

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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August 8, 2025

‘Now I Hunt with a Camera’

By Toriana Williams

White walls were covered in photographs that exhibited brilliant colors and curious creatures at the Andover Community and Senior Center on Friday, Aug. 1, for an opening reception of a month-long art show.

Andover photographer Shane Jones shared a display of some of his favorite pictures, which will be on display at the center all month.

Jones spoke of wildlife and nature photography being his passion, as folks walked around, gazing at photographs of owls, frogs, squirrels and more.

“I used to be an avid hunter,” said Jones, 68. “I don’t like killing animals anymore so ... now I hunt with a camera.”

Originally from Manchester, Jones moved to Andover 25 years ago, and adores the countryside. Naturally introduced to photography, Jones spoke of his previous experience behind the camera. He recently retired from being a substitute teacher for the Coventry school system, where he also spent 20 years photographing the youth sports teams and events. However, his true passion lies in wildlife and nature photography.

“They don’t talk back,” he laughed, referencing the key difference between humans and animals.

Being a self-proclaimed nature freak, Jones loves to share his snapshots of the natural world with others, taking part in showcases from time to time and giving others a window into the wild.

“Otherwise, they just sit on my walls. You’ve only got so much room, right?” he smiled.

Out of the several photographs on display, there were some that specifically caught the eye. One such image was of a heron standing poised, its long neck curved in an S-shape, per-



Andover artist Shane Jones points to his favorite photograph at the Andover Community and Senior Center on Friday, Aug. 1.

haps looking off at the beautiful scenery around it or its lunch. A variety of colors popped from the image, the orange of the heron’s beak helped draw attention to orange plant life in the blurred background. It gave the impression of a painting at first.

“This heron just happened along,” said Jones. He shared he had been hidden in camouflage gear near a pond in Manchester, waiting – as he

often does – for the perfect moment.

“I surprised him, he surprised me. That was a good day,” Jones smiled while recollecting.

Using a telephoto lens, Jones can hide in the foliage from quite a distance in order to sneak shots at more timid or skittish critters. His favorite photograph displayed a gray tree frog sitting upon a branch, staring toward the camera and its peculiar webbed feet wrapping around the

wood. The softened blue background enhanced the amphibian’s complex pattern, and the ridges of its skin could convince the viewer it may be diamond encrusted as the bokeh around the subject allowed the frog to almost shine.

Titled “Hang ‘N There,” Jones shared the photo with staff from Hartford Hospital after experiencing a heart attack a few weeks ago.

“They took real good care of me. It was kind of a ‘thank you’ to them,” he expressed.

Being cooped up in the cardiac unit was an understandably dramatic shift from Jones’ usual routine, which is spending an abundant amount of time outdoors. Jones draws a lot of inspiration from the wildlife around him.

“I just like being outdoors, and my motto is ‘Take the picture.’ I’ll take a picture of anything and everything,” he stated. The proof was on the walls around him, from snowy landscapes to an autumnal road to a little owl peering out from a hole in a tree. A large selection of Jones’ artwork has been donated to help decorate the center, a testament to a kind spirit.

Attendee Joe King, 72, who helped set up the event, was intrigued by a photograph of a cute but fierce fisher cat, strikingly colorful birds and Jones’ personal favorite photo – the tree frog.

“I really like it,” King said.

The opportunity to share his passion is never far from Jones’ mind. As guests pointed and smiled, it was clear that his motto, “Take the picture,” is more than a catchphrase. It is a reminder to pause, observe and appreciate the natural splendor the world has to offer – one photo at a time.

Strengthening Bond Between Police, Community

By Margaret O’Callaghan

Throughout the country, the first Tuesday of August holds a special celebration for first responders – National Night Out. On Aug. 5, East Hampton held its very first National Night Out.

The national campaign dates back more than 40 years, and is now celebrated in towns in 23 states across the country. The event is, according to its official website, “designed to enhance the relationship between the neighborhood and law enforcement.”

Typically, only the police force is involved with bringing the community together for a night of fun and bonding, but in East Hampton, members of the local fire department and ambulance association were also invited to join in.

Police Chief Dennis Woessner organized the night, with help of donations made by the public. Though the goal of ‘National Night Out’ is to create a stronger bond among first responders and the citizens they serve, Woessner em-

phasized that, in East Hampton, the police force already has a strong relationship with residents.

“The town is a huge support for the police department,” he said.

Woessner said one of the main goals of organizing the night was to create a great deal of fun for all in attendance. To that end, there was a bounce house, ice cream, and even a mini goat petting zoo.

Also, all throughout the event were first responders with their gear and cars. K-9 star Heros, featured in last week’s edition, graced the children with his presence alongside his handler, Steve Wawruck. Police jet skis (especially fitting for the setting on Lake Pocotopaug) and ambulances were out for children to explore – of course with the supervision of professionals. Next to the ice cream cooler was a table full of East Hampton Police merchandise, handed out alongside the treats by staff.

Woessner said he doesn’t want to solicit donations from people for the event.

“It’s not the intention,” he said. “The intention is for people to come out, have a good time, and eat a little ice cream with some free giveaways!”

However, Woessner did express gratitude for those who have given written-out checks to the department for them to put in their donation account in order to show their appreciation for the sacrifices made.

When asked about the importance of growing a bond between the people and their law enforcement, Woessner explained that he thinks of it as a bank. Simply put, there will “always be bad things” but when you give back to the community, good will always overshadow the inevitable shortcomings.

There’s always a chance to be “rejuvenating

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Spanish Summer Storytimes: Led by Doris A. Maldonado Mendez, an Andover resident, parent and certified foreign language teacher. Monday, Aug. 11, at 1 p.m., will feature *Caperucita Roja y la Verdadera Historia de los Tres*

Check out the library's posts on the Town of Andover website, the library's Facebook page and Instagram for updates.

Also, tag sale spaces are available outside for \$20 each; you must provide your own table. Call the church at 860-742-7696 and leave a message with your contact information for more information.

Monetary contributions will also be welcome. Make checks payable to Andover Food Pantry.

Cost for the breakfast is \$8 for seniors and kids age 6-12, and \$10 for adults.

Admission is \$12 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required. Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for more information.

Call for reservations (860) 228-0250

September 6 - Jeff Wieselberg

**Visit our website to view our
Weekend Dinner Specials!**

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Setback, Cribbage & Snacks: Wednesday, Aug. 27, 1 p.m. All are invited to this afternoon of cards, conversation, and sweet treats. Play classic games like Setback and Cribbage in a relaxed, friendly setting. Enjoy coffee, tea, and a variety of desserts while spending time with neighbors and friends. All experience levels are welcome. Free and open to all.

