



Hebron
VIEWS

Volume 6 • Issue 1
Spring 2022

Your Hometown Connection • Hebron, CT



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Good Day, Citizens of Hebron:

While we have had bone chilling cold and rain / snow, this will not last for much longer. Spring will soon be here and, with the nicer weather will come events that will allow us to enjoy our beautiful town. Maple Fest is continuing to be planned and, as always, is a great time for all. Good food, shows, events mark the beginning of spring. Many hours of time are put into these



events by many volunteers. Maybe you could consider joining one of the many organizations and committees and lend your skills and knowledge. It may take a little time commitment but, wow, is it worth it! After Maple Fest will be Earth Day, and then so many other events that make Hebron such a wonderful town to live and grow in. I hope to see you at the festivities!

Daniel Larson
Chair, Board of Selectmen

TOWN MANAGER

Dear Hebron Residents:

I have forwarded the Town Manager’s proposed budget for FY 2022-2023 to the Hebron Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 pursuant to requirements outlined in the Town Charter. This year’s budget reflects the Town’s needs and continues to maintain a high level of services and educational excellence, while protecting the health and safety of Hebron residents, students and staff. The Referendum vote on the Budget will be held Tuesday, May 3, 2022.



The Town Government Budget includes funding for: general government operations, contributions to capital projects, contribution to open space land acquisition and debt service payments. Please keep in mind that the budget document is a work in progress and numbers will change over the next few weeks. The budget is based on information available today,

with placeholders for unknown or estimated amounts.

An email address hebronbudget@hebronct.com has been set up to receive public comments and input. Emails received will be forwarded to the Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education. It is important for public participation early in the budget process. Public participation at all meetings is encouraged, meetings are listed on the Town’s calendar located on the website at <https://hebronct.com>. We urge you to become informed and involved in the budget process. Budget detail, information and key dates are also available on the Hebron Website at <http://hebronct.com/budget-information>.

I am pleased to announce that the Hebron Maple Festival will take place this year on March 19th and 20th on the Hebron Green, weather permitting. This festival features numerous maple flavored food products. Also, there will be artists, crafters, farmers and small businesses with a huge variety of items available. This is a free community event open to all ages, I hope to see you there and enjoy all that it has to offer.

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Tierney
Town Manager

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www.hebronct.com

ON THE COVER:

*Pollinator Pathway Garden at Raymond
Brook Preserve, Kinney Road
Photo by Michele Sinkez*

2022 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

2nd Q/22

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 4/8/2022
Mailed Week of 5/9/2022

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 5/6/2022
Mailed Week of 6/3/2022

3rd Q/22

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 7/8/2022
Mailed Week of 8/8/2022

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 8/4/2022
Mailed Week of 9/5/2022

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Hebron Views
an Epic Magazines LLC Publication

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Special thanks to

Donna Lanza and Dori Wolf
Town Manager's Office



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Most people think of elections as an event that occurs in November, but the preparation is something the Town Clerks, Registrars of Voters and Town Committees work on all year long. The Office of The Secretary of The State issues a State Election Calendar highlighting important dates that the Town Clerks, Registrars of Voters and Town Committees and must follow.

November 8, 2022 State Election Calendar

The following is a chronological summary of certain requirements for the 2022 Election Year, applicable in the absence of a Special Act to the contrary. Section references are to the General Statutes of Connecticut. ALL ENTRIES AND REFERENCES ARE SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE REVISION.

1. MAJOR PARTIES (§ 9-372(5))

Town Committee Members (9-391)

Party endorsements: January 4-11, 2022
 Certification of endorsements: January 12, 2022 (4:00 p.m.)
 Primary petitions filed by: January 26, 2022 (4:00 p.m.)
 Primary (6:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m.): March 1, 2022

Selection of Delegates to State and District Conventions (9-391)

Party selections: March 22-March 29, 2022
 Certification of selection: March 30, 2022 (4:00 p.m.)

Candidates for State and District Office (Governor and Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General and multi-town State Senator, State Representative and Judge of Probate). (§§9-372(5); 9-391; 9-400; 9-404a; 9-405, 9-383)

Party endorsements: May 3-24, 2022 (Conventions)
 Certification of endorsements: 14th day after close of convention (4:00 p.m.)
 “15% candidate” certificates filed by: 14th day after close of convention (4:00 p.m.)
 Statewide / Rep. in Congress petitions issued: April 26, 2022
 District office petitions issued beginning: May 24, 2022
 Primary petitions filed by: June 7, 2022 (4:00 p.m.)
 Primary (6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.): August 9, 2022

Candidates for Municipal Office (including single-town State Representative, Judge of Probate and Registrars of Voters). (§§9-372(5); 9-391; 9-400; 9-404a; 9-405)

Party endorsements: May 17-24, 2022
 Cert. of endorsements – JoP, ROV’s & single-town State Rep.: 14th day after endorsement meeting (4:00 p.m.)
 Primary petitions filed by: June 7, 2022 (4:00 p.m.)
 Municipal office petitions issued beginning: May 24, 2022
 Primary (6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.): August 9, 2022

2. MINOR PARTIES (§§9-372(6); 9-451 - 9-452a)

Party rules filed by: March 9, 2022
 Notice/Nomination meeting to town clerk or Sec/St. by: 5 days before nomination meeting
 Nomination & certification by: September 7, 2022

3. NOMINATING PETITIONS (“New Party” or “No Party”) (§§ 9-453a - 9-453u)

Nominating petitions issued beginning: January 4, 2022
 Nominating petitions filed by: August 10, 2022 (4:00 p.m.)

