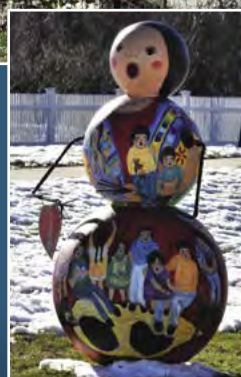


Hebron

VIEWS

Volume 5 • Issue 4
Winter 2021



Your Hometown Connection • Hebron, CT



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Dear Hebron Residents:

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to take a moment to reflect upon and look ahead on the happenings here in our community, a few that are noteworthy are:

- Local Elections – I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that participated and welcome all those who were elected to office for the next four years. I personally look forward to working with all officials (new and old).
- 2022-2023 Budget – each department head and I will meet to work diligently over the next few months to formulate a fair and honest budget to put before the citizens next May.
- Boards and Commissions – the Town is looking for volunteers for Boards and Commissions. There have been many new faces with unique talents that have moved to Hebron. If you are looking to become involved in your community joining a Board or Commission may be just the right opportunity. For a current list of vacancies please refer to the Town's website at www.hebronct.com.
- The Town Center Project – TTCP hosted a series of concerts



over the summer months that were well attended. The group also sponsored the Harvest Moon Festival which has become a major event for the town's center. Keep your eyes open for their SnoFolk that will be reappearing throughout town.

- Holiday Celebration – on the first Saturday in December the town's center will be lighted for the holiday season. There will be craft activities at the Douglas Library, a carol sing and tree lighting by Old Town Hall, and we may even get a glimpse of Santa.
- 2022 Maple Festival – I am excited to welcome back the Hebron Maple Festival. It will be a two-day event which will take place on the third weekend in March 2022. Further details will be worked out over the next couple of months.
- New Employees – Hebron welcomes two new department heads that have joined our team. Craig Bryant as the new Director of Parks and Recreation and Patrick Gallagher as the new Director of Planning and Development. If you have an opportunity, please welcome our new staff.

Hebron continues to be a great place to live and work, maybe it's our charming community or our wonderful school system or both. Please support our local businesses during this season so they may continue to sustain our community.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Tierney
Town Manager

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www.hebronct.com

ON THE COVER:

*Sno-folk. Photos by Holly Habicht,
The Town Center Project*

2022 VIEWS Magazines Schedule

1st Q/22

COLUMBIA: Ad Deadline 1/10/2022
Mailed Week of 2/10/2022

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 2/4/2022
Mailed Week of 3/4/2022

2nd Q/22

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

HEBRON: Ad Deadline 5/6/2022
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Town Manager's Office



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Ever wonder what a Town Clerk does?

The duties of a Connecticut Town Clerk are comprehensive and diverse. A Town Clerk's office is one of neutrality and impartiality, with an emphasis on preserving, managing, and aiding with access to public records according to state and local laws accurately, efficiently, cost effectively and in a courteous manner.

The administrative duties are that of municipal records management, permit and licensing sales, collecting conveyance taxes and fees for the Town, Department of Revenue Services, Connecticut State Library, State of Connecticut Community Investment Fund, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Department of Agriculture.

In Hebron, the Town Clerk serves as clerk to special town meetings, indexes and preserves maps and land records and makes application for preservation grants. The clerk also serves as an historic collection archivist, prepares for all federal, state and town elections, primaries, and referenda; issues marriage licenses, birth certificates for home births,



certifies birth, marriage, and death certificates; tracks memberships on boards and commissions; maintains and archives board and commission minutes and town ordinances according to requirements set by state statute.

State statute mandates that the Town Clerk be the guardian of the town vaults and keeper of the town seal and is responsible to

account for the revenue generated.

During the fiscal year 2020-2021 the clerks reported \$984,000 in receipts.

Carla Pomproicz, *Town Clerk*

Francesca Villani, *Assistant Town Clerk*

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The 2020 Motor Vehicle Supplemental list will be finalized in December and will have tax bills due January 1, 2022. This list is for any motor vehicle that was either registered new, had a license plate transferred from a vehicle previously owned and put onto a new vehicle, or vehicles registered late, between October 2, 2020 and September 2021.