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



Happy Birthday, Lois!.... Town and state officials gathered at the community center last week to celebrate Hop River Homes resident Lois Popoff's 100th birthday. George Knox gave Lois a ride to the celebration in his 1925 car – a hitting tribute to both Popoff's birth year as well as her timeless spirit.

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Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary!

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Well here’s a depressing observation.
On Aug. 1 last week, WFSB-TV Channel 3 posted on its Facebook page a graphic showing that, since the summer solstice on June 20, we’ve lost 50 minutes of daylight. (And that was a week ago; there’s even more daylight loss now.) It’ll only get worse from here; by the time of the winter solstice on Dec. 21, we’ll have lost an additional FIVE HOURS of daylight.
And look, I get it. It’s been a hot summer. I can’t blame anyone for looking forward to the cooler temperatures associated with fall. I just wish we could get them while still keeping the daylight. Driving home in the dark after work is just.....depressing.

In much happier news, Gov. Ned Lamont has proclaimed August as No-Kill Shelter Month in Connecticut.

According to Best Friends Animal Society, this effort underlines the statewide commitment to ending the unnecessary killing of dogs and cats throughout the state’s shelters.
Best Friends is a national animal welfare organization working to end the killing of dogs and cats in America’s shelters and make the entire country no-kill. No-kill, according to the organization, is defined by a 90% save rate for animals entering a shelter.
“We commend Governor Lamont for leading this essential effort to save the lives of dogs and cats in Connecticut,” said Julie Castle, CEO, Best Friends Animal Society. “With the support and collective action of the Governor and communities across the state, Connecticut is poised to become the next no-kill state in the eastern U.S., joining Delaware, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.”
It’s important to note, though, that just because Connecticut isn’t no-kill yet, it’s pretty close to that benchmark. In Connecticut, last year 83 of the state’s 94 animal shelters maintained or achieved no-kill status, Best Friends

said. Data shows the state’s remaining 11 shelters need to save about 200 more pets combined to achieve this milestone, the organization added.
“With less than 200 pets needing to be saved for Connecticut to become no-kill, we’re calling on Connecticut residents to choose to adopt pets from shelters and rescue groups instead of purchasing from breeders or stores,” said Castle.
To learn more about Best Friends or how to help take Connecticut no-kill, visit best-friends.org.

Are you a senior citizen with a love for golf? You’re in luck. Seniors in all of the *Rivereast* towns are invited to join the Belltown Fall Senior Mixed Golf League. The league starts Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 9:30 a.m., at Portland West Golf Course.

All skill levels are welcome to join. Contact Jack Anderson for more info, at 860-882-3752 or jackande52@aol.com.

Do you ever watch *America’s Got Talent* and say to yourself, “I’d like to do something like that, but closer to home”? Well, you’re also in luck.

The sixth annual “Berlin’s Got Talent” competition will return next month to the annual Berlin Fair.

Performers of all ages and backgrounds are invited to take part in this competition. Whether you’re a vocalist, dancer, magician, comedian, or instrumentalist — this is your chance to shine in front of a live audience and a panel of judges. (Though don’t worry, Simon Cowell won’t be among them.) Up for grabs? Bragging rights, the title of Berlin’s Got Talent Champion, and a share of the \$2,000 prize pool.

Audition dates are Wednesday, Sept. 3, and Friday, Sept. 5, from 5-8 p.m. each day, on the

Editor’s Desk continued on page 7

Bulletin Board

I was reading an article about a murder in a once prominent daily newspaper last week when I came across this: “the quotidian nature of the hammer” made it the likely murder weapon.
Quotidian nature?
What the hell.
I don’t think it’s conceited of me to say that I’m rarely forced to resort to a dictionary when reading the newspaper. This isn’t because I’m particularly intelligent. It’s because of the nature of newspaper journalism.
When I attended the premier journalism school in the country (though you can’t see me right now, know that I am puffing out my chest and sticking my haughty nose up in the air), we were told that it was our job to communicate clearly with the reader. In other words, keep it simple. Leave the intellectual stuff to the education majors who have elected to devote their lives to trying to persuade middle schoolers that examining sentence structure in *Moby Dick* is more fun than stealing cars.
This is why anyone at the 6th grade reading level should be able to negotiate their daily newspaper without the aid of a dictionary. This is also why the word “quotidian” sent me into a bit of a tailspin.
To be fair to the author of the article (somebody named “Staff”) the word “quotidian” appeared in a direct quote from the judge’s decision in the murder case. Still, the writer(s) could have spared me the need to look the word up if they’d just paraphrased that part of the direct quote, translating it into intelligible English instead of electing to bring everything to a screeching halt with smoking tires and sparks and everything.
If I’m getting into the professional weeds here, I apologize, but I’m still in a bit of a funk. I mean, the state of journalism in this country is in enough trouble without throwing around words I never heard of before.
My first reaction to this journalistic outrage was to call out to the crossword puzzle wizard I’ve been sleeping with for more years than she probably cares to remember and would probably deny if you asked her. “Hey,” I asked, “what does ‘quotidian’ mean?”
“Quo what?” she said.
“Quotidian,” I said. “I’m not sure I’m even pronouncing it right. What does it mean?”
“I have no idea,” she said. “What’s the context?”
“Apparently it’s some kind of hammer,” I said.
“I don’t know anything about power tools,” she replied, retiring from the field.
So I looked it up.
“Quo-tid-i-an: of or occurring every day; daily. As in ‘the car sped noisily off through quotidian traffic.’”
Seriously. “The car sped noisily off through quotidian traffic”? Who talks like that?
Snobs, that’s who. People who think it’s more important to appear smarter than everybody else than it is to actually communicate, or who want you to believe they’re actually worth whatever ridiculous amount of money it is that they’re being paid to just sit around and be useless.
So naturally, for the rest of the day, I wandered around the house saying stuff like, “We’re having quotidian hot dogs for lunch again?” and “It’s just another quotidian sunny day out there,” and “I guess that’s a shining example of my quotidian modesty” until my exasperated wife finally got into the quotidian car and drove off to some quotidian shoe store, leaving me to confront my quotidian peevishness by myself.
I certainly hope this won’t become a quotidian occurrence

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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



Fabulous Donation... Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Auxiliary 5095 would like to thank the 118 golfers who participated in the 45th Kissinger Klassic Golf Tournament, and the Kissinger family for their generous donation of \$2,150 toward our annual Wreath Across America program. From left are Treasurer Judy Barnes, President Kelly Ezold, Elisha Kissinger Milton, Senior Vice Mary Sims, and Chaplain Linda Wallace. To learn more about Wreaths Across America, visit www.wreathsforsamerica.org.