4. ELECTION -- November 8, 2022 (6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

Governor and Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate and Registrar of Voters

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The October 2021 Grand List had not been finalized at the time of the writing of this article. Due to this being a revaluation year, completing the entire list required a bit more time so an extension to file was granted with the deadline to file being February 28, 2022. Individual tax amounts are not available until the Grand List is finalized and the Board of Finance sets a mill rate after the passing of a Town budget. Once you receive your new assessments, it is not advisable you calculate proposed taxes based on the current mill rate, as the mill rate is subject to change.

Renewal application for the Elderly/Totally Disabled and Additional Veteran programs are now being accepted. The filing period for the Elderly/Totally Disabled program ends May 15th, and the Additional Veteran applications are due by October 1st. If you think you or someone you know may qualify, you can contact the Assessor's office for more information.

Spring inspections will be starting as soon as the weather permits. These inspections are for work completed after October 1, 2021. Any change in assessments because of these inspections, will NOT affect the bills due July 2022, it will be effective for the October 2022 Grand List.

Also, a reminder; a motor vehicle that had been disposed of or registered out of state after October 1, 2021 may be entitled to a pro-rate on the tax bill. The bills that will come out July 2022 are for vehicles registered from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. If you disposed of or registered a vehicle out of state, AND canceled the license plates any time during

that assessment year, in order to have your bill pro-rated we require copies of the canceled plate receipt AND some form of documentation as to what happened to the vehicle. Please note that the DMV DOES NOT notify this office when the marker plates are canceled. As per §12-71c(b); in order to get a credit, documentation must be provided by December 31st immediately following the end of the assessment year which next follows the assessment year in which such vehicle is disposed of, ie.: for credits on the October 1, 2020 list, documentation must be received by December 31, 2022.

As always, the staff in the Assessor's Office is available to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding the assessment process.

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Dr. Jaime DeLeon
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Goodbye, Winter!

TTCP welcomes spring in all its glory. Our volunteers are preparing another fun-filled year of community events your way. We're bringing back town favorites and adding in a few surprises.

We're introducing The Hebron Community Chorus. This new musical venture is open to all, 16 years and older. Rehearsals on Tuesday nights from 7pm to 9pm at Russell Mercier Senior Center. The spring session of eight rehearsals start March 8th, the first Concert will be April 30. Stay tuned for place and time. Local talent Andrey Stolyarov, a Russian-born American composer, conductor, singer, and educator, will lead the performance: "From the Ground Up / Laying the Foundation", which will include musical pieces that explore themes of homes, community and establishing long lasting ties. The first two rehearsals, March 8th and March 15th, will be open to the public. We encourage anyone who'd like to see what it's all about to stop by. All participants of the chorus must be completely vaccinated per CDC guidelines.

This year's Town-wide Tag Sale will be joined by Vintage Style: A Maker's Market. You'll find artists reusing, recycling, and repurposing everyday items in unbelievable ways! Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 14th for some amazing finds and fun times in and about Hebron! Tag Sale applications are available on our website, www.thetowncenterproject.org,

Facebook or pick one up at Town Hall, at the Town Clerk's Office.

Make Music Day Hebron will once again celebrate International Make Music Day by bringing back our "Mile of Music" from the Route 85 / Route 66 intersection all the way down Route 66 to Ted's IGA. If you are musically inclined or just love music, and would like to participate, sign up on TTCP's website, Facebook or send us an email. The committee is always looking for "day of" helpers if you don't want to play or sing - join us in organizing!! Make Music Day Hebron will be held on Tuesday, June 21st. Times and more event details will be posted on our Facebook page.

Once again, we'll be celebrating America's birthday, July 4th, on the steps of our beloved Old Town Hall, a fun start to summer with patriotism, music, and pride. The Hebron Concert Series is busy booking musicians. We are excited to bring this series once again to town and we are looking forward to the wide range of musical talents the committee puts together to grace our stage.

The Town Center Project is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to restoring the vibrancy of Hebron's historic center; but we cannot do it alone. We need your support! For more information, to donate or volunteer, follow us on Facebook and check out our website. facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc or ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org.



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HEBRON STAFF DIRECTORY

Town Office Building

15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248

Phone: 860 228-5971

Fax: 860 228-4859

Monday–Wednesday 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Thursday 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Town Manager	Andrew Tierney	atierney@hebronct.com	x122
Director of Administrative Services	Donna Lanza	dlanza@hebronct.com	x130
Finance Director	Elaine Griffin	egriffin@hebronct.com	x131
Town Planner	Patrick Gallagher	pgallagher@hebronct.com	x137
Building Official	Randy Blais	rblais@hebronct.com	x142
Sanitarian/Health District	Chatham Health	emily.miller@chathamhealth.org	x140
Wetlands Enforcement Officer	Jim Cordier	jcordier@hebronct.com	x139
Assessor	Debra Gernhardt	dgernhardt@hebronct.com	x147
Tax Collector	Adrian MacLean	amaclean@hebronct.com	x146
Office of Emergency Management	Paul Bancroft	oem@hebronct.com	x136
Town Clerk	Carla Pomprowicz	cpomprowicz@hebronct.com	x124
Animal Control Officer	William Bell	wbell@hebronct.com	x150

Public Works Department/Transfer Station	550 Old Colchester Road		860 228-2871
Public Works Director/WPCA Administrator	Kevin Kelly	kkelly@hebronct.com	x260

Parks and Recreation Department	148 East Street	860 530-1281	
Parks and Recreation Director	Craig Bryant	cbryant@hebronct.com	x230

Douglas Library of Hebron	22 Main Street	860 228-9312	
Library Director	Kevin Sullivan	ksullivan@hebronct.com	x316