The revaluation for the October 2021 Grand List year is in the final stages. Each time a town implements a revaluation the values are reset to reflect the current market values. All properties in town have these new values applied to them even if there have been no improvements done. These new values are a result of the changes in the prices that properties have been selling for over the past 18 months. The new values will be applied to the properties for the assessments on the October 1, 2021, year which will have taxes due July 1, 2022. Property owners should have received notices of their new assessment in the mid to late Fall. The revaluation company will be holding "informal reviews/hearings" in early Winter, if you don't get a chance to meet with them to review your data or ask any questions, you can always come into the office, and we will be happy to review it with you or answer any questions you may have about the assessment process. If it is discovered that any corrections or adjustments need to be done, the best time to have it done, is before the total Grand List is finalized in mid-January. After the list is signed and finalized by the assessor, property owners who feel they may still need to have adjustments done, can always appeal to the

Board of Assessment Appeals. An application must be filed for an appointment on or before February 20, 2022 for a hearing date in March 2022.

The Personal Property and Motor Vehicle portions of the Grand List have been worked on and expected to be completed by mid-January. Tax bills for these accounts will also be due July, 2022.

Also, a reminder; a motor vehicle that had been disposed of or registered out of state after October 1, 2020, may be entitled to a pro-rate on the tax bill. The bills that came out July 2021 are for vehicles registered from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021. If you disposed of or registered a vehicle out of state, AND canceled the license plates any time during that assessment year, 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); 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, 2019 list, documentation must be received by December 31, 2021.

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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Plans for a new public works facility

On September 2, 2021 the Hebron Board of Selectmen voted to have the Town Administration and Public Building Committee (HPBC) move forward on planning for a new Department of Public Works facility.

The current location chosen by the Selectmen is located adjacent to, and southeast of the Hebron Center Historic District. The facility would be located on the southwest portion of the "Horton Property". It is located between John E. Horton Boulevard and Church Street to the east and west respectively and Main Street and Kinney Road to the north and south respectively.

Following the review of 37 potential properties by design professionals, town staff, and the HPBC the Horton site was recommended as the best location to the Selectmen. This site was selected based on its central location, its access to main roads, and its ability to support a more efficient Public Works operational department.

The next steps in the process are to further confirm the appropriateness of the site, the schematic design of the property and facility and the estimated costs to complete the project.

Currently the Building Committee has engaged Nathan L. Jacobson, Hebron's on-call engineer, to begin the process. They have reached out to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) to determine the history of the property and if there are any historically significant areas on the property that must be protected. SHPO has requested that a "professional cultural resources reconnaissance survey" be conducted and that is currently being planned. An archeological professional, certified in this type of study, will be selected to perform this task.

In preliminary planning a 5.65 acre area had been identified as the best area for the facility based on it being primarily flat with only minor elevation changes. It also is located in an area that avoids ALL wetlands and conservation easements. Although a certified soil scientist had walked and identified the wetlands several years ago, the HPBC is having the wetlands and buffers confirmed to ensure there has been no movement / shifting of the areas.

Once SHPO has approved the "cultural resources reconnaissance survey" and any recommendations the archaeologist presents, the preliminary design phase will be completed, and cost estimates will be compiled and reviewed.

At that point the Board of Selectmen will conduct a series of public hearings and education sessions. The Selectmen, HPBC, and design professionals will participate in those sessions. The sessions will be conducted in order to talk with all community members, listen to questions and suggestions, and consider recommendations and suggested changes to the project. The Selectmen will also reach out to individual boards, commissions, and groups of individuals to share information and answer questions.

The final step before advancement of the project to final design and construction will be public approval of the project. This will be conducted via referendum and will require a simple majority of the votes cast to approve the project.

The HPBC meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 PM with special meetings as required. All meeting are posted at Town hall and at https://hebronct.com/agendas/#section_list

The public is encouraged to attend meetings to be aware of the current status. Public comments and suggestions will be accepted at the beginning and end of each meeting.

Up to date Information on the project is available at <https://hebronct.com/uploads/2021/08/Project-Presentation.pdf>

PUBLIC WORKS

As the winter season is once again around the corner, I would like to remind residents of fall cleanup maintenance, and winter operations requirements and suggestions. The Public Works Department would appreciate your help in keeping the catch basin grates and drainage ditches clear of leaves. When they clog the drains, street flooding occurs, causing dangerous driving conditions and possible damage to properties. Blowing leaves into the street is not allowed as it causes a traffic obstruction.