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Corrections

In last week’s *Rivereast*, an article ran stating that Robert Fraulino Sr. is running for the position of Marlborough first selectman. This is incorrect; Marlborough no longer has a position of first selectman. Fraulino is running for the Marlborough Board of Selectmen.
That same article indicated Fraulino had retired from the Navy in 2022, after nearly 20 years of service. This is also incorrect; Fraulino retired after nearly 30 years of service.
The *Rivereast* regrets the errors.

Democrats and the BOE

To the Editor:
Well, it’s election time...again. And our East Hampton Democratic Town Committee has proudly announced in the recent *Rivereast* that “education is central to the Democratic campaign platform, as leaders seek to continue to nurture a strong school system that supports the needs of students, teachers and families.” School board chair Nancy Kohler is quoted saying she is “deeply proud of the efforts of everyone on the BOE has made to prioritize the needs of the district.”
By the above statements, it would appear the

selfish BOE school funding takes priority and the rest of the town can do without. The heck with fixing roads, funding our under-staffed police department, getting potable water, cleaning up the Brownfield sites, reining in the uncontrolled developers, keeping the lake clean, don’t worry about efforts to update the Plan of Conservation and Development that would help the entire town, not just the school system.
The first referendum on the education budget failed miserably, and the second only passed by 47 votes. The DTC and the BOE apparently have not listened to the voters of EH who are fed up with increasing taxes that invariably go mostly to the greedy BOE. An estimated 64% of the residents of EH do not have children in the school system, so the tax burden will continue to fall on these residents. Ms. Kohler and the rest of the BOE claim to “prioritize the needs of the district,” but I get the distinct impression their definition of district means the 36% of residents with school-age children. Why can’t the town place a per-student surcharge to fund a higher proportion of the BOE needs and take some of the burden off the rest of us?
The DTC seems pretty confident to win even more seats on the BOE saying they are “well-positioned to seize the majority,” and are pushing to get more Democrats on the Board of Finance (thanks to the BOF for saying no to the BOE demands for a 7.3% increase in the 2026 budget). Between the Democratic Town Council and the

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potential for a Democratic majority on the BOE and the BOF, the residents of EH can expect to pay even more taxes that will end up in the BOE coffers. To all of you that said no in the last referendum, say no again to the Democratic candidates.

Vote Republican....they seem to be listening to us.

Regards,
Bob Yenknerr – East Hampton

A Wonderful Birthday Party

To the Town of Andover and the Andover Senior Center:

Thank you for the wonderful 100th birthday party for Lois Popoff! Our birthday girl was surprised and honored at the turnout.

We were touched by the friends, both old and new, who took the time to celebrate Lois on her special day.

Special thanks to Planning Committee members Georgette Conrad, Mary Duval, George & Judy Knox, Carol Lee, Perry Lindley, Cathy Palazzi, and Susan Schmidt; Servers Carol Kuckucka, Alicia Lee, and Carol Lee, and to Tanya Palazzi Hughes for the delicious cupcakes and beautiful cake to take home.

We also appreciated the dignitaries that were invited to attend, and the special citation given to Lois from the state of Connecticut.

Lois and her husband, Robert, chose Andover as their home in the early 1950s. Her three children, Lois, Linda, and Bob, were all raised in Andover, as were two of her grandchildren, Shari and Cayla. We always knew Andover was a special place, but it was incredible to see the outpouring of love for Lois – the true definition of community.

With gratitude,
Lois Popoff’s Family
Daughters Lois Popoff Bartman and Linda Popoff McMullen, Son Bob Popoff, Granddaughters Shari Williams andCayla Popoff, Great-Granddaughter Lily Noonan, Son-In-Law and wife Kent and Katie Williams

Racism and Politics

To the Editor:

Last week an Andover writer conjured up the Civil War, attempting to position today’s Democratic Party as having been part and parcel of the slaveholding Southern Confederacy that was then a solid Democratic majority. The writer missed the memo when President Lyndon Baines Johnson, a Democrat, signed into law the 1964 Civil Rights Act and replied, “We have lost the South for a generation.”

LBJ was born a racist Southern Democrat that freely used the ‘n’ word. But in time came Martin Luther King Jr. and television cameras that began to produce voluminous visual evidence that Black Americans were being terrorized, brutalized and subjugated by white Americans, especially Southern Democrats. The contorted faces of hate, and wanton cruelty of the whites brutalizing these Blacks, peacefully marching, was shown worldwide. LBJ began forming a new mindset. He began to transition, comprehending that his party and his race were guilty of clear racism and unjustified horror. He signed the Civil Rights Act in 1964. And with his upbringing, well knew that racist Democrats would soon abandon the party.

South Carolina’s racist Senator Strom Thurmon was one of the first to make the change, switching to Republican that very year. Republicans widely began implementing the “Southern Strategy,” appealing to Southern white voters upset with civil rights, using racist tropes. They created a “Solid South” that would allow Republicans to win presidential elections.

Other than these widely known and agreed upon historical terms, both existing before ‘woke’ became MAGA’s filter for things historical, there are plenty of other lesser ‘bread crumbs’ to follow. What party did David Duke, Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, belong to originally, and what party did he join and successfully win campaigns with? What party did segregationist Governor George Wallace belong to, and in later life what party did he support for presidential candidates?

Google “Southern Strategy” and “Solid South.” Watch a few hours of those black and white television clips to see what LBJ saw, what Blacks were suffering. Tell us what party today presents Nazi insignias and Confederate flags at their marches, rallies, blogs – and yes, insurrections. What party is busy renaming military forts back to Confederate names. It takes a lot of “eyes wide shut” to abuse today’s Democrats for being the party of insurrection and racism.

Edmund Smith – Andover

Celebrating Movement at Every Age

To the Editor:

At the Portland Waverly Senior Center, we believe that healthy aging is about staying active, engaged, and connected not just to others, but to our own bodies. That’s why we’re so pleased to introduce Chair Yoga as the newest addition to our growing list of wellness offerings.