Russell Mercier Senior Center	14 Stonecroft Drive	860 228-1700	
Senior Services Director	Sharon Garrard	sgarrard@hebronct.com	x203

Hebron Police Department	44 Main Street		860 228-3710
Resident Trooper	Bryce Reed	bryce.reed@ct.gov	

Hebron Fire Department	44 Main Street	firedept@hebronct.com	860 228-3022
Fire Chief – Peter Starkel		pstarkel@hebronfd.com	x160
Fire Marshal Randy Blais		rblais@hebronct.com	x267

Housing Authority	860 228-4411
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Glastonbury Hebron Probate Court	860 652-7629
2155 Main Street, Glastonbury	

Chatham Health District	860 365-0884
--------------------------------	--------------

Water Pollution Control Authority	860 228-2871
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Public Schools	
Superintendent of Schools – Hebron BOE	860 228-2577
Superintendent of Schools – RHAM BOE	860 228-2115

RHAM Senior High School	860 228-9474
85 Wall Street	
RHAM Senior High School	
Guidance Department	860 228-9446

RHAM Middle School	860 228-9423
25 RHAM Road	

Hebron Elementary School	860 228-9465
92 Church Street	

Gilead Hill School	860 228-9458
580 Gilead Street	

AHM Youth Services	860 228-9488
25 Pendleton Drive	

Hebron Interfaith Human Services (Food Bank)	860 228-1681
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Douglas Library	22 Main Street	860 228-9312
Monday and Wednesday	12:00–8:00 p.m.	
Tuesday and Thursday	10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.	
Friday	12:00 Noon–6:00 p.m.	
Saturday	10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	

Hebron Post Office	93 Main Street	860 228-6904
Daily 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (Closed for Lunch 1:00–2:00 p.m.)		
Saturday 8:30 a.m.–12:00 noon		

Amston Post Office	540 Church Street	860 228-3671
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HEBRON POLLINATOR CONSERVATION PROJECT



to convert half of their turf grass to productive native plants!

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Google: USDA Native Plant Alternatives and Pollinator-Pathway.org for all things pollinator friendly.

Easy Does it!

Responsible stewardship of our native wildlife and environment is easy! Protecting our food supplies and health of our soil and water begins with us at home and in our community. Approximately three- fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35% of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. Provide bees, butterflies and birds what they need and our food web will be sustained.

Simple modifications to the plants that already grow in our yards and in our community can make a significant difference. But if there were one simple thing individuals could do to address these challenges it is to plant native plants!

Native plants are generally easier to grow and cheaper to maintain. They require little or no pruning, dead heading, fertilizing or even watering once established. Turf lawns are of no benefit to pollinators, their roots are shallow and require frequent watering and fertilizing. Every year, in the US., lawns consume almost 3 trillion gallons of water, 200 million gallons of gas(mowing) and 70 million pounds of pesticides.

By increasing the number of native plants on our property we can increase the food supply and protection needed for pollinators to thrive. Douglas Tallamy, Chair of Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at Univ. Delaware and author of Nature's Best Hope, encourages each American homeowner

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The Renters' Rebate Program

State law provided a property tax credit program for Connecticut homeowners who are age 65+ or totally disabled and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits

Likewise state law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut 65+ and totally disabled renters. The filing period for this program is April 1 through October 1. Applications will be taken by appointment by calling the Senior Center at 860-228-1700

Persons renting an apartment or room may be eligible for this program with rebates up to \$900 for couples and \$700 for single persons. The renters' rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (including electricity, natural gas, home heating oil, propane, other home heating expenses, and water; excluding telephone, cable or pay TV, or garbage removal) made in the calendar year prior to the year of applications - for example, when applying in 2022, we would be looking at income and expenses for calendar year 2021

To apply in 2022, applicants must have been age 65+ by the end of 2021. For couples, only one individual must be 65+. If an individual who was 65+ and previously qualified for the Renters' Rebate Program passes away, a surviving spouse who is age 50+ is eligible to apply

The maximum income limit for the Renters' Rebate Program is \$46,400 for couples and \$38,100 for single persons. "Income" is defined as taxable and non-taxable income from, but is not limited to -

- Net Social Security (Box 5 from the 2021 SSA 1099)
- Wages, bonuses, commissions, gratuities and fees, Self-employment Net Income, Unemployment Compensation, Severance pay, Workers Compensation
- Pensions, Veteran's pension
- Dividends, interest, and annuities
- IRA distributions
- Lottery winnings, payment for Jury Duty (excluding travel allowance)
- Net income from sale or rental property (however, do not include depreciation from 1040 Schedule E)
- Alimony
- Capital gains total from previous year only (a capital loss carryover from a previous year should be excluded from qualifying income calculations)
- Net proceeds from Legal Settlements, Cancellation of Debt
- If a Federal Income Tax Return was filed for 2021, a copy must be provided

Two or more people, who are sharing a rent and are not married or in a civil union, may each be eligible for a proportionate of a Renters' Rebate and must apply individually. For applicants who rent from family members, the State requires a copy of the landlord family member's IRS Form 1040, along with the corresponding Schedule E or Schedule C, whichever is

applicable, showing the rental income received from the Renters' Rebate applicant

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program

The Russell Mercier Senior Center continues taking applications for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program for persons age 60 and older and for disabled adults through May 31. Applications will be taken by appointment by calling the Senior Center at 860-228-1700.

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) is designed to help offset home energy costs for those households, homeowners and renters, whose annual income falls at or below 60 percent of the state median income (\$39,027/year for a 1 person household; \$51,035/year for a 2 person household).

Applicants are required to document their income for the four weeks prior to the date of application, which is then annualized. Households have the option of documenting income for the previous fifty-two weeks prior to the date of application if that more accurately reflects their annual gross income.

