine; she was the daughter of the late Leo and Jeanne (Vaillencourt) Dube.

Norma married her husband, Robert W. Torzsa in 1976; Norma was a former barber at Doug's Barber Shop in Hebron until her retirement in 1999. She was a devoted member of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Colchester and will be deeply missed. Those who knew her well remarked how easy she was to talk to, her cordial personality made numerous lifelong friendships. In her spare time, she enjoyed sewing and cooking meals for those she loved.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Torzsa of Colchester; son Mark DeFurio and wife Chris; four grandchildren and numerous other extended family and friends. In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her sons Michael DeFurio, Frank DeFurio and Bruce DeFurio. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 12:30 p.m., directly at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses 297 Westchester Rd, Colchester, CT 06415. To sign the online guestbook or share condolences please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com



East Haddam

Peter Gowac

Peter Paul Gowac, Sr., 70, of Moodus, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Wednesday, May 29, 2024. Born May 6, 1954, in Middletown, CT, he was the son of the late Stanley and Mary (Nycek) Gowac.

Peter was a lifelong resident of East Haddam who enjoyed spending time outdoors. Hunting, fishing, and gardening were some of his favorite activities and his greatest joy in life was his family. The grandchildren affectionately referred to him as "Papa Pete."

Peter is survived by his children Pete Gowac, Jr. and fiancé Erika, Keith Gowac and wife Lindsay, Kelly Ryder and husband John, Jennifer Cochran and husband David, Jess Stone and husband Jeff, Jen Gowac, former spouse Mable Marshall, along with 15 grandchildren.

Care of private arrangements have been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group at PO Box 301, Moodus, CT 06469 www.moodusreservoir.org

To leave a condolence or sign the online guestbook, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Colchester

JoAnn Hansen

JoAnn Marie Hansen – loving wife and mother, generous spirit, and kind-hearted friend to all – died after a brief illness on May 25, 2024, at Hartford Hospital. She was 66.

Born in Burlington, Vermont, on June 2, 1957, JoAnn was the beloved daughter of the late Leo and Murial (Langevin) Moreau. As a young girl, her family moved to Stratford where she was raised and attended school. JoAnn had always possessed a keen intellect and she used her abilities to obtain a bachelor's degree in social work from Sacred Heart University and later a master's degree in clinical social work from Fordham University. For many years, JoAnn served as a clinical program director for various organizations which helped provide countless children and families with specialized treatment. Dedicated to continuing her ambition to help others heal through one-on-one treatment, she most recently established Therapy Enlightenment – her own private practice where she assisted every person she met with kindness, respect, and genuine empathy.

A true family woman, JoAnn recently met the love of her life – Harry P. Hansen – in 2016. From the moment they met, they spent every moment of each day loving each other with all their heart. They greatly enjoyed traveling to nearby hotspots on Cape Cod and the Connecticut shoreline or spending time outdoors tending to the garden. No matter the activity, if they were together, they were complete.

JoAnn loved the outdoors and immersing herself in nature and was an amazing cook and baker – able to put together recipes from scratch! She found great peace in reading and knitting, and always enjoyed hosting friends and family for time together. JoAnn loved her world and the people she shared it with; she never complained and always thought about others before herself. Her passing leaves a hole in many hearts that can never be filled. She was truly a gift to all who were fortunate enough to have her in their lives, and she will forever be missed and remembered as a saintly, unwavering friend that dedicated her life to helping others.

JoAnn is survived by her cherished husband, Harry P. Hansen; her adored children, Jonathan Kopec and Alana Kopec (Wayne Henderson); her brothers, Ronald "Ronny" Moreau, Richard "Ricky" Moreau, and James "Jimmy" Moreau, her sister, Madonna Rhatigan; her stepchildren, Maegan, Judith, Emily, and Erich; her longtime dear friend she loved as closely as family, Theodore "Ted" Kopec; and many beautiful nieces, nephews, and friends. She is also survived by her two precious pups – Mandy and Gracie.

A private Celebration of Life ceremony for JoAnn will be held at a future date. Her family would like to express their sincere gratitude for all the compassionate medical staff and caregivers involved in making her as comfortable and peaceful as possible during her treatment, and for truly going above and beyond in their kind-



hearted and thorough care.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, donations in JoAnn's memory may be made to the Hartford Hospital Foundation, Dept. of Philanthropy, 80 Seymour St., P.O. Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06102. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester is caring for the arrangements. To share a memory or condolence message with JoAnn's family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Marilyn Barry (Lester)

Marilyn lived a rich and full life for almost 95 years. Marilyn was quite a beauty, took great care of herself, and was a loving and honest person blessed with her mental faculties and a great sense of humor her entire life.