We would also like to remind residents every year, that before the snow flies, portable basketball hoops must be removed from the side of the road. The hoop that extends into the travel lane is a hazard and can cause damage to passing vehicles and equipment. Please be sure that the structure is placed well off the roadway as to not interfere with traffic. Another obstacle

that the snow plows face is the placement of garbage cans. We are responsible for clearing the snow back to the curb and the garbage cans should be placed accordingly. Also, please ask your subcontractor not to plow across the roadway and leave excess snow in the street, as this is a violation of State Statute. This practice causes extra work for our plows, and we have enough to keep us busy. And with regard to safety, we would like to remind everyone not to allow children to play in the snow banks along the street. Although they make an attractive recreation area, the plow drivers cannot see the presence of a small child playing, especially if it's snowing. We hope that everyone has a great winter season and a safe and Happy Holiday.

Kevin Kelly
Director of Public Works, Town of Hebron

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 |

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

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

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

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

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|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 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 |

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|--------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
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|--|--------------|
| Water Pollution Control Authority | 860 228-2871 |
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|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------|
| Public Schools | | AHM Youth Services | 860 228-9488 |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------|

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|---|--------------|
| Superintendent of Schools – Hebron BOE | 860 228-2577 |
| Superintendent of Schools – RHAM BOE | 860 228-2115 |

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

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| RHAM Middle School | 860 228-9423 |
| 25 RHAM Road | |

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|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Hebron Elementary School | 860 228-9465 |
| 92 Church Street | |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Gilead Hill School | 860 228-9458 |
| 580 Gilead Street | |

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 25 Pendleton Drive | | |
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|---|--|--------------|
| Hebron Interfaith Human Services (Food Bank) | | 860 228-1681 |
|---|--|--------------|

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 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. | |

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| Hebron Post Office | 93 Main Street | 860 228-6904 |
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| Saturday 8:30 a.m.–12:00 noon | | |

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| Amston Post Office | 540 Church Street | 860 228-3671 |
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Frank Shannon, Owner
Rick Tarca, Owner

THE TOWN CENTER PROJECT



The Town Center Project celebrated its last event of 2021 with a bang. Fittingly, for a season celebrating pumpkins, our Harvest Moon Festival was a smash hit!

Event Chair Wendy Weingarten and her crew of dedicated helpers have made the Harvest Moon Festival a major annual attraction for Hebron. Hebron Veterinary Hospital's Dog Jog just added to the fun. We've never seen so many goblins, ballerinas, and superheroes and their dogs walking downtown. Visitors of all ages, from Hebron and surrounding towns, came out by the thousands to enjoy the balmy weather, the food vendors, craftspeople, and for the sheer pleasure of being around others after almost two years of isolation.

COVID has impacted all of us. We are especially grateful for our volunteers, who beside dealing with their own families and work, have put their heart and soul into making Hebron the kind of town we want to live in.

Drew Gibson, who not only pulled together a fantastic group of musicians to celebrate Make Music Day on the Summer Solstice, bringing a "Mile of Music" all the way down Main Street, but he orchestrated eight Friday nights of music for our Summer Concerts Series. Those were magical evenings, and if you missed the opportunity for sitting outside on a summer night picnicking, and listening to great music—for FREE, you'll have a chance to do so in 2022.

Wendy, and Drew Gibson are just two of the many residents who've stepped up to participate, donate, or lend a hand this past year. People like Donna Jolly, Stephanie Raymond, and Andrey Stolyarov, who will be leading our new Community Chorus, and those citizens who contributed their words and voices to make



our July 4th ceremony on the steps of Old Town Hall so memorable: Dan Larson, Ned Ellis, David Rose, Zach Bulkovitch, Tom Brancato, Florence O'Sullivan, Scott Ennis, and Truman Brodeur. You are the BEST! we couldn't do it without you.