Income includes, but is not limited to, social security and veterans' benefits (excluding Aid and Attendance pension benefits), pensions, dividends, annuity distributions, interest,

Continued on page 24 »



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AHM YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

From your friends at AHM, “We are Here for You!” Check out some of our upcoming programs:

- CHORES for Hebron Seniors – for help around your home with projects such as spring cleanup. Call the AHM offices at 860-228-9488.
- SMART Recovery Groups for young adults and families are confidential and offered virtually.
- Family Counseling Services for Hebron families with children from birth to age 26 are available. To schedule, an appointment call the AHM offices at 860-228-9488.
- Student Support Services supports the social and emotional well-being of your child/children. Bethany Wolff, our counselor at Gilead Hill Elementary School, (860-228-9458) and Megan McKenna, our counselor at Hebron Elementary School, (860-228-9465) assists students and their families that are experiencing personal problems or issues that are interfering with their ability to have a successful school experience.
- Play and Learn Groups for Hebron adults and children ages Birth-5 on Mondays and Thursdays offer crafts, playing, and circle time. Register at: <https://ahmyouth.org/play-and-learn-at-ghs-registration/>
- First Steps in Music Class for children Birth-5 and Adults at AHM, 25 Pendleton in Hebron, is a Family Developmentally appropriate and researched early childhood music program with singing, movement, rhythm, and instruments. Please register here: <https://ahmyouth.org/first-steps-in-music-registration/>
- KinderRHAMa Preschool Registration for 2022-2023 School Year to be held online starting on 3/28/22. Please go to the AHM Website. Please register at www.ahmyouth.org for any of these programs please see the website at <https://ahmyouth.org/programs-services/family-resource-center/> or contact Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org or Laura Beeler at laurab@ahmyouth.org for more information.

Upcoming events include: Health Matters wellness programs are being scheduled for the spring. Performing Arts for children is currently sold out. Call the AHM offices for the next series of this popular children’s program. Watch for new times to be trained in QPR – Question, Persuade, Refer to help friends and family members you worry who may be considering hurting themselves.

Nature and Adventure Day, part of the Maple Festival is an AHM and St. Peter’s Episcopal Church partnership is scheduled for Saturday March 19th. RUNA, a night of Celtic music is coming to AHM on Saturday April 23rd.

Visit www.ahmyouth.org for more information about these and other programs.



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Hebron VIEWS | Vol. 6 Issue 1 11

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Frank Shannon, Owner
Rick Tarca, Owner

Hebron Public School's District Advancement Plan outlines our district-wide goals for the year. This year, two of our goals are to initiate a new health curriculum and to audit our current social studies curriculum.

For the past two years, Hebron Schools has focused on creating and implementing a refreshed wellness and health curriculum. After research and planning, the District has chosen the "The Great Body Shop" program, a standards and evidenced based curriculum with a strong home-school connection for our Health education program. It complements our Social Emotional Learning Curriculum, "Choose Love." Topics include health and wellness, safety, and nutrition. Our Health team includes our school nurses, physical education teachers, school psychologists, social workers, Deans, and our School Resource Officer.

Another focus this year has been a revamp of our current social studies curriculum. Hebron Public Schools is focusing on enhancing and ensuring that the social studies' curriculum is aligned with all state standards. Students learn about their community and being good citizens, Connecticut and local history, U.S. history, U.S. geography, and world history. In addition, curriculum specialists across the district are ensuring that the curriculum is vertically integrated with the district's

STEAM and social emotional learning programs.

Currently, we are piloting new social studies instructional materials and beginning to author a new social studies curriculum. Our goal is to have a program that exceeds state standards and encourages students to be compassionate citizens and leaders. Part of our work in Social Studies is to add more lessons on civic engagement. This year we joined the state Kid Governor Program. Each year the Connecticut Democracy Center runs the Kid Governor Program, an award winning, national program that promotes civic engagement, leadership, and immerses students into state governing and elections. Students develop a campaign and create videos that support their platforms. Fifth grade students from around the state participate in nominating students, primary elections, and a state-wide election in November to be the Connecticut Kid Governor. This year, Francesca Orfitelli was Hebron's primary winner and candidate for Kid Governor. Congratulations Francesca!

For more information on this work, please visit our website under the District Advancement Plan section under the District banner. There you will find our District Advancement Plan and monthly presentations on work in development that will enhance our programming for our students and families.

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Ready for the Next Adventure?

Winter will soon be over and we'll be seeking to reconnect with the sounds and teasing warmth of early spring. So let's embark on our next open space adventure together!

The site of our adventure is the "Harasimowitz Property", acquired in 2012 through Hebron's Open Space Land Acquisition Fund. This stunning 20-acre property lies in anticipation of its visitors along Old Colchester Road, nearly directly across the street from the Transfer Station. Tread lightly on this pristine preserve, protected for its critical environmental functions it provides for us.

The journey begins just beyond a metal gate, the entrance point to this whimsical forest. A wide pine-needled covered path gently welcomes us to the sanctity that lies ahead! Step slowly into the cathedral of majestic white and pitch pines, an uncommon find. Vivid green ferns and princess pine trim the feet of these forest elders. Soak in the peace and quiet that this Evergreen showroom offers our senses.



The soft path leads us to...a forest pond! Streams of sunlight, cascading between the protective arms of pond side trees, reflect onto its inky glass surface. Traversing along the tranquil shoreline, we peer into its serene confines in search of movement. Look, over there! Two couples in swimming tandem, as ducks often are, seemingly intertwined in their search for the basics, food and shelter.