Marilyn, a patriot who loved our country, passed on Memorial Day. Born in Hartford, she graduated from Mount St. Joseph Academy in West Hartford and worked at Aetna in Hartford where she met her husband, the late John Wadsworth Barry. After having three children while living in West Hartford, the Barrys moved to a small farm in Deep River. In addition to her farm duties, Marilyn returned to work in her 30s first as a Secretary at Mount St. John School in Deep River and then returned to Aetna as an Executive Secretary. In 1980, Marilyn retired to Cape Cod with her husband to the home they built on Spectacle Pond in Sandwich, MA.

Intelligent and resourceful, she developed many construction skills for both houses they built together. Widowed in 1981 at the age of 52, she got her real estate license and also worked as a temporary secretary on Cape Cod. In 1988, Marilyn married Norman Seifel, a widowed retired teacher also living on Cape Cod, who survives her. In 2018, Marilyn and Norman moved from the Cape to a wonderful senior community, Colebrook Village in Hebron, CT, to be near family.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her sister, Joanne Wilczynski of Vestal, NY, her brother-in-law Jimmy Clynych of Wethersfield, CT, and her sister-in-law Kathleen Lester of East Hartford, CT. She is survived by her daughter, Carol Phelps of Marlborough, CT, and her husband Bruce; her son, Robert Barry of The Villages, FL, and his wife Barbara, her daughter-in-law Lee Ann Barry of Panama City, FL; and her stepdaughters Joan Wood of West Hartford, CT, and Libby Seifel and Pierre of San Francisco, CA. She was predeceased by her retired Veteran son David L. Barry of Panama City, FL, who died of Leukemia in February 2024, her stepson John Wadsworth Barry, Jr. of Satsuma, FL, and by her other siblings, Corrine Hannigan, Lois Clynych and Philip Lester. She leaves many grandchildren and nieces and nephews, many of whom were a tremendous source of support and love through the years. Her grandson Barry Phelps was a savior during the final six months of her life, as was her friend, Maria Sena.

There are no calling hours. Mass and Christian burial will be in Sandwich, MA, at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Hebron

Joseph Keegan Jr.

Joseph John Keegan Jr., a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend to many, passed away on April 15, 2024, in Columbus, Ohio. He was born on March 21, 1946 in Hartford, Connecticut to Joseph Sr. and Una Birch Keegan.

Joe was a man of great character and unwavering love for his family. He is predeceased by his son Craig Keegan and survived by his devoted wife Flora (Flo) Keegan; son Christopher Keegan and daughter-in-law Jill Keegan; daughter Shelly Barker and son-in-law Michael Barker; grandchildren Jaden Pinto, Dixon Keegan, Solomon Keegan, Keegan Barker, Mallory Barker and Rowan Barker.

After serving in the Army stationed in Germany during the Vietnam War era, Joe returned home where he began a successful career at Connecticut Light & Power that spanned over thirty-seven years. In addition to his work with CL&P Joe also ran a thriving rototilling business throughout the central Connecticut region and coached soccer for 15 years which brought him much joy as it allowed him to connect with the community he loved so dearly.

Joe's love for life extended beyond just work as he enjoyed dancing with Flo at local gatherings or spending time with their growing family whether it be in Montana or in Ohio. A dedi-



cated UConn basketball fan who never missed watching any game that aired on TV! Joe cherished being surrounded by friends whom he considered part of his extended family and he was always willing to lend a helping hand when needed.

A memorial service will be held on Friday June 21st from 1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m., at Colebrook Village at Hebron located at 55 John E Horton Blvd., Hebron CT, 06248. All are welcome to come celebrate Joe's life and share memories of this remarkable man who touched so many lives along the way.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made directly towards AHM Youth Services in Hebron, CT.

Joe will forever remain alive within our hearts through the countless memories we shared together – may you rest peacefully knowing how deeply you were loved and how greatly you'll be missed by all whose lives you've touched.

Celebration of Life:

Nancy Senatro (1946-2024)

Nancy, formerly from Portland, was a beloved wife, mother and Nana. She is greatly missed and her joy for life and love of family and friends will always be remembered. Please join us in celebrating her life and honoring her memory on Saturday, June 15th at 1:00 p.m. The celebration will be held in the banquet room at Campagna's Restaurant located at 151 Marlborough Street in Portland. One of Nancy's favorites was watching the Kentucky Derby and she had always hoped to attend it live one day. In her honor we are inviting you to join us in wearing your best Derby hat. We look forward to seeing everyone who is able to attend, sharing our cherished memories and hearing some of yours.

Hebron

Shannon Massey

We are deeply saddened to share that the world lost Shannon Belisle Massey on May 30th, 2024, after an extremely valiant battle with cancer.

Shannon was born February 5th, 1971, to Brenda Pigan and Joseph Belisle. She grew up in Hebron, CT, where she attended RHAM and met her husband, Scott. They were married when Shannon was 23 and went on to have four children, J. Austin, Cole Jordan, Alexa Rai and Chase Michael.