Dolly Parton, when asked about her overblown outfits and extravagant makeup, used to joke, "it takes a lot of money to look this cheap." Well, it takes a lot of money to offer activities and events to bring people into our

town center for free. If you like what The Town Center Project is doing to "Reinvent the Heart of Hebron," please consider making a contribution by donating through our website, www.thetowncenterproject.org

Thank you all, and our best wishes to you and yours for the upcoming holidays! See you next year.

AHM YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

The AHM Board of Directors extends well wishes to our Hebron neighbors this holiday season.

AHM is a non-profit charitable organization that has been serving the three towns since 1984 and for the last 8 years Columbia as well.

Who benefits from AHM? You and your neighbors can access a wide range of human and social services through this regional charity. There are child, teen, young adult, and family counseling services, wellness activities for all ages of children and adults, chores services to help seniors keep up their homes, a family resource center focusing on child development, a theater program, and a mentoring program. AHM is all about meeting intergenerational human service needs of residents from newborns to Older Americans.

Who runs AHM? A volunteer board made up of residents from the four towns are responsible for governing the organization. A professional staff runs the day-to-day operations and programs, many of which are located in the local schools and at the AHM community center on Pendleton Drive in Hebron. There are many volunteer opportunities for teens, young adults, parents,



and seniors, including serving on community committees, or the AHM Board of Directors or volunteering as a mentor for a child.

What is the value of having an organization like AHM in my community? The purpose of a charity like AHM is to provide direct

community-based access to mental health services, prevention education programs, family support services, assistance to seniors with small household projects, and wellness programs that bring residents together while reducing isolation and loneliness.

How are these programs and services funded? Through inter-town cooperation, created in 1984, AHM operates as a public charity in partnership with the Towns of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, and more recently Columbia. In addition to municipal support, more than 50% of these services for Hebron residents come from grants, fundraisers, and private donations.

For more information please visit: www.ahmyouth.org or contact AHM's Executive Director Tressa Giordano at 860-228-9488. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

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Evidence-Based Programs (EBPs) offer proven ways provide programs that are based on research and provide documented benefits. They are based on rigorous study of the effects or outcomes of specific interventions or model programs. Evidence-Based Programs demonstrate reliable and consistently positive changes in important functional measures. In other words – Evidence-Based Programs work!

The Russell Mercier Senior Center is very pleased to be able to offer several Evidence-Based Programs. Some of them are:

We have been offering a long-standing evidence based fitness program called EnhanceFitness and starting in January will be offering a new fitness class that meets the highest level criteria for evidence-based programs! Stay Active & Independent for Life is a fun group strength, flexibility, balance and fitness program for people of all levels of fitness, promoting a physically active lifestyle and leading to becoming more active, energized, and empowered. This class, held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9AM to 10AM, will include dynamic cardiovascular exercises, strength training, balance exercises, and flexibility training. Periodic Fitness Checks will help you to substantiate improvements in mobility, upper and lower body strength, stamina and balance

Another evidence-based program is Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance. This program teaches participants movement regimens aimed at improving postural stability, and awareness and mindful control of body positioning in space. It also teaches specific range of motion exercises to increase muscle strength in the ankle and hip joints, and lower-extremity. The objective is to improve strength, balance, mobility and daily functioning, and prevent falls. This program involves twice a week classes (1 hour each) for 24 weeks.

A Matter of Balance is specifically designed to reduce falling and improve activity levels. The program includes 8 two-hour classes and teaches exercise to increase strength, coordination, and balance. In addition, the program includes group discussions, mutual problem solving, role-play activities, assertiveness training, and a few homework assignments. We have offered this program previously and will be offering it again after February in collaboration with Central CT State University. A Matter of Balance meets either once a week for 8 weeks or twice a week for 4 weeks

Live Well is offered in cooperation with the Chatham Health District and the North Central Area Agency on Aging. It is a 6 week workshop series that meets once a week with different Live Well workshops available – Live Well with Chronic Conditions, Live Well with Chronic Pain, and Live Well with Diabetes

Zero Isolation aims to prevent social isolation and loneliness and to improve overall health in older adults. Through learning various strategies, this program seeks to break the pattern of social isolation and to enhance skills that will take you beyond the length of the program. Small groups of individuals meet once a week for 1 ½ hour for 6 weeks