We forge on, wondering what surprises lie ahead. Shhh!!! Look up, an owl. Wow, there she goes, ghostly quiet! What else will this enchanted path offer us in this wonderland? From atop a knoll on the carpeted trail, it looks like a clearing of sorts in the distance. Let's check it out! Huh, a beautiful swamp, Judd Brook Marsh, actually! Approaching this next surprise, we see an expanse of low shrubs and marshy grass pods. Blueberry bushes aplenty here, a welcome provider of nourishment for

the marsh's inhabitant birds. As we stand at the marsh's edge, it looks like we can enter the marsh itself. Yes, but be careful, make sure you step gingerly on the grass mounds or you might get wet feet! Made it, time for a picture!

What else is here? The path seems to follow the marsh's outer perimeter, northerly, so let's go. Yes, the path continues, undulating a bit up and down. Catching different glimpses of this scenic Special Concern Wetland is the feature here. Let's head back to where we first encountered the marsh, where the path offered a gentle left turn to where we stand now.

Peering east from the point of the bend, it appears we can continue our adventure on a less discernable, but appealing narrow pathway. With the marsh to our left, a ringing chorus of spring peepers has commenced. What marvelous singing, and a sure sign of warmer days! Ah, peepers, my favorite. A little further we can go. Alas, we have reached the pinnacle of our adventure, at the banks of a quiet stream flowing through the heart of the Marsh, a tributary of Judd Brook. It

looks so refreshingly wild here. Dead trees spike upward like daggers, remnants of an ancient forest ...now transformed into this Marsh, of Special Concern, I can see why. Just listen and quietly observe. Feeling at peace, let's head back, leaving our preserve as pristine as we discovered it. I hope you enjoyed our adventure!

Frank Zitkus

Hebron Open Space Land Acquisition Committee Secretary

Note: There is very limited roadside parking available on Old Colchester Road near the metal gate entrance. Please be careful; secure pets and little ones. There is additional, currently unmarked, open space parking south of the entrance along Old Colchester Rd, but it is a little ways down the road. Caution advised in this location as well. Practice "Leave No Trace" on this open space gem.

Greetings from the Hebron Fire Department ...

The Hebron Fire Department is always looking for exceptional, motivated individuals who are interested in giving back to their community by assisting in the delivery of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services.

Why Volunteer? What's in it for me? What kind of a commitment is it?

Emergency Service organizations across the region, State, and Nation are struggling with staffing, and we are no exception. Increased work and family obligations, working multiple jobs to stay afloat, and increased call volume generated by the COVID pandemic are just a few of the most prevalent issues we face in trying to recruit and retain personnel.

So why do it? You'll experience a remarkable sense of accomplishment, pride, camaraderie, and an overwhelming sense of joy knowing you made a difference, no matter how big or small, in someone's life. After 35 years in the fire service, I can still say nothing is more fulfilling than receiving a thank

you from someone you have helped.

Don't get me wrong, Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services are both physically demanding and mentally challenging, and require a commitment, but as a team, our goal is to work together to share the load and accomplish the mission. Many hands make light work...

We need Firefighters, Driver/Pump Operators, EMS Personnel, and Fire Police to help round out our team, and we provide all necessary initial and continuing education for these positions.

Want to Learn More?

We would love the opportunity to have a conversation with you about joining our team! If you're interested and willing to spend a few minutes of your time, please email or contact us, and we'll schedule a time convenient to your schedule to meet to discuss the opportunities and benefits we have to offer.

Respectfully,

Chief Peter J. Starkel
Hebron Fire Department



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HEBRON INTERFAITH HUMAN SERVICES

HIHS, currently located at 20 Pendleton Drive in Hebron HIHS' community food pantry serves as a resource to the greater community in times of crisis and need, helping people regain self-sufficiency.

HIHS (Hebron Interfaith Human Services) was formed in 1989 as a 501-(c)(3) non-profit association of Hebron faith communities (Christ Lutheran Church, Church of the Holy Family, Church of Hope, Gilead Congregational Church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue and the Worship Center) in an effort to provide greater levels of community support and service than each could individually accomplish.

We recognize choices such as paying for food or rent, rent or medications, among other scenarios occur all too frequently. Utilizing our client choice food pantry for non-perishable staples, frozen meats and when available, dairy and produce can alleviate a portion of their food expense therefore freeing up that money to be put towards other bills. When funds are available HIHS can provide heating and energy assistance to qualifying households. Also offered are youth centered



programs such as Back to School Basics, the Weekend Food Backpack and RHAM Student Food Pantry.

In collaboration with AHM Youth & Family Services, Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, Hebron Lions Club, faith communities, civic groups, businesses, schools and many dedicated private donors special holiday meal baskets and gifts for Holidays are also available.

Funding and product donations come from fundraisers, private donations, grant writing, support from our faith communities, civic organizations, charitable organizations, individuals and schools.

HIHS is guided by a Board of Directors, two part time employees and a large group of dedicated volunteers. As an investment in our future and commitment to helping people in the greater community HIHS purchased 26 Pendleton Drive. Renovations are underway and we are excited to move into this new updated building in June of 2022!

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Douglas Library introduces 24-hour hold pick-ups

Work late? Cautious about being in public spaces due to COVID? Antisocial?

There are lots of reasonable excuses for why getting to the library is difficult or undesirable. The Douglas Library of Hebron now has outdoor lockers where patrons can pick up holds anytime – day or night – from outside of the building.

The lockers, which were purchased using federal grant funds from the American Rescue Plan, have 17 slots where items can be stored. Patrons can choose to have their items held outside for five days instead of inside of the building. Once the material is processed and ready for pick-up, patrons will receive an email and text message with a unique code that will open the specific locker holding their items. They can then visit the library at their convenience and use the lockers – located next to the main entrance of the building.