Shannon loved being a paraprofessional at Gilead Hill School and enjoyed working with kids of all ages. Even as she grew older, her heart remained young, and she never lost her playful spirit. She was constantly making people laugh and the way she brought color into a room, is something everyone loved about her. But her biggest accomplishments and what made her most happy was her family. Whether it was a holiday at the house or a last-minute adventure, it was not uncommon to see the six of them together, laughing, making jokes or taking funny family pictures. Every so often, you could find her on stage, singing with Austin or in the crowd, dancing her heart out, with everyone else. As long as they were together, she was happy. She was selfless, fearless, confident and her positive energy was contagious. The world is truly better because of her and her laugh will never be able to be replaced.

Shannon was predeceased by her mother Brenda Belisle Pigan, her father Joseph E. Belisle and her father-in-law James Massey. Shannon is survived by her husband Scott Massey, her children J. Austin Massey, his wife Janine Massey, Cole Jordan Massey, Alexa Rai Massey and Chase Michael Massey, her stepfather Donald Pigan and her mother-in-law Bianca Massey, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends we call family.

We want to thank Shannon's friends and co-workers at Gilead Hill School and the town of Hebron for all of their support, as well as her health care team and everyone else that showed up, one way or another, during this unthinkable time. We have been so lucky to have you all in our corner.

Calling hours for Shannon will be held at Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester, CT on June 7th, 2024, from 4-7 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made to the American Cancer Society or St. Jude's Children's hospital.

We will listen for your laugh in every joke and your voice in every song. We will keep your smile in our hearts and look for you in every sunset.



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member David Sousa at the May 28th meeting, “What is impressive to me is that it is truly a plan of conservation and development, meaning that those words are put side by side to emphasize the need for balance between both. That in order to have proper development you have to have proper conservation and vice versa. Because we learned many decades ago that when you have development without understanding the ecology and the environment, the social ecology and the social structure of communities, then you run into all sorts of pitfalls with poor planning, short-term thinking and a lack of understanding of the consequences of actions. So I’m really happy with the plan because it is a true balance and I applaud this commission for doing that.”

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Vote Yes on June 11th

Dear Colchester:

We are a unique community – of farmers, families, business owners, retirees, and more. We take pride in our town, our schools, the programs and services we offer. Since moving here and becoming one of the “we” I’m describing, I’ve witnessed so many citizens being willing to get involved.

Not only do citizens constantly volunteer their time for those organizations and programs, but they attend municipal meetings. They want to understand how our community is run. They vote. Our town was even honored recently for having the highest statewide voter turnout this past fall (something that proves my above point).

As the legislative body of the town, fellow Colchester citizens, I implore you to get out and vote for our Town and Education budgets on June 11, 2024 (next Tuesday).

This is a critical opportunity for you to continue writing the story I just described – one of a community that truly cares.

I’m confident in my decision to vote “yes” on both budgets. I appreciate the volunteers and town employees who have worked so hard to keep our town affordable, while addressing shortcomings from previous administrations and retaining the services we rely on.

The BOE budget maintains current programming, staffing, and class sizes. It even dedicates funds for future building and major projects (which has been forgotten in previous years).

The town budget restores previously-cut public works funding and funding in other departments who had line items arbitrarily cut in 2023. It duly addresses previous miscalculations while responding directly to community requests for more field maintenance, improved road conditions, and more.

I encourage you to vote on June 11th, regardless of how you choose to. But I hope you will vote “yes” with me and keep moving our town forward.

Sincerely,
Stefanie Tracey-Calash – Colchester

Note: Tracey-Calash is a member of the Colchester Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Colchester, Vote on June 11

To the Editor:

Next Tuesday, June 11, Colchester brings its proposed town and school budgets to the citizens for a vote. I will be voting “yes” on both budgets. Why? These budgets are the next step in restoring financial stability to our town.

Last year’s town budget underfunded critical necessities like police benefits, town insurance, worker’s compensation, and our library and youth services. This year’s budget builds that funding back in and adds an investment in our recreational fields. Without regular field maintenance, the irrigation system we paid for with ARPA funds will not improve the fields. If the town budget is not passed, the funding for field maintenance will likely be removed to lower the budget to get it passed at the next referendum. I’m voting “yes” on the town budget.

It seems like most people familiar with the Colchester schools feel like our teachers are our greatest asset – and I agree. The Colchester teachers my kids have encountered are smart, creative, caring and dedicated. Teachers create the day-to-day experience that students receive in school, but they don’t do it in a vacuum without the support and leadership of the superintendent and the district administrative staff. Teachers alone don’t update the district’s curriculum, make sure it aligns to state guidelines and mandates, or keep the district in compliance with education law. Teachers need the continued training and support provided by the district.

This past year the new district administration has involved parents, teachers, and community

members in the conversation on how to improve our schools. It’s the first time in my experience in Colchester schools where it seems like the superintendent actually wants to hear our ideas. I appreciate that approach and I’m voting “yes” on the school budget.