Chair yoga is a gentle and accessible way to improve flexibility, strength, and balance. It allows older adults regardless of mobility or experience to enjoy the benefits of movement, breathing, and mindfulness in a safe and supportive setting. Studies have shown it can help reduce stress, relieve joint pain, and even boost mood and overall well-being.

More than just a class, it’s a chance to connect, laugh, and move together. We are excited to offer this as part of our commitment to helping every older adult in our community age with confidence, dignity, and joy.

Warmly,
Sarah Elliott-Caratasios
Director, Portland Waverly Senior Center
Portland Municipal Agent

Preserve Hebron’s Economic Future

To the Editor:

Creating The Cesar Peters Park as an outdoor classroom and history museum will not only preserve Hebron’s history, agriculture and environment, it will also offer a sustainable economic future. In 2024, the State of Connecticut announced the creation of the Connecticut Office of Outdoor Industry and Experience, noting, “Connecticut’s \$5.5B outdoor recreation economy is the second largest in New England and grew by 9.2% in 2023, outpacing the national average of 9%...” That is a \$5.5 Billion economic impact every year, working in conjunction with Connecticut’s expansive tourism industry, which generates \$15.5 Billion every year. Hebron is uniquely positioned to engage in this remarkable economic engine.

As I have described over the last few weeks, the town-owned land at 17 Kinney Road features a wide variety of distinctive historic features that reflect the combination of significant agricultural and environmental characteristics. Having these elements combined in one location within walking distance of Hebron Center has the potential to change Hebron’s economic future. As noted by the historian and scholar Andrew Pighills of the Stone Wall Trust, “Accessibility is important. A stroll in a natural preserve within 5 to 10 minutes is an encouragement for people to get out there. If the (stone wall) laneways become more accessible people become more interested. They are fascinating.” The town of Hebron can use the important Indigenous history, the unique stone wall laneways, the breathtaking ancient white oak trees and the beautiful hedgerow farm fields as teaching tools and a draw for tourists alike.

Out of the 88 acres of town owned land at 17 Kinney Rd., 35 acres are already preserved as Open Space. This leaves 53 acres for the creation of The Cesar Peters Preserve. Rest assured, this will not have a negative impact on the development of Hebron’s commercial district. There are two major parcels of commercial land along Route 66 that have been for sale for many years. There are 30+ acres of Village Green District property along John E. Horton Blvd., as well as 22+ acres in the “General Business District” and 6+ acres described as “Village Zone” across from the post office. This commercial land in the heart of Hebron’s commercial district exceeds the land available at 17 Kinney Rd., which clearly offers a much greater potential of economic growth and a bright new future.

For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook and #Save17.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

DPWAC Update

To the Editor:

Good news: The survey crew from Benesch is on site! I spoke with the lead survey specialist Paul Charette and he explained that they are verifying the site boundaries as well as the topography, and the locations of all of the existing structures and the capped landfill area. Paul was doing some preliminary marker identification points last week when we spoke. This week they had several more members of their survey crew on hand to complete the process. After the mapping is done, the information will be forwarded to Silver, Petrucelli and Associates for them to move forward.

The latest information we received is that the site should be fully evaluated, for all potential contaminants and obstacles, by the end of August. I will certainly keep you informed with the latest information as soon as I have it! As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at thabicht@hebronct.com check the town of Hebron’s web site for new FAQs at www.HebronCT.com or just come to a DPWAC meeting. The next is scheduled for 8/18/25 at the Hebron town hall at 6:30 p.m.

Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,
Todd Habicht, Vice Chairman
Hebron DPWAC

Response to Letter

To the Editor:

I write in response to a letter in last week’s edition by a gentleman in Andover.

First, there are no Medicaid payments to “illegal aliens” to eliminate. Undocumented individuals cannot enroll in Medicaid, except for emergency medical care, limited to life-threatening conditions, childbirth, and similarly urgent situations.

At least 8.6 million people will lose their insurance thanks to the budget bill that was just passed. This will disproportionately hurt workers and people with disabilities. It cuts Medicaid by over \$1 trillion, and SNAP by \$189 billion, for tax cuts that will only benefit high income households, and hugely benefit those in the top 0.1%.

As for tax cuts, the material effects on the American people since the Reagan years have been disastrous. The share of total wealth held by the wealthiest one percent of Americans has increased from 22.8% in 1989 to 30.8% in 2024. Meanwhile, since the 1970s, real wages have stagnated while productivity has continued unabated. Tax policy is only a part of the factors involved, but a significant one.

The figure of “20 million unvetted foreign people” is ridiculous, as the total number of undocumented immigrants remained between 10.5 to 11.5 million between 2018 and 2022, while current estimates range from 10.5 to 18.6 million – at most an increase of 8 million. There were 10.9 million border encounters during the Biden administration, which include individuals who were turned away or expelled, and include repeat offenders. Either way, the 20 million figure has no basis in reality.

Lastly, the inheritors of the liberal antebellum Republican Party are modern Democrats, not today’s Republicans. There is a clear throughline from the conservative, pro-slavery, separatist pre-Civil War Democratic Party to today’s MAGA. The once-liberal Republican Party lost most of its base after the 1964 Civil Rights Act, while former white southern Democrats flocked to it, becoming its new base. It is this base at whom Nixon’s infamous “Southern Strategy” was aimed and for whom Reagan cynically racialized the term “welfare.” A party is defined by its base and by its platform, not by its name.

Justin Bransfield – Marlborough

Colchester’s ‘Watchdogs’ Are Just Biting People

To the Editor:

Some people in Colchester keep demanding transparency, but let’s be honest. They’ve already gotten it, again and again.

There have been hundreds of FOIA requests. Some reasonable. Many ridiculous. Camera footage to watch people at work. Thousands of text messages from the superintendent. Now they want to see our ballots sealed in locked bags?

This is no longer about oversight. It’s about finding new ways to harass.

These requests aren’t harmless. From text messages to emails with student records, every document has to be reviewed to protect private information. Colchester staff spend hours redacting sensitive details to satisfy people on a fishing expedition.

One of these so-called watchdogs even leaked private emails to stir up drama. Another called on a private number to scream at me about a public comment. That’s not transparency. That’s intimidation.

Protecting election materials from bad-faith actors is not a cover-up. It’s the right thing to do for Colchester and for everyone who wants fair, safe elections.

People who genuinely care about transparency ask honest questions and accept real answers. They don’t weaponize public records or public forums to attack and smear.