Central to the Aging Mastery Program (AMP) philosophy is the belief that modest lifestyle changes can produce big results. Mastery comes from turning these lifestyle changes into habits that lead to improved health, stronger economic security, enhanced well-being, and increases societal participation. Aging has changed dramatically in just one generation. This program, created by the National Council on Aging (NCOA), serves as a guide to building a playbook for aging well and making the most of the gift of longer life. AMP provides a comprehensive and fun approach to positive aging by focusing on key aspects of health, finances, relationships, personal growth, and community involvement. Results show that program participants have increased their physical activity levels, healthy eating habits, use advances planning, social connectedness, and participation in evidence-based self-management programs

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program

Once again this year, the Russell Mercier Senior Center will be taking applications for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program for persons age 60 and older and for disabled adults. 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, 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

Continued on next page »

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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 or 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 of 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 can be paid by the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program will be November 1, 2021. 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 for 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

Things to consider when visiting an elderly loved one this holiday season.

- ★ Is their home environment well-maintained?
- ★ Do you see any unopened mail or unpaid bills?
- ★ How is their balance and mobility?
- ★ Do you notice any weight loss?
- ★ Are they experiencing loneliness?
- ★ Are they taking their medications?

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hebron Public Schools continues to focus on the implementation of our District Advancement Plan with multiple new strategies underway in both schools. Hebron Public Schools advanced in the District Reference Group ranking for state reading, writing, and mathematics assessments. Reading and writing scores increased from 18th place in 2019 to 9th place in 2021. In Math, Hebron's ranking rose from 9th place in 2019 to 5th place in 2021. The hard work of our students, families, and staff, combined with our investment of resources and recent curriculum adjustments, are resulting in higher student academic performance.

This year, we launched a new tutoring program using American Recovery Act funding to add another layer of support for our students above and beyond our existing intervention program. Tutors have started working with kindergarten students in reading and phonics and will continue to support more students at GHS and HES across this school year. Hebron has always had a strong academic intervention program to provide students with additional math and reading support across the grades. We are excited about this new layer of support and the potential for continued growth in our academic intervention program.

This summer, our Health and Wellness Team worked to create a comprehensive scope and sequence for our Health and Wellness Curriculum as the perfect complement to our Social Emotional Learning Curriculum Choose Love. Our team is now implementing these lessons throughout the year, primarily using materials from The Great Body Shop. Topics this fall focused on safety and injury prevention, nutrition and physical activity. Visit our website to see a recent presentation on our Health and Wellness work.

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An adventure awaits!

Ready for a new outdoor adventure? The “Hibbert Property,” acquired through Hebron’s Open Space Land Acquisition Fund in 2018, just may be the place. This 82-acre forested property offers visitors many attractions in a tranquil setting along the five trails recently marked by Girl Scout Catherine Chester.

The primary access to this beautiful site is 310 Old Colchester Road, just north of the road’s intersection with the Air Line Trail. A chained gravel entryway leads the adventurer into the pristine forest along a blue-marked trail. After a bend, along your left side of the trail is the glistening Raymond Brook. Turning the next bend, this trail traverses northerly to the upland portion of the property, home to a diverse, beautiful forest. Alternatively, the visitor may elect to hike the southern portion of the white-blazed trail to a clearing and to Raymond Brook for a view of a reflective pool and est. 1700’s mill site. An incredibly large glacial erratic is settled just upstream of the pool, quite a sight!

Continuing along the lengthy blue-marked trail as it bends westerly, the adventurer encounters two more trails. First, a yellow-blazed trail traverses southerly through the heart of the forest, amongst serene sounds of birds, to a quick flowing portion of the brook where one can rest and just listen to the gentle babbling of this precious watercourse. A happy return trip to the blue-marked trail leads one to a shorter red-blazed looped trail, or the adventurer may continue onward! The blue trail bends southerly to a breathtaking overlook of our new favorite brook! Now, onward we go toward another portion of Raymond Brook. This time, one is greeted by majestic evergreens, a mix of towering white pines and impressive hemlocks adorning the stream’s banks. Across the watercourse, an impressive stonewall follows the stream bank to a peculiar left angle bend in the brook. A short distance upstream leads



the inquisitive hiker to a second former mill site. This historic feature is evidenced by the mill’s raceway that extends widely downstream parallel the brook. An enjoyable return trip along the blue-marked trail now awaits. Hope you enjoy the adventure!