Susie Milner – Colchester

Vote No in Colchester

Dear Colchester Citizens:

The only thing Colchester citizens and taxpayers can be certain of, is we have major financial issues in this town, and a major tax increase coming.

First Selectman Dennler loves to talk about the previous administration’s legal trouble. In his short time in office he has created two major issues – that we know of.

The first issue brewing is the removal of the Finance Director from the union, subsequent defamation, and then her firing. First Selectman Dennler told us the town was headed to the State Labor Board and he was “confident.” Is he still confident, where’s the update for the citizens? This is going to cost us money!

The second issue is a \$500k water problem at the new senior center. Everyone knows it was built on wetlands. The bills for that water mitigation issues are up to \$500k and increasing! The building committee refused to pay the bill and it is now going to court. Those bills will need to be paid this fiscal year!

Last year citizens voted to increase the senior center budget to a staggering \$11 million dollars. Selectwoman Coyle told us it wouldn’t cost us anything additional. Interest rates are up and now the town is kicking the can down the road on bonding. It’s too expensive! Hey parents, that turf field you want at Bacon? It’s not happening until we get our fiscal house in order.

On the school side, the superintendent claims he doesn’t know what his raise is. The budget is padded to increase his salary above his already extravagant \$240k salary. Demand transparency!

To add insult to injury, the town is buying \$1,200 trash cans for the town green with your tax dollars – when is enough, enough?

Please vote “no” on June 11th.

Deanna Bouchard – Colchester

Pass the Budgets

To the Editor:

First, whether you agree with me or not, please make a plan to vote in the upcoming budget referendum being held on June 11th at town hall. If you can’t make it in person that day, absentee ballot are available now.

As someone who has been living in our awesome little town for 15 years now, raising my girls who are all in our schools currently, helping to run one of the youth sports leagues for 10 years, and pays taxes here – I am urging you to get out and vote in favor of these budgets.

Yes, both budgets are increases, but through the budget process it was very apparent why that’s necessary. While the budget process is never easy, I’m pleased that the process this year felt very different, with every town department head and members of the core education administration providing detailed budget books, presentations, and answers to extensive questions throughout the presentations and workshops.

On the town side: The proposed budget restores critical department budget line items to the correct levels and includes \$150k specifically for field improvement efforts as well, which has been missing for years. Many of the department budgets were not correctly funded in the current budget and that has led to a budget freeze and services being affected. That just piled on top of critical maintenance and upkeep that has been underfunded for years. That course must be corrected.

On the Board of Education side: The proposed budget keeps up with ever-expanding unfunded state mandates, inflation, and a continuance of programs. It ensures that class sizes can stay optimal and students can continue to excel. If all of that sounds reasonable to you, please get out to vote and support these proposed budgets!

Karen Belding – Colchester

Note: Belding is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, but said she is writing as an individual.

Let’s Get Back On Track

To the Editor:

This year’s budget process has been challenging in many regards. Miscalculations, under-budgeting, overspending, and resulting budget freezes due to fiscal mismanagement, particularly with the prior administration, have led to neglect of town services, grounds, fields, and

facilities, to name a few. Our town’s budgets should not be politicized but should focus on practicality, sustainability, and affordability.

With that, this year’s combined budget is an opportunity to address these many shortfalls, with funding for our understaffed Public Works, the Cragin Memorial Library, crucial senior services, and overdue maintenance for our facilities and schools. Without introducing new funding initiatives, the bipartisan school budget the Board of Education put forth would allow us to maintain current programs, class sizes across all four schools, and vital services and staffing. The town budget would finally allow us to adequately invest in our Park and Rec fields, which have been a source of embarrassment in the community for years. Lastly, the town budget addresses our public safety concerns by appropriately delivering on the needs of our Fire, EMS, and Police.

The town’s departments and the school’s administration worked diligently this year to keep their spending requests to a minimum while addressing rising costs and contractual obligations, meeting the community’s needs, and getting Colchester back on track. That drive towards affordability led to the town and the schools putting forward sensible budgets that keep our mill rate lower than our neighboring commercial towns.

Make safety, stability, and Colchester pride a priority, and join me by voting yes to both budgets on June 11th

Scott Chapman – Colchester

Note: Chapman is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, but said he is writing as an individual.

Time to Decide Colchester

To the Editor:

For years budgets in Colchester have been cut to limit taxes. But to adhere to those budgets vital programs at our schools were cut, services reduced, and maintenance to our facilities, roads and fields were reduced or eliminated. Under the previous administration, to limit the tax increase in the 2023/2024 budget while maintaining services was achieved by presenting a budget that did not represent the actual costs of providing those services. The costs of benefits, contractual raises, costs of insurance and worker’s compensation and service contracts were misrepresented in the budget to lower taxes. Unfortunately, this has become all too apparent as the new administration uncovers the financial mess left by the previous administration.