While the lockers will eventually be more integrated into the holds request process, for now patrons can request to have items held in the lockers by calling the library or sending in an



email along with their hold request. Holds will still be kept in the building by default.

“We’re excited to be able to introduce a service that helps make our collections more accessible to the residents of Hebron,” said library director Kevin Sullivan. “That we can improve accessibility while increasing personal safety for library users is icing on the cake.”

Locker pick-ups keep at-risk individuals out of public spaces where they would be more likely to contract COVID-19 and other illnesses. Patrons can reduce their contact with common touchpoints even further by taking advantage of the locker’s app (search for ‘Smiota’ in your phone’s app store), which allows them to retrieve their checkouts by pressing a button on their smartphone instead of interacting with the locker’s built-in tablet.

The locker hardware was developed by Smiota located in Fremont, CA, who will provide support for the system during its lifespan. Smiota oversees similar lockers at libraries, universities, businesses, and government facilities all over the country.



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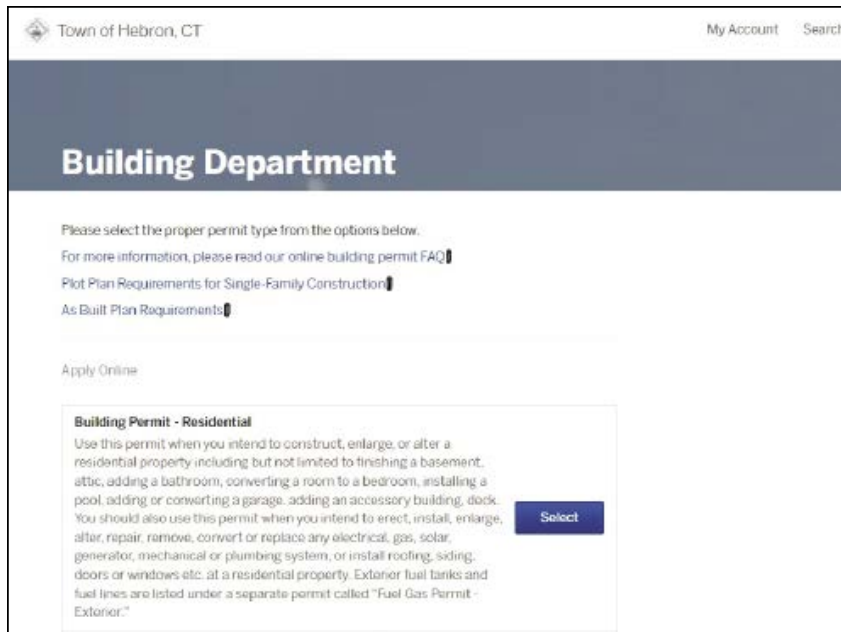
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Building Permit Software Now Enables Online Applications

The Town of Hebron is pleased to announce the launch of its new online building permit software through ViewPoint. The new online system allows residents and contractors to apply for building permits online, pay permit fees, and track their application through the review, inspection, and approval process. This should result in a more efficient system for both applicants and Town Staff.

To apply for building permits online, please visit <https://hebronct.viewpointcloud.com/>. You will need to register for the site and make an account. This will allow you to view all of your permits and their status. While the initial system is focused on building permits, other permits may be added in the future.

GILEAD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Technology Counts at Gilead Congregational Church

Since April 2019 the Gilead Congregational Church has become very creative when sharing God's love with the Church and Hebron community.

The Church needed to come into the digital age. It established Lisa Cox as Minister of Technology in 2020.

Streaming our worship services over the Internet was a heavy lift. We moved from one member holding up an iPhone for "Facebook Live" to sophisticated wall mounted cameras controlled by a joystick and software that professional webcasters use.

Our Interim Pastor, Rev. Matt McCaffrey; Minister of Technology, Lisa Cox; Minister of Music, Andrey Stolyarov; and our Deacons are able to share Sunday worship services beyond our traditional Sanctuary walls thanks to these technology improvements.

Last summer, the worship team and our dedicated Trustees moved equipment between Fellowship Hall and our Garden of Remembrance. We enjoyed in-person services while including via live-streaming those who were unable to join us in person. Cooling October temperatures moved us back indoors. Our technology team continues to improve tools and techniques supporting the live-stream.



People have been able to join Gilead Congregational Church's worship services wherever they are, thanks to creative streaming technology. Photo by Tonya Maurer.

None of this would be successful without collaboration among pastor, church leadership, technology and music ministers, and the team. We have pivoted successfully between remote and on-site worship through the recent Covid wave, and even the January "Blizzard Bobby" was no barrier to a full (and fully remote) worship gathering.

Gilead Congregational Church's traditional values and relationships hold strong. Thanks to many helpers we've stepped into a new age of YouTube channels, Facebook Groups, camera angles, Virtual Choirs, and Zoom coffee hours!



Saturday, March 19
10am-4pm

Sunday, March 20
10am-4pm

Parking: please park at RHAM High School and take one of our constantly running shuttle buses to the event.



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Tread lightly

Recent damage has occurred at one of Hebron's open space parcels, and we would like to remind residents that the use of dirt bikes and ATVs is prohibited in Town parks and open space properties. These vehicles cause rutting conditions, posing a hazard to hikers. The ruts also accelerate the soil erosion process from stormwater runoff - damaging wetlands and watercourses and making the trails even less stable over time. We encourage people using our parks and trails to take iPhone photos and/or to report violations to either the Parks and Recreation Department at 860-530-1281 or the Police Department at 860-228-3710.