Raymond Brook can also be visited directly from the northwesterly side of Air Line Trail (ALT) in between Old Colchester and Grayville Roads. A teal-colored blazed trail meanders amid inviting evergreens to a gorgeous section of the brook. From here, the aforementioned second mill location is visible. Take time to relax on a flat boulder along the stream...perhaps take a snack and observe our new treasure.

Please Note: Hebron’s Parks and Rec Park Policies apply, which basically follow State Park rules. It is advised to stay on the

marked trails. Easy to moderate hiking. Park safely on the grassy area along west side of Old Colchester Rd., near yellow “caution-pedestrian” sign, or at ALT designated parking.

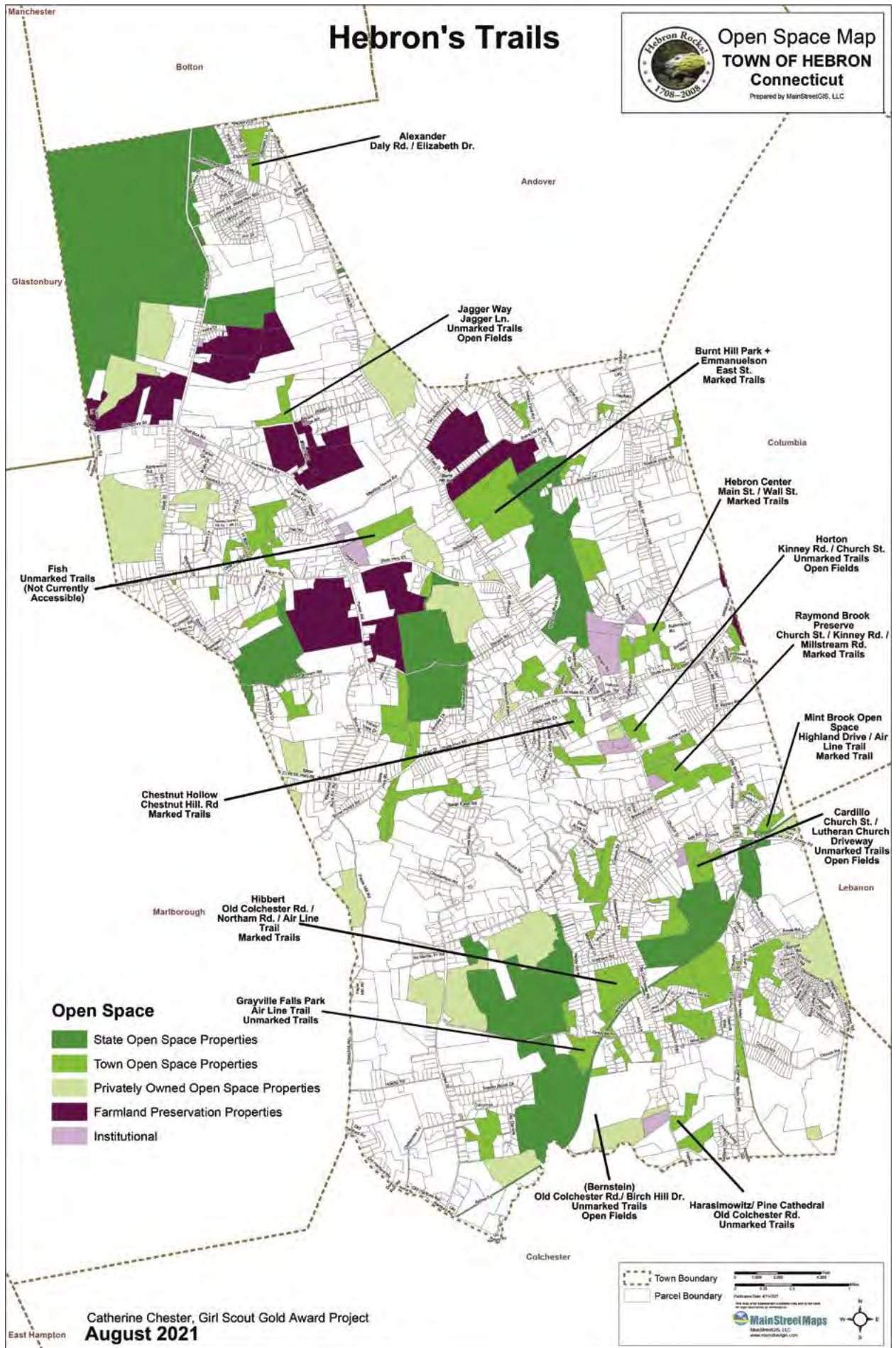
Frank Zitkus,
Hebron Open Space Land Acquisition Committee Secretary