During the budget process this year the Board of Finance, through the four budget workshops, presented the services provided and the actual costs of providing those services. The Town’s Department Heads answered questions from both the BOF and citizens at two separate workshops. How Colchester strives to meet the needs of this community was presented. How we maintain our roads and fields; how our Fire Department and Police Department provide for the public safety; how we address the needs of our youth, seniors, and entire community. At the two Educational Budget Workshops the BOE and the School Administration presented their budget and the programs that their budget strives to maintain. While the BOE Budget does not have any new initiatives, it does not cut any existing programs, something that has happened numerous times in previous years were popular programs were cut for lack of funding.

Now it is time for Colchester to determine where we go as a town. Do we continue to cut services and needed maintenance, or do we fund those programs that so many of our citizens support? Please vote at the Town Referendum on Tuesday June 11th

Michael Egan – Colchester

Note: Egan is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, but said he is writing as an individual.

Advantages of Turf Fields

To the Editor:

Bacon Academy is part of the Eastern Connecticut Conference, which is comprised of 19 high schools. Of these 19 schools, Bacon Academy is one of two schools without a turf athletic field.

Bacon Academy is in desperate need of an upgrade, as the athletic program is suffering with outdated grass fields. Turf athletic fields would offer numerous advantages for Bacon, enhancing both the quality of our sports programs and from personal experience I know it would boost our overall student experience and passion.

First, one notable benefit is durability. Turf fields have a consistent playing surface that maintains itself regardless of the weather, in

contrast to grass fields, which can become extremely muddy and uneven after frequent usage or bad weather, as we saw this past football season, making the soccer teams unable to use it. With the installation of turf fields at Bacon there would be far less postponements and cancellations of games, allowing for a more stable and consistent athletic schedule. Turf fields also require a lot less maintenance than grass fields do. Regular mowing, watering, fertilizing, and other maintenance is required for grass, which can be extremely costly and even very time-consuming.

On the other hand, turf fields require significantly less maintenance, which will ultimately result in long-term cost savings for our school district. Another important thing to think about in this situation is safety. Turf fields have shock-absorbing materials like crumb rubber which would significantly reduce the possibility and frequency of injuries in practices and games. From playing on turf fields around the ECC on a regular basis I know the installation of turf athletic fields would also promote player safety by reducing tripping hazards and uneven footing due to the level and consistent surface of the fields as opposed to the uneven surface of our current grass field.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lusignan

A Concerned Bacon Academy Student Athlete

Obituaries cont.

East Hampton

Ralph Stoeckle

Ralph Edward Stoeckle, 84, of East Hampton, widower of the late Veronica “Ronnie” (Biegner) Stoeckle, passed away on Sunday May 26th at his home. Born Nov. 10, 1939 in Brooklyn, NY, he was the son of the late Charles and Evelyn (Sunnberg) Stoeckle.

Ralph proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was very active in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton. Ralph had worked as a Field Service Engineer. He is survived by his daughter Beth Peszynski and husband Mark of East Hampton, his son Matthew Stoeckle of East Hampton and his four beloved grandchildren Dalton, Cole, Ashley and Sean.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton on Tuesday June 11th from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, June 12th, at 11 a.m., in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow in the CT State Veteran’s Cemetery Columbarium. To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

LEGALS

TOWN OF COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on June 5, 2024, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2024-3100 - 438 New London Rd; Lori Santa Lucia - Applicant/Owner; Assessor’s ID 02-08-044-001; Proposed 1000-gallon underground propane tank and generator installation within 100’ Upland Review Area. - **APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS.**
Dated June 5, 2024
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB/6/7

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the May 29, 2024 meeting, the following actions were taken: Partially Approved Application #23-16; Proposed Amendment to the Portland Zoning Regulations. Change to section 9.17.1 to increase the allowable MUD residential units to 350 from the current 240 and to increase the ratio of allowable apartments from 16 to 21 per 5,000 square feet of commercial space FAILED. Change to section 9.17.5.E to allow the sum of the total commercial area to include any single upper floor to the total commercial area where only the ground floor counts currently was APPROVED. Application of BRT DiMarco PTP, LLC. Dated at Portland, CT this 5th day of June 2024
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB/6/7

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Rivereast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for “blind” box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone’s requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

PROPERTY AUCTION

The tax collector of the Town of East Hampton has levied upon the following properties in East Hampton and slated them for public auction to satisfy delinquent taxes and charges under C.G.S. § 12-157. Volume and page numbers refer to the Town's land records. Unless paid, these properties will be auctioned in "as is" condition at 10:00 a.m. on August 20, 2024 at the East Hampton Town Hall at 1 Community Drive.