The public should know that many of our lands were purchased for passive recreation, natural resources preservation and wildlife habitat protection. Over time, the Town will be posting rule signs at the access areas of our recreation and conservation parcels and "Motorbikes and ATVs Prohibited" placards at strategic control points. Moreover, the best protection of these lands - particularly the remote ones - is afforded by frequent citizen usage and the visibility factor (more eyes = less tracks or vandalism). The Town will be refining its park regulations to promote Hebron's beautiful landscape, trail systems and extensive recreational facilities. Through public outreach communications, we wish to ensure the responsible enjoyment and stewardship of the local treasures that define Hebron.

Jim Cordier
*Conservation and
Inland Wetlands Agent*



'Making Caterpillars' – It's For The Birds

Great caring + great knowledge inspires solutions to great challenges. A great challenge is the current rapid decline of wildlife. Douglas Tallamy, Entomologist/Wildlife Ecologist offers a solution to address this. (Thank you, Michele Sinkez, of Hebron's Pollinator Conservation Project [HPCP], for introducing Doug's work!)

The Audubon Society reports that nearly 1/3 of North America's birds have disappeared since 1970—that's three billion less birds. Connecticut Audubon Society's Dec. 2021 State of the Birds report reveals 2/3 of birds face extinction unless we act immediately. Since 1970, Connecticut has lost 17% of forest birds and 60% of Wood Thrush (of "crystal waterfall" song). Deforestation of breeding/wintering grounds is a key threat. Even "common" birds are disappearing.

CT Audubon Society offers recommendations to reverse this course (end of article) including both collective and individual actions. They highly recommend preserving natural land, including large tracts of forest, to address both habitat loss and climate change. Intact forests and wetlands remove massive amounts of carbon dioxide from air, a required Natural Climate Solution, while providing resilient habitat for wildlife.

Some great examples of collective actions that help: Hebron's Open Space acquisitions; Girls Scouts' Butterfly Way Station, Burnt Hill Park; Green Garden Gang/HPCP demonstration Pollinator Gardens, Raymond Brook Preserve/Town Center; Native Plant Garden, Gilead Hill Elementary School.

How else can we help? Professor Tallamy explains how we all can be part of the solution. A highly recommended YouTube video, "Doug Tallamy: Restoring Nature's Relationships", shows how our own yards and public lands are needed to help support ecology/birds. In fact, this land can perform important

ecological functions: preserve the watershed; store carbon; and provide support for birds, butterflies, etc.

A major component of all these functions is native plants. These plants provide habitat and food for birds. This food isn't just berries/seeds, but also insects/caterpillars. Many baby birds must eat caterpillars to survive; a single brood of chickadees needs 6,000-9,000 caterpillars! Currently, bird parents are not finding the needed caterpillars. Doug explains that "keystone" native plants host the greatest number and kinds of needed caterpillars/insects/pollinators. Providing these keystone plants is something we can do. (Milkweed, sole food of Monarch caterpillars, is needed; eastern Monarch Butterflies have declined 90% since 2000.) National Wildlife Federation/Doug Tallamy offer a Keystone Plants Search Tool by Zip Code: <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder> Top 6 trees/shrubs for Hebron: oak, prunus/cherry, native willow, birch, quaking aspen, maple.



To see the beautiful spicebush butterfly, here sipping from a mountain laurel flower, sassafras trees or spicebush must be nearby for her caterpillar life stage.

"Making Caterpillars" also requires natural garden patterns and care; some caterpillars must bury into soft soil/leaves for their next life stage. Example: beneath native tree canopies, plant garden of native shade

groundcovers/shrubs. "Leave leaves" in gardens; standing perennials provide winter food (and keep leaves corralled). In spring, shear back dried perennial stems - no more mowing under trees! More patterns: native shrubs alongside treed yard borders; native shrubs, perennials, trees along water. Doug calls this creating a "Home Grown National Park." <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

Enjoy these birds, butterflies, and bees you help support!

CT Audubon society's recommendations: <https://www.ctaudubon.org/2021/12/ct-state-of-the-birds-2021-recommendations/> Top Ten actions: <https://www.ctaudubon.org/2020/01/10-actions-you-can-take-to-save-connecticuts-birds/#sthash.ETzsW2WK.dpbs>

2022-23 BUDGET MEETING SCHEDULE

Below is the Hebron Budget review and approval schedule (subject to change as necessary). Budget details and meetings access information will be posted on the Hebron website as information becomes available: <https://hebronct.com/budget-information/>. Hebron residents are encouraged to become informed and involved in the budget process.

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 – Virtual – BOS/BOF Budget Workshop

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Town Manager’s Budget Presentation including CIP Budget
8:00 – 8:15 p.m. Open Space/Land Acquisition
8:15 – 9:30 p.m. Miscellaneous General Government

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – Virtual – BOS/BOF Budget Workshop

7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Hebron Board of Education
7:30 – 8:00 p.m. RHAM Board of Education
8:00 – 9:30 p.m. Miscellaneous General Government

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – Virtual – BOS/BOF Budget Workshop

7:00 – 7:15 p.m. Public Works Department
7:15 – 7:30 p.m. Parks & Recreation Department
7:30 – 7:45 p.m. Fire Department/Ambulance Service
7:45 – 9:30 p.m. Miscellaneous General Government

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 – Virtual – BOS/BOF Budget Workshop

7:00 – 7:30 p.m. Board of Selectmen Public Hearing
7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Revenues Overview & Discussion/Budget Deliberations
8:30 – 9:30 p.m. Finalize Selectmen’s FY 22-23 Budget

Monday, April 4, 2022 – Location/Format TBD

6:30 p.m. RHAM Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 – Location/Format TBD

7:00 p.m. Board of Finance Budget Workshop

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 – Location/Format TBD

7:00 p.m. Board of Finance Public Hearing on Budget
Followed by Board of Finance Meeting to Set the Budget

Monday, May 2, 2022 – Location/Format TBD

6:30 p.m. RHAM Budget District Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 2022 – Hebron Elementary School

6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Budget Referendum

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic: At this time it is anticipated that all BOS/BOF budget meetings in March will be held in virtual format and that the May 3, 2022 Budget Referendum vote will be held in person.