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Hebron's "Open Space" = Historic Property

Hebron has lots of land identified as "Open Space". These expanses can be found throughout the town. Some areas, such as Gay City, are owned by the State, but many are owned by the Town and are there for all to enjoy. The town-owned Open Spaces are resource protected and for passive recreational use. That means they should remain just as they were when purchased, other than for future trail marking.

Luckily for all of us, some of these spaces were not developable; they were steep, rocky, perhaps a bit wet and not accessible by roads. They may have been old farms that were split by tracks when the Air Line RR went through. They may have been right next to a body of water where a dam and mill had been located. In whatever manner, the property had been well used and appreciated by our early settlers. When walking through these areas, one can relax, view the natural beauty all around, and imagine how life was lived "back when". Take a look at the attached Open Space Map and see what's available for your enjoyment.

In 1811, as can be found on a map, Hebron had many streams but very few roads. In its early days, Hebron made much use of its "brooks". Over 30 historic water-powered mill sites have been found on Fawn and Raymond Brooks, the Blackledge and Jeremy Rivers, the water that flowed from Amston Lake (originally "North Pond") and more. Take a walk in one of these public areas, and YOU, too, can discover an old mill site.

The Raymond Brook Preserve has a very interesting history. The area could be known as Settlers Park since Hebron's first settler, William Shipman, from Saybrook, built his cabin there in 1704. The Shipman family was a direct recipient of land from the Will of Attawanhood, Sachem of the Western Nehantics. The Raymond Brook Preserve's West, North and East boundaries follow, respectively, Church Street, Kinney Road and Millstream Road with a connection from Millstream across to Holy Family Church.

In 1790 John Gilbert, who had previously acquired the settler's property and more, sold his 144.5 acres to Erastus Perkins, who sold that same property in 1804 to Hebron's Zechariah Cone. For \$3,870, Cone then sold the 144.5 acres to Ira Bissell in 1839. The North part of the house, presently owned by the church, was already there when the Bissells acquired it. The Bissell family lived on, and improved the property until 1914 when they sold some acreage to the Hildings, and the remaining 50 acres were bought by the Hortons in 1920. Interestingly, the corner lot at Church Street and Kinney Road had a "dwelling house" when it was bought by John Gilbert prior to 1786. The well from that early house remains today and serves the later 1850's home on Kinney Road.

Frederic Phelps Bissell, who lived on the above property his entire life, kept journals from 1847-1905. From those journals, one can learn all about life in Hebron in the mid-19th century. F.P. Bissell comments on his daily and seasonal farm activities, his connection with St. Peter's Church as Warden and Caretaker, his shingle, sorghum and sawmills, participation in local politics and his time in Hartford as Hebron's representative, the daily weather, as well as illnesses, deaths and marriages of townspeople, and much more. A narrative written from the journals can be found on the Hebron Historical Society website (hebronthistoricalsociety.org) along with a larger map of Hebron's "Open Space", and also the town's Water-Powered Mills map.

Exploring Hebron's Open Space is a "Buy 1, Get 2 Free". You provide the energy for the walk, and are rewarded with views of Hebron's natural beauty as well as learning more about the Town's History.

VACANCIES

The Hebron Board of Selectmen is seeking residents to serve on various town agencies in the Town of Hebron.

There are currently vacancies for regular members on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Commission on Aging, Economic Development Commission, Housing Authority, Parks and Recreation Commission, Green Committee, Public Building Committee and the Commemoration Commission.