28 Bevin Boulevard (Volume 294 Page 456) owned by Biondi Associates a/k/a Biondi Associates LLC, owing \$4,257.10. The Connecticut Department of Social Services may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

4 Sunset Drive (Volume 138 Page 117) owned by the Estate of Mary A. Bohan, owing \$14,502.08. Michael J. Bohan; Kathleen Bohan; Marielizabeth Rouleau; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Mary A. Bohan may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

9 Curry Lane (Volume 629 Page 221) owned by Caroline Beverly Howard Trust and/or Caroline B. Howard and/or Caroline-Beverly Howard and/or Caroline Beverly Howard and/or Caroline-Beverly: Howard and/or Caroline Beverly Howard, Executrix principal, investor and beneficiary of Caroline Beverly Howard Tr and/or Caroline-Beverly: Howard, Secured Party Principal and/or Caroline B. Howard Homeowner Issuer and Beneficiary of Notes, owing \$4,257.10. U.S. Bank National Association, Trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT; Nationstar Mortgage LLC; and the United States Internal Revenue Service may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

19 Sherry Drive (Volume 578 Page 734) owned by Natalia Cardona-Lopez, owing \$3,562.14. Idaho Housing and Finance Association and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

711A Lake Vista Drive (Volume 247 Page 464) owned by Debra Jean Cyr and Katherine M. Cyr, owing \$3,953.13. US Bank Trust, N.A., Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust by Corporate Assignment of Mortgage; Michael T. Wooding; and Lake Vista-Baker Hill Commons, Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

2 Byron Road (Volume 616 Page 376) owned by Gianna F. Daley and Brian P. Daley, owing \$2,887.10. Freedom Mortgage Corporation d/b/a Freedom Mortgage Corporation (New Jersey); Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; Hartford Federal Savings and Loan Association and/or Truist Bank as its successor may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

4 Summit Street (Volume 623 Page 413) owned by Devine Jewelers, LLC, owing \$13,193.78. Chelsea Groton Bank may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

4 Wangonk Trail and 0 Namonee Trail (Volume 602 Page 415) owned by Melissa Sue Dickenson and Richard Cardillo, Jr., owing \$11,648.54. Karen Cyr may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

467 Moodus Road (Volume 89 Page 367) owned by the Estate of Peter Ereshena and Estate of Emily Ereshena, owing \$31,127.87. Peter Ereshena, Jr.; Dolores Ereshena; the Connecticut Department of Social Services; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouses and heirs of Peter Ereshena and Emily Ereshena may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

56 Young Street, 57 Young Street, and 0 Young Street (Volume 629 Page 1112) owned by Kimberly G. Hanelt, Trustee, or her successors in trust, under the Frances M. Guillemain Irrevocable Trust dated December 21, 2021, owing \$49,581.72. The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Frances M. Guillemain may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

100 Main Street (Volume 600 Page 600) owned by Hampton St LLC, owing \$65,068.37. G&S Auto Center, Inc.; Mohammed Mansour; Robert M. Spitzler, Trustee/UTD/11/5/01; Mystic Oil Company, Incorporated; and 42 Windsor Ave. LLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

44 Edgerton Street (Volume 615 Page 1190) owned by Linda C. Hochmuth, owing \$4,902.15. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC and Dutch Oil Company, Inc. a/k/a Dutch Oil Co. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

6 Mohican Trail (Volume 468 Page 144) owned by A.J. LaPlant, owing \$4,768.97. CSMC 2020-RPL2 Trust and Hop Energy, LLC dba Automatic TLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

81 Colchester Avenue (Volume 316 Page 47) owned by Stephanie J. Lee, owing \$20,404.22. Middlesex Hospital; Jefferson Radiology, PC; Middlesex Obstetrical & Gynecological Associates, PC a/k/a Middlesex OB/GYN; and Midland Funding, LLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

9 Lakewood Road (Volume 464 Page 712) owned by Richard M. Murphy, owing \$2,861.34. Specialized Loan Servicing LLC and Citibank, a Federal Savings Bank may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

55 South Main Street (Volume 248 Page 219) owned by Jacquelyn L. Reardon, owing \$32,525.97.

21 Cobalt Road (Volume 517 Page 883) owned by Ellen M. Richards and Alphonse Richards, owing \$15,121.62.

104C Lake Vista Drive (Volume 513 Page 701) owned by Alphonse Richards, owing \$9,743.79. Lake Vista-Baker Hill Commons, Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

42 Wangonk Trail and ±0.09 acres on Wangonk Trail (Volume 67 Page 492 and Volume 73 Page 6) owned by Robert H. Salmon and the Estate of Emily C. Pelletier, owing \$15,788.48. Sandra Carney; Carol Hanson; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Emily C. Pelletier may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

78 Pocotopaug Drive (Volume 561 Page 904) owned by Adrian I. Sandu and Gina L. Sandu, owing \$5,395.00. Seven Hills Estates Phase 3 Community Association, Inc. and M&T Bank may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

22 West High Street (Volume 609 Page 755) owned by Mackenzie B. Smith, owing \$5,531.15. PennyMac Loan Services, LLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