We should all want transparency. But in Colchester, we also need to call it out when it turns into bullying.

John Farrell – Colchester

History of Fire Station Replacement Plan

To the Editor:

In October 2013, East Hampton received a report from JLN Associates, LLC, offering a comprehensive review of Fire Services operations and facilities. The report identified deficiencies in the town’s current fire stations.

A year later, in October 2014, the Town Facilities Evaluation Committee recommended replacement or renovation of several municipal buildings. Town Hall and the Police Department were listed as top priorities, with Fire Stations #2 and #1 ranked third and fifth, respectively.

On Nov. 22, 2022, the Town Council voted to form an exploratory committee to identify potential sites for a new fire station. Around that time, a property at 11 Skinner Street became available. However, an agreement to purchase it could not be reached.

On Aug. 8, 2023, the Council directed the Town Manager to engage the new owner of 11 Skinner St. to explore acquisition options. By Sept. 12, the Council further directed collaboration between the Town Manager, the Fire Department, and the Town Attorney to evaluate the feasibility of purchasing the site.

On Nov. 14, 2023, the new Town Council voted to continue pursuing the 11 Skinner property. On May 14, 2024, the council approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement outlining the potential acquisition of 11 Skinner St. and the proposed sale of Fire Stations #1 and #2 to the property’s owner. This agreement included conditions requiring Town Meeting approval.

Evaluations followed, including environmental reviews and independent property appraisals. On Nov. 12, 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding was approved, specifying sale prices and timelines, contingent on Town Meeting approval. An architectural firm began concept design and building evaluation to de-

See Letters, page 6



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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

termine the cost of converting 11 Skinner into a modern fire station that meets current and future needs.

By April 8, 2025, the Council reviewed a proposed resolution to call a Town Meeting before April 30 to approve the purchase and construction project, with a total estimated cost of \$18 million. Council members were concerned about the price and instead requested a phased approach and potential cost adjustments if the fire stations were not included in the sale.

On April 22, the Council approved an extension agreement, providing more time for planning. By May 22, the architect had received updated input from the Fire Department and was reworking the concept plan and cost estimate accordingly.

The Fire Commission will continue to post more information weekly to keep the community informed.

Darin Hurne, Chair
East Hampton Fire Commission

Financial Stability Delivered
Dear Colchester Residents:

Financial management for the town budget is probably the greatest responsibility for any first selectman.

Two years ago, Colchester was in a dangerous financial situation. The town had failed to deliver on-time audits and had attracted the attention of regulators in Hartford at the state Office of Policy and Management. This also left the town unable to bond – stuck making interest-only payments on over \$10 million in new debt.

Fixing this was my number one priority when I ran. Upon taking office, I also discovered the town budget that was facing a massive shortfall – police pensions, employee benefit contributions, vendor contracts, and liability insurance had all been underfunded. So, I implemented a budget freeze, we restructured, recruited new talent, and two years later we have successfully recovered.

Along the way, we secured an AA+ bond rating, got over \$1 million back when bonding, resolved longstanding issues to finally get state reimbursement from the 2017 WJMS construction, and brought in over \$5 million in grants to expand walkable streets, support economic development, promote public safety, and maintain school buildings.

I have also driven real cost-saving measures to protect taxpayers. We've cut waste between

departments by promoting shared services and consolidating some operations and we have strategically used new state funding to offset operating costs in Public Works, Youth Services, Senior Services. We have also stopped kicking the can on maintenance of buildings and resumed our road paving program - because deferred maintenance costs us all more.

Adjusted for inflation, the town budget is actually less than it was pre-COVID in 2018 – yet all of our departments are getting more done today than they did 5 years ago. And Colchester's mill rate remains lower than our neighboring commercial towns.

In two years, we have delivered financial stability and progress together. I hope that I will earn your support to continue serving as first selectman so we build on Colchester's success together.

Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler
Colchester First Selectman

Cane not Mutiny
To the Editor:

To the Good People of Hebron and Andover, a personal outcry. A walking cane was inadvertently left at one of two fuel pumps in Andover Mobil station and/or Hebron's only fuel station. The missing walking cane is an old aluminum with a metal cuff with holes with no strap. It is a keepsake as it was my dad's from over 50 years ago, If located, would it be left at the Legion blue door? Appreciated.

On an important note, speaking 'bout the American Legion – it is time for the annual Hebron Veterans Scholarship Golf Tournament. The Scholarship Golf Tournament Will be held Saturday, Sept. 13, at 8 a.m. For signup, donate, contribute a raffle/door prize, or additional information, contact Ron Parkyn at park1969@comcast.net, or by phone, call Joe Fetta at 203-848-5913.

Note: Donations are accepted all year and the Legion building is available for rental. It is located between the Douglas Library and the Flour Girl Bakery.

Be sure to continue reading the *Bulletin*, as the Legion's Chicken Bar-B-Que is in the wing (wind) very soon.

Respectfully submitted,
R A Bob Mangillo
Hebron American Legion, Post 95 Adjutant
P.S.: To all: Be well, stay safe, For God and Country (USA)

Happy Birthday, Lois
To the Editor:

Last Wednesday the Andover seniors held a 100th birthday party for Lois Popoff. She is an active senior in town who has a smile for all and makes sure everyone is having a good time. Lois has been blessed with an extraordinary family and they and several of the family came from California and Florida to honor her. Many officials were present: State Sen. MD Rahman and state Rep. Steve Weir who jointly presented a plaque to Lois honoring her 100th Birthday.

Congressman Joe Courtney was traveling in Europe on business and his communication director, Matt Reich, was there to present a special award from Joe. Selectmen Anne Crème, Carol Lee and Scott Person represented Andover's Board of Selectmen, and Town Administrator Eric Anderson attended. Lois was delighted with seeing so many. I had heard between 70-90, though I never heard the exact count. Andover Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau, Fire Chief Ron Mike, Deputy Chief Mindy Hegner, Municipal Agent Roberta Dougherty, both our registrars of voters, Wally Barton and Linda Derick, were there to wish Lois well.

Special thanks to the Planning Committee: Carol Lee and Sue Schmidt (YAH President, retired) for organizing invitations, food, and decorations, Treasurer: Georgette Conrad, Set Up: Mary Duval, Perry Lindley, Judy Knox YAH (retired President), Cathy and Mike Palazzi, Haley Proto, temporary Director, George Knox, driving Lois to the event in his 1925 car! Our servers: Alicia Lee, Carol Lee, Carol Kukucka,

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover S

★ *Strengthening Bond, cont. from page 1*

your relationships with the community," he said, before adding, "but again – we have a good relationship with the town."