There are vacancies for alternate members on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Commission on Aging, Parks and Recreation Commission, Public Building Committee, Historic Properties Commission, Green Committee and the Economic Development Commission.

There is also a vacancy for a Hebron resident to serve on the Catchment Area Council 15 for Amplify - North Central Regional Mental Health Board and the Central Regional Tourism District.

Interested candidates should attend a meeting of the board or commission in which they may have an interest, and discuss with the Chairman the frequency of meetings and the time commitment involved.

All residents of Hebron who are registered to vote are eligible. Letters of interest or questions may be addressed to The Town Manager's Office, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron CT 06248 or call (860) 228-5971.



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Wetlands: A Backyard Perspective

It is said that neither wilderness nor innocence can be regained once lost. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has estimated that between 1,200 to 1,500 acres of wetlands are being destroyed annually in our state. Wetlands are vital because they serve many ecological roles in helping to maintain our life support system.

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourse regulations of the State of Connecticut (CGS Section 22a-36 through 22a-45) and the Town of Hebron establish the intent and the charge of the Town of Hebron Conservation Commission with the protection, preservation, maintenance and use of inland wetlands, watercourses, aquifers, and upland review areas.

The Town's Inland Wetlands Regulations can be reviewed on the Town Website at https://hebronct.com/uploads/2014/03/iwregs_10-13-05.pdf

Other roles served by the commission, such as open area indexing, natural resources inventories, greenway designations, land use suggestions, water supply management, and public information and outreach can be referenced under CGS 7-131a.

Functionally, wetlands are above-ground manifestations of

the water table. They protect and recharge our aquifers. We would note that most area residents are entirely reliant upon underground water for their drinking supplies. Other inherent values of wetlands and preserved, vegetated upland areas include pollution filtration; water quality, water quantity and watercourse maintenance; flood mitigation; erosion control; the provision of integral plant and wildlife habitat; carbon storage and atmospheric nitrogen and oxygen balance; rural aesthetics and recreational opportunities. The preservation of natural areas and their functioning ecosystems is central to addressing and solving both the current climate and biodiversity crises.

Many wetlands and watercourses have been destroyed by reason of the deposition, filling or removal of material, the diversion or obstruction of water flow, or the illegal erection of structures. State and local law require that a permit be issued prior to commencing any activity within a certain distance of a wetland. In most towns that distance is generally within one hundred feet, although it may be greater in some cases.

Common property owner activities that come under the purview of the foregoing laws include:

Continued on next page »

CONSERVATION & INLAND WETLANDS (CONTINUED)

» *Continued from previous page*

- filling swampy areas
- extending lawn or parking area
- clearcutting significant vegetation within the aforesaid 100-foot buffer
- brush and fill disposal into a wetland
- septic discharge
- the discharge of “greywater” (water used for cleaning purposes)
- disposal of hazardous material such as oil, gasoline, paint, or cleaning solvents
- swimming pool discharge
- driveway expansion or home improvement construction

Some of these activities are clearly prohibited while others are allowable if certain preconstruction safeguards are employed. Therefore, a Town permit is required.

If you have any questions about the presence or the particulars of wetlands on your property and how it may relate to your planned project, please contact Hebron’s Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent Jim Cordier at 860-228-5971 or at jcordier@hebronct.com. You can also determine the general location of wetlands on your property by accessing the GIS Mapping system on the Town of Hebron website at <https://hebronct.com>. Click on “GIS Maps” in the upper right margin on the second screen. On the third screen, click on “google” under the upper right box and then type in your address. In the left margin of that screen, click on “layers” and then click the box marked “Town Wetlands” and the wetlands will appear in light brown on your property map. There is also a distance-measuring “ruler” icon that you can use to get an estimation of footages from the wetland or watercourse.

We have chosen to reside in Hebron because of its natural beauty and its small-town rural community character. How we treat our land and our resources affects the well-being of ourselves and our neighbors. Natural resources preservation,



conservation and a strong stewardship ethic should, as stated in the Connecticut Inland Wetlands statute, “forever guarantee to the people of the state, the safety of such natural resources for their benefit and enjoyment and for the benefit and enjoyment of generations yet unborn.”

Jim Cordier
For the Hebron Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission

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