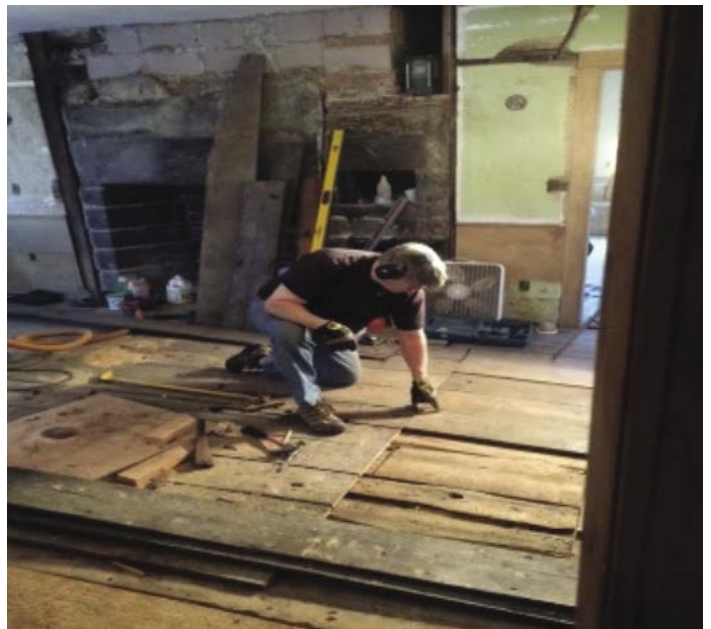
Email Budget Communications to:
hebronbudget@hebronct.com
These emails will be forwarded to the
Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education

HEBRON HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

This year we had an open house for the Gull School House on Marjorie Circle, and the WWII Civilian Aircraft Observation Post (the only known remaining post here on the east coast). Both the school and the observation post can be reached by parking at the Town Office Building parking lot. We plan to open both buildings this spring. If the American flag is flying

on the buildings, we are open, so please stop by and visit.

The Peters House is almost ready for public use. Here are some before and after pictures. We are still working on the upper level but the first floor is all most finished. We can't wait to have it all complete.



SENIOR CENTER (CONTINUED)

» *Continued from page 10*

gross rental income, estate or trust income, gross wages, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, self-employment income, alimony, etc.

Households receiving income from self-employment are required to complete a Self-Employment Worksheet, detailing income for the previous six or twelve calendar months.

Additionally, at the time of application, each household is required to submit a current copy of their electric utility bill, regardless of the household's primary heating source.

In order to achieve increased administrative simplicity and reduce procedural burden on applicants, the state will not require households to meet a liquid asset test in order to qualify for benefits for the 2021-2022 Connecticut Energy Assistance Program.

In order for Connecticut Energy Assistance Program awards to be granted for deliverable fuels or utilities, bills must be in the name of a household member

Basic Benefit awards for vulnerable households of between \$475 and \$1,015 are determined based on income and household size. Households with one or more members who is/are either 60 years of age or older, disabled, or under the age of 6, are considered Vulnerable Households.

For deliverable fuel heated households (oil, propane, kerosene, coal, wood and wood pellets), a Crisis Assistance Benefit of between \$500 and \$1010, depending on gross household income, will be available to those who have exhausted their Basic Benefit. Should the Crisis Assistance Benefit also be exhausted, households may qualify for 3 or 4, depending on gross household income, Safety Net Assistance Benefits of \$700 each.

For utility heated households (electricity and natural gas), only the Basic Benefit will be awarded, and the household will be enrolled in Eversource's or CNG's Matching Payment Program (MPP), which enables Connecticut Energy Assistance Program eligible households to maximize their energy benefits, reduce

and/or eliminate their service arrearages, and gain greater control over their energy costs. Under the MPP, households enter into payment arrangements with Eversource or CNG. For all customer payments made by the payment deadline, Eversource or CNG will provide a dollar-for-dollar match of both the total customer payments and the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program benefit. The resulting match is applied to the customer's arrearage, down to a \$0 balance. Please note: through the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, assistance may be available to utility heated households who are unable to meet their utility payment arrangement amount as determined by Eversource or CNG, through utilizing a "below budget" worksheet process. The "below budget" worksheet process may allow there to be a negotiated reduced payment arrangement with Eversource or CNG.

The first day for fuel deliveries that could be paid by the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program was November 1, 2021. If you are currently applying, but received a fuel deliver between November 1, 2021 and your application date, proof of that delivery (invoice) can be submitted for consideration of a credit. The deadline for fuel authorizations or deliveries will be May 2, 2022.

In addition to receiving energy assistance benefits, eligible households may also qualify for:

- Weatherization Assistance Program – this includes services that can improve the energy efficiency of the home and help to reduce future energy bills along with necessary health and safety measures Clean, Tune and Test of a household's deliverable fuel heating system
- Heating System Repair or Replacement – if determined to be unsafe, inoperable, and aged/inefficient with obsolete parts, a household may be eligible repair or replacement of heating systems, tanks and water heaters
- Cooling Assistance Program – Eligible program participants for cooling units, including installation, will be required to provide documentation, including individuals with a documented medical condition that is exacerbated by extreme heat



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