Before the event died down and children in attendance left to go home, the park was packed to the brim with guests exploring all corners of the National Night Out set up in Sears Park. It was certainly a major community event – one that Woessner intends to make an annual event.

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Baker: Tanya Palazzi-Hughes for 100 cupcakes and a gorgeous cake for Lois’ table. I’m very proud of all the hard work everyone did and to those who came to honor an incredible person like Lois Popoff.

**Thank you,
Cathy Palazzi – Andover**

Strong Mix of Candidates

To the Editor:

The Marlborough Democratic Town Committee recently announced the candidates for the 2025 municipal elections. The slate includes a strong mix of incumbents and new candidates who offer fresh energy and broad expertise. The slate is headlined by Anthony Bratz and Susan McFarland for Board of Selectmen. These candidates have an average age of 47 and bring a fresh perspective, representing a new generation of leadership in town. Anthony is an engineering supervisor with experience overseeing multimillion-dollar contracts and Susan is a former business executive with over 30 years of experience in health, safety, and environmental affairs.

The local Marlborough Board of Education slate includes incumbent candidates Raymond “Chip” Morris and Linda Earley (who serve as chair and secretary of the Board of Education currently, respectively), and new candidate William “Bill” Guzman, who has a long and distinguished history as a Superintendent of Schools. This team blends leadership experience and fresh insight to guide our schools forward.

The slate also includes candidates for RHAM Board of Education, Planning and Zoning Commissions, Board of Assessment Appeals, and Zoning Board of Appeals. The full slate can be found on the Marlborough Democrats’ website: www.MarlboroughCTDemocrats.com. The average age of all candidates on the slate is 52, representing a multigenerational cross-section

of Marlborough, from young adults to families to seniors. It is united by a shared vision for Marlborough: a thriving and inclusive community, responsive and accountable leadership, strong schools, economic fairness for working families, the ability to age in place with dignity, and sustainable planning for the future.

This slate reflects the values and priorities of Marlborough’s residents and is looking forward to earning Marlborough’s vote in November. Come meet candidates and the hardworking volunteers of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee at Marlborough Day 2025, Aug. 24, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Blish Park.

**Sincerely,
Jack Fidler – Marlborough**

Running as Petitioned Candidates

To the Editor:

We are two Colchester Board of Education (BOE) incumbents, and we are running again in November. While we previously ran on the Republican slate, we will now be on Row C as petitioning candidates. As current board chair and secretary, we see our positions as non-partisan. We believe the BOE is about community and the next generation of learners, not party politics. Colchester students should have the tools they need for a successful life provided by the community in a most economical manner.

For the past four years we have worked across the aisle to get things done, never allowing party politics to get in the way of accomplishments. We will be on Row C for the BOE, and look forward to continuing as advocates for the Colchester community another four years.

**Donna Antonacci and Margo Gignac
Colchester**

***Note:** Antonacci and Gignac are members of the Colchester Board of Education, but said they are writing as individuals.*

Enough is Enough

To the Editor:

The Board of Selectmen is set to approve yet another increase to Colchester’s water and sewer rates — even after First Selectman Bernie Dennler and his administration promised that recent infrastructure upgrades wouldn’t impact residents.

During the budget referendum and in public meetings, Dennler and his allies repeatedly claimed the costly water system upgrades would come with no financial burden on local families. They insisted water bills would not go up. Now we know that wasn’t true.

Starting this year, Colchester’s base water and sewer service charge is increasing by a staggering 56%, from \$44.64 to \$69.54 per quarter — before you even use any water. On top of that, usage rates are going up another 6%, compounding the impact on already-strained household budgets.

This is not the first time we’ve been misled — but it should be the last.

At a time when families are already struggling with higher grocery prices, energy bills, and property taxes, the Dennler administration is quietly pushing through another rate hike. They told us these upgrades wouldn’t cost residents more. Now, they expect us to pay the price anyway.

This pattern has to stop.

Colchester deserves leaders who are transparent, fiscally responsible, and honest with the people they serve. What we’re getting instead is broken promises, backdoor rate increases, and vague reassurances that fall apart under scrutiny.

We need to speak up — now.

Tell the Board of Selectmen: No more hidden costs. No more broken promises. No more Dennler spending hikes.

Enough is enough. It’s time for change in Colchester.

Cyndee Larabee – Colchester

Frustration Builds in Colchester

To the Editor:

As a supporter of the athletic field complex project, I believe Colchester deserves high-quality facilities that will serve our youth and community for decades. But support for the project shouldn’t mean rubber-stamping a flawed process.

Town officials are preparing to ask residents to spend millions on a major capital investment — yet serious concerns remain about the selected vendor. This is not the lowest bidder, and their qualifications raise legitimate questions. Key work is being subcontracted — not to an experienced firm with a strong track record, but to a limited liability company owned by one of the vendor’s own employees. That’s not just a red flag — it’s a red lighthouse. It’s certainly not transparent, and it’s far from best practice.

These fields are meant to last. Bacon Academy is a complex site with serious water issues. If the engineering and design aren’t done right from the beginning, taxpayers could face costly repairs, safety risks, or even total failure. And here’s the kicker: the most important — and most expensive — part of the project, the field foundation, comes with just a one-year warranty, yet we’ll be paying for it with a 25-year bond.

We have one chance to get this right. That means slowing down, asking tough questions, and working together to demand the best solution — not just the fastest one.

The Board of Finance meeting on Aug. 13 may be our last opportunity to do that. I urge residents to show up, speak up, and make sure this project is done right. This is our town, our money — and our responsibility. Let’s build something our children will be proud to play on — for decades to come.

Michael Dubreuil – Colchester

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Eat, Drink, Gather!

Editor’s Desk continued on page 4

Blacktop Stage at the Berlin Fairgrounds, 430 Beckley Rd., Berlin.

Semi-finals will be Friday, Sept. 13, at 12:30 p.m., and finals will be Saturday, Sept. 14, at noon.

“Berlin’s Got Talent’ is one of the most electric events at the Fair each year,” said Lenny

Tubbs of the Berlin Lions Club. “It’s a celebration of the incredible creativity and spirit that lives right here in our community.”

To enter, simply register online at ctberlin-fair.com.