2 Starr Place (Volume 500 Page 717) owned by Starr Place LLC, owing \$15,264.72. Biondi Associates a/k/a Biondi Associates, LLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

7 Railroad Avenue (Volume 392 Page 255) owned by Tina Velasquez, owing \$4,262.26. Liberty Bank and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

45 Pine Brook Road (Volume 309 Page 647) owned by Robert J. Vontell, Jr. and Bonnie Ann Vontell, owing \$31,804.70.

48 North Maple Street (Volume 622 Page 1006) owned by Keymanie Williams, owing \$3,307.99. Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC; Richard C. Melton; and Sand Canyon Corporation as successor to Option One Mortgage Corporation may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

The dollar amounts listed are through the end of last month. Additional taxes, interest, fees, and other charges authorized by law accruing after the last day of the month immediately preceding this notice are owed in addition to the amount indicated as due and owing in this notice.

Bidders must present \$5,000 per property in certified funds payable to "Pullman & Comley, Trustee" on the day of the sale, and the winning bidder must pay the balance of the sale price within 5 days or forfeit that deposit and the property. Absent a redemption, the purchaser will take title "free and clear" six months after the auction except for certain encumbrances. Details at www.cttaxsales.com.

LEGAL NOTICE of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:45 PM
Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480

The electors and those persons eligible to vote in town meetings of the Town of Portland, Connecticut, are hereby warned and notified that pursuant to Chapter XII Section 1203.4 of the Town Charter, a Special Town Meeting will be held by the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:45 P.M. in the Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, CT for the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves a supplemental appropriation to BOE General Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$375,000 through an increase in estimated revenues to line item #01-000-000-00101-Education Cost Sharing Grant of \$48,917 and from the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund of \$326,083.

A copy of the complete resolution to be voted on is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.portlandct.org. Dated this 6th day of June 2024

Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman

TOWN OF Hebron LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that I have been notified by the Chair of the Hebron Republican Town Committee of the failure to endorse, at their meeting held between May 21, 2024 and May 28, 2024, any person as a party-endorsed candidate of the Republican Party for election of Justice of the Peace of said party in the Town of Hebron as prescribed by CGS §9-391.

A certified list of Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Hebron for election, including Registrar of Voters, State Representative and State Senator is on file with the Office of the Secretary of the State, 30 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT, and copies thereof are available for public distribution.

A Primary will be held August 13, 2024 if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on June 11, 2024. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from John Richmond, Republican Registrar of Voters, 15 Gilead St, Hebron CT 06248.

Dated at Hebron CT June 03, 2024

Francesca Villani,
 Hebron Town Clerk

ANNOUNCEMENTS

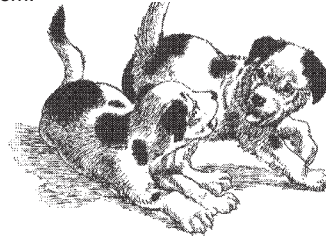
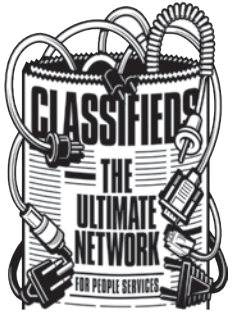
PETS

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

WANTED TO BUY

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

WANTED TO BUY: All antiques; toys, military, watches, advertising, jewelry, coins, clocks, signs, all musical instruments, guitars, saxophones, keyboards, trumpets, amplifiers, accordions, vintage electronics, hi-fi stereo, amplifiers, pro-audio, radios, ham equipment, tube type equipment, plus more. 1 item or entire estate. Call 860-707-9350.



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

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

APARTMENT FOR RENT: Andover, 1bm, 1fbth, living room, kitchen, stove and fridge. \$1,425 monthly, utilities included. Single occupant only. Call 860-997-5231.

ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT: for rent in Colchester. Close to town and bus. 1st floor w/deck. \$1,200 includes heat. Coin-operated washer/dryer. No pets. Call Bob 860-402-6297.

VACATION RENTALS

LONG WHARF RESORT NEWPORT: July 5th-12th. 1mbrdm, 2nd brdm & pull-out sofa, sleeps six. 2fbths, small kitchen. \$2500. Call 860-478-9486.

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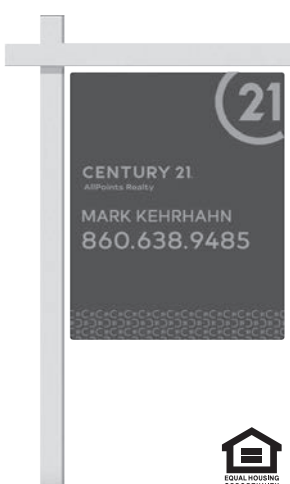
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If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.



EMPLOYMENT

EXPERIENCED PAINTERS WANTED: Call 860-543-3033

PAINTER AND HELPER WANTED: Regular hours, year round, commercial work. Must have transportation to Glastonbury. Call 860-659-2023. Afternoons.

Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin
 Call 860-633-4691 or email your line ad to admin@glcitizen.com

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: of East Hampton is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant to work in the Church Office for 10 hours per week. Responsibilities include welcoming visitors to the office, answering phones, church record keeping, assisting with preparations for Sunday worship services and other duties as needed. The right individual must have strong organizational skills, computer proficiency, and a pleasant, get it done attitude! Experience with MS Office and Goggle Docs is required, and experience with Breeze CHMS is a plus. Please forward resume/cover letter to Jerry Gerkey, jerry.gerkey@gmail.com or send to 57 Main St, East Hampton, CT 06424.

FREELANCE REPORTERS

We are looking for skilled freelance writers to report on local government, meetings and community events in the towns we serve - Cromwell, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.

Must be able to report news clearly and meet important weekly deadlines.

Please send cover letter, resume and any writing clips or samples to:
greg@rarereminder.com

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED

Help needed in our
Printing Department.

Hours available Mon. - Fri.

Email Jim for more information
jim@rarereminder.com

No phone calls please.
Must be 18 years old

OFFICE MANAGER needed for a landscape company

Approximately 30-40 hours per week, M-F. Must have solid organizational skills and experience with bookkeeping, Quickbooks and Payroll. Duties include answering phones, accounts receivables and accounts payable.

PLEASE EMAIL RESUME TO:
jnthompson@comcast.net

Part Time Janitorial Position

Located in East Hampton, American Distilling is the world's largest producer of Distilled Witch Hazel Extracts.

We are looking for a part time janitor Monday through Friday 3:00 - 6:00 with extra hours from 1:00 - 6:00 during the summer. This is an ideal position for a student. Responsibilities include cleaning office areas, restrooms, and portions of the manufacturing floor.

Stop by at 31 East High Street to complete an application Monday through Friday between 9:00 and 4:00.
No calls please.

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New Beginnings for Life is a smaller company with a big heart that cares for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are seeking kind, patient, and passionate candidates to join our team. We have individuals who need care and companionship in Colchester and surrounding towns. We have great benefits, and the rate of pay is \$17.25 per hour.

For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester.

For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am. These positions are in Colchester.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please feel free to call us and ask for more information at 860-531-9426

TREE & LANDSCAPING

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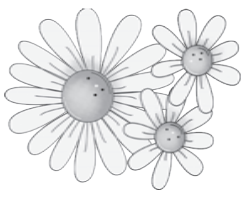
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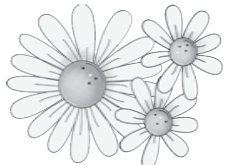
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TAG SALE: 89 Daniel St, East Hampton, Sat. June 8th, 9-2 Household items, home decor, adult clothing and much more.

TAG SALE: Sat/Sun 6/8-6/9, 8am-2pm. Household items, misc, tools, mobility scooters, collectible cars & mugs, and much more! 229 Deepwood Drive, Lebanon. Rain or Shine.

TAG SALE: Saturday, 6/15, 9am-3pm, 12 Smith Street, East Hampton. Tools, fishing, boating, & miscellaneous.

HAY FOR SALE: Square bales, Alfalfa mix, 2nd crop. Call 860-267-2194.

JUNE 7-8: RAIN OR SHINE (8-2) antiques/furniture/linens/samplers/tools/books/stereo/oil-lamps/jewelry/HH/kitchenware/mirrors/cutlery/sports/pets/electronics/games/toys/beans/records/tervis/misc at 80-Olde-Stage in Glastonbury

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TAG SALES
FRI, SAT: 6/14-6/15. 8am-3pm. 32 Fernwood Dr, East Hampton, Rain/Shine. Vintage dishes, glassware, nicknacks. Emmett Kelly clowns. Snow White plates, music boxes. Oil lamps, Hummel's, Fire King, Johnson Brothers, Norman Rockwell plates. Women's, teen girl and men's clothing.

ESTATE SALE: Saturday June 8th & Sunday June 9th 9am-5pm. 115 Gilbert Avenue, Rocky Hill.

MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE: Sat/Sun, 6/8-6/9, 8am-3pm, 100 Somerset Rd, Glastonbury. Furniture, kitchen/household items, wood splitter, wood-burning inset, chainsaw, clothes, tools, bird feeders, electric motors, mechanical items, John Deer parts, and much more!

END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT: Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. **THE GLASTONBURY CITIZEN.** 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.

HUGE TAG/MOVING SALE: Everything must go! Furniture, household, electronics, sports, bicycles, and more. Saturday, June 8th, 9am-3pm. 195 Old Farms Road, South Glastonbury.

TAG SALE: 6/8 & 6/9, 9am-3pm, 29 Diane Drive, Manchester. Toys, children's items, housewares, home décor, art, collectibles, and more. Everything must go!

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