See you next week.

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Christa Goodwin-Babka, director of HIHS, shared that meat has been especially hard to come by through Foodshare recently, making these deliveries vital to families relying on the pantry. We're proud to help meet this critical need in our community and thankful to everyone who made this outreach possible.

Mondays: Enhance Fitness via Zoom, 9-10 a.m.; Massage, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Yoga, 10:15-11:15 a.m. **Tuesdays:** Knitting/Crocheting Group, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Hand and Foot Castanets (cards), 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Card-Making, 1-2:15 p.m. **Wednesdays:** Enhance Fitness via Zoom, 9-10 a.m.; Yoga, 10:15-11:15 a.m. **Thursdays:** Massage, 12:30-6:30 p.m.; Sunshine Singers, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Tai Chi, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Chatham Health blood pressure screening, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month; Chatham Health Education Series, 12:15 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month; Mahjong, 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; **Fridays:** Enhance Fitness via Zoom, 9-10 a.m.

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KinderRHAMa Preschool Summer Camp

Some remaining spaces in AHM Youth and Family Services’ KinderRHAMa Preschool Summer Camp.

The program is held at the AHM KinderRHAMa classroom and play yard at RHAM High School, and is for children ages 3-5. Two early childhood teachers staff the program along with volunteers. The hours are 9 a.m.-noon Monday through Friday. Children must turn 3 by Sept. 1 and campers must be fully toilet-trained to participate.

Children work on social skills, gross and fine motor and school readiness skills in a

relaxed atmosphere while enjoying summer recreational activities inside and outside.

The cost is \$120/per week. Financial aid may be available for families who qualify. There are openings the week of Aug. 11-15: Variety Week.

To register, please go to: <https://ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Home>. For more information, visit ahmyouth.org/programs-services/family-resource-center.

If you have any questions, please contact Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org, or call the Family Resource Center at 860-228-0871.

Immediate Openings Available for Clinical Appointments

AHM Youth and Family Services offers mental health clinical services to youth and their families. These services are designed to support families in transition, crisis, or normal developmental processes. At this time, there are immediate openings.

Individual and/or family therapy is available

Girls Basketball Scrimmage Camp

Andover, Hebron and Marlborough girls in grades 7-10 are invited to the Girls Basketball Scrimmage Camp Aug. 18-21, from 9:30 a.m.-noon each day, at the RHAM Middle School gym.

Students will join Coach Lee McPeck for a basketball learning opportunity through scrimmage and in-game instruction. All skill levels are welcome.

There will be daily contests and prizes, and a chance to win a free basketball.

Cost is \$120/participant. All participants should bring a basketball and water bottle to camp each day.

For more information or to register, visit hebronct.recdesk.com/community.

Fun Summer Programs at AHM

AHM Youth and Family Services’ Health Matters has openings some fun summer programming. Diamond Painting, Quilling, Pottery Painting, Sundaes and Crafts all have openings.

Visit ahmyouth.org to register.

Family Resource Center Open House

AHM Youth and Family Services’ Family Resource Center (FRC) will host an Open House on Tuesday, Aug. 19, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Families can visit the FRC, explore the room, and learn about the programs and services offered.

The FRC is located at Gilead Hill School. Enter through the door to the left of the building closest to the Board of Education entrance; please bring ID for entrance.

Free, Reduced-Price Lunch Policy

Region 8 Schools have announced its policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free or reduced-price meals served under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), or free milk served under the Special Milk Program (SMP).

Local school officials have adopted the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) for family size and income criteria for determining eligibility. The following income guidelines will be used in Connecticut from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for determining participant’s eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals and free milk in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

Income Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs: July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026

Free Meals

Household Size	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	20,345	1,696	848	783	392
2	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529
3	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667
4	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804
5	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942
6	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079
7	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217
8	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354
Each additional family member	7,150	596	298	275	138

Reduced-price Meals

Household Size	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
Each additional family member	10,175	848	424	392	196

Students residing in households with income at or below the levels shown in the chart above are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. To apply for free or reduced-price school meals households should fill out an application and return it to the school. Applications can be found at rhs.rhamschools.org/home; copies are also available at the principal’s office at each school, or by contacting Jennifer Choma, Determining Official, at (860)228-9474 ext. 3401 or jen.choma@rhamschools.org. Only one application is required per household and an application cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions.

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Parks and Rec. Summer Programs

Marlborough Parks & Recreation has announced the following summer programs. For full program descriptions, or to register, visit www.marlbroughct.net. For more information, call 860-295-6203.

Youth Programs: Netto Summer Day Camp: For grades K-7. Weekly through Aug. 15 at Blish Park. Campers will enjoy camp games, arts & crafts, swimming, sports, field trips and special events. All campers are supervised by counselors and lifeguards trained in CPR/First Aid. Fee per week is \$185/resident, \$195/non-resident.

Swim Lessons: Two-week sessions offered at Blish Park. All lesson levels are offered. Fee per two-week lesson: \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident.

Horseback Riding Lessons: Ages 5 and up, English or Western style instruction. The lessons are private and are an hour in length. The lessons days and times are flexible. Fee is four lessons for \$200/residents, \$205/non-residents.

One-Day Dance Adventures: Friday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m. at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Theme: Mermaid Adventure.

Circuit Makers 101: Aug. 11-15, 9 a.m.-noon, at Marlborough Elementary School, for

ages 6-8. Students will gain experience with creating their own electronics; designing custom light-up greeting cards, electric games, mazes, and even musical instruments. Each class day includes a take-home project. Registration fee is \$210/resident, \$215/non-resident.

App Inventors: Aug. 11-15, 1-4 p.m., at MES, for ages 9-13. In this no-experience required course, use MIT App Inventor software to make apps for Android phones and tablets. Registration fee is \$210.00 resident/\$215.00 non-resident.

Adult Programs: Beginner & Intermediate Tai Chi: Thursdays, 1-2 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

Zumba: Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee: \$50/residents, \$55/non-residents, or a \$12 drop-in fee.

Pickleball: Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., and Tuesday/Thursday, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park Tennis Courts. Open to all levels of play. Registration is free for this program.

Special Events: Family Movie Night – Inside Out 2: Saturday, Aug. 16, on the Town Green. Bring the family, a blanket and snacks. Movie will begin at 8 p.m. or dusk.

Richmond Memorial Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, has announced the following items of interest. **Registration required for all programs unless noted.** For more information, full program descriptions or to register, call 860-295-6210 or visit richmondlibrary.info.

Not Your Grandma’s Board Games: Monday, Aug. 18, 6-8 p.m. Adults and teens can join gaming librarians to learn more about the new generation of board and card games. There will be several examples of games to share. After an easy group game, participants will divide into groups to learn and play games of their choice. Games will include: Anomia, Blank Slate, Deer in the Headlights, King of Tokyo, Munchkin, Ticket to Ride: Nordic, and more.

Black Bears in Connecticut: Friday, Aug. 8, 2 p.m. Master Wildlife Conservationist Paul Colburn will talk about the history of black bears in Connecticut, provide an overview of black bear habitat, diet, behavior and reproduction, and share current research efforts. Participants will also learn practical recommendations for optimum coexistence with the state’s black bear population. Black bear artifacts will be shared with the audience. This program will be held in the upstairs meeting room.

quarterly. Social activities are planned throughout the year to provide additional parish fellowship.

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held weekly for the Marlborough Food Bank. You may also bring non-perishable food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection continues the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Various collections supporting Caring Families in Willimantic, House of Bread, ImmaCare, South Street in Hartford, Journey Home, Marlborough Elementary School and Catholic Worker in Hartford are a few of the other organizations supported. The Giving Community Garden is well underway for this growing season with over 3,000 lbs. of fresh produce provided to the local food bank since the garden began. Garden volunteers are always welcome with fresh produce provided for the local food bank. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

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

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome.

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays at 9 a.m. **Weekly Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays, 3-3:30 p.m., or by appointment.

Summer Vacation Bible Camp: Aug. 11-15, 9 a.m.-noon, for kids entering grades K-6. The theme is Super Heroes of the Bible – participate in hero challenges and learn what makes you a super hero too. Registration on the church website or call the church for more details.

Faith Formation Programs: Registration for classes is open for the 2025-26 academic year by accessing the church website and click on the Faith Formation link in the upper menu. Cindy Bryan leads the active K, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 family-based program, Eileen Gilles leads our middle school program and Helena Thomas leads the 2nd grade sacramental program and our 9th and 10th grade Confirmation program. For additional information, call the church office.

Knights of Columbus Golf Classic: Thursday, Sept. 23, at Blackledge Golf Course. Come enjoy a day of golf, prizes, games, raffles, lunch and dinner while supporting the community service efforts of the church’s Knights of Columbus Council. For more information, email KofCdriveForTHEFish@outlook.com or call Jim Castellani at 860-295-9904.

Ministry, Social and Parish Community Events: An adult choir practices weekly (though is on break in the summer months); men’s and women’s prayer groups, Knights of Columbus, Christian Outreach and Prayer Shawl ministry meet monthly; and an active book club meets

New Service Aims to Fight Fraud

The Marlborough town clerk’s office has implemented Cott Systems’ PropertyCheck in an effort to combat property and mortgage fraud.

This 24/7 service allows residents to sign up on the Marlborough town clerk’s page at marlbroughct.net to receive notifications when official documents are recorded on their property. Residents activate alerts based on their name. There is no cost to participate.

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Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, is open for activities. For more information about any senior center program, call 860-295-6209 or email socialservices@marlboroughct.net. Follow the senior center on Facebook at Marlborough CT Senior Center.

Senior Center Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Swipe Key Tags: All members should swipe their key tag when attending a program. For a duplicate tag or to become a member, call the center.

Events: Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, Aug. 12, at the senior center. For more information or to make an appointment to donate, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or sign up online; go to redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code “Marlborough.”

Encore Club: There will be live music by Bill Naughton Aug. 13. Light refreshments at noon, music at 1 p.m. The event is free.

Colebrook Village at Hebron: The center has been invited for a special guided tour and luncheon at Colebrook Village on Wednesday, Aug. 20. Transportation provided. If you prefer to drive independently, please still RSVP to the senior center.

Friendship Tours Presentation: Aug. 27, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Come for a presentation on travel tips and help the senior center plan 2026 trips.

Chair Yoga: Cost is \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents. The class is 45 minutes. September session: Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30. Call to register.

Brain Health Lecture with Dr. Wendy Hurwitz: Sept. 12, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tips to optimize brain health. Part one of a two-part series. The event is fragrance-free.

Cancer Community Gathering: Sept. 17, 7-8:15 p.m. A self-led group of cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and loved ones get together to share openly about their experience with cancer. Sharing is done voluntarily and held in confidence. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lindsay Padula at hclindsay@gmail.com.

AARP Safe Driver Course: Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Lunch provided. Cost is \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-AARP members. Get a refresher on defensive driving techniques and traffic laws, and a potential insurance discount depending on your provider.

Walk to End Alzheimer's: Oct. 19 at Rent-schler field. Call to join the senior center team or donate.

Friendship Tours Trips: Nov. 15, Medieval Times in New Jersey – cost is \$159/person. Dec. 5, Newport Mansions – cost is \$150/person. Call for more information.

Regularly Scheduled Programs: Billiards: Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon.

Bingo: Mondays, 1-2 p.m. Each card costs \$1 and additional cards after are 50 cents.

Cards: Monday, 2-3:30 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-3:30 p.m.

Chair Massage: Free, 15-minute chair massage every Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Must RSVP.

Blood Pressure Checks (free) and Chatham Health Education Presentation: Second Monday of each month. BP checks from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., followed by a presentation from 12:15-12:45 p.m. 8/11 is part one of an informational series on dementia.

Coffee & Conversations: Meets the third

Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. Each session includes a discussion on a particular topic of interest, activity and coffee. Aug. 21 theme: Discussion on favorites – your favorite movie, car, etc.

Birthday Club: The fourth Tuesday of each month. August birthdays will be celebrated with cake on Aug. 26 from 1-2 p.m. Open to all friends and family. It does not have to be your birthday month to celebrate. However, if it is please RSVP.

Not Just Quilters: All skill levels welcome. Needleworkers and other handwork crafters also welcome. The group meets every Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Supplies not provided. Bring your own project or get in on the block of the month.

Parkinson's Exercise: These are specialized exercise classes for those living with Parkinson's disease. There is a fee for each class. Visit www.beatpdtoday.com/class-schedule or call 860-918-9594 to register and for more information.

Mahjong: Every Wednesday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Fire Station No. 2, 200 West Rd., and the second Friday of every month from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Marlborough Bakery, 8 Independence Drive. All skill levels are welcome. There is no fee to play, but players use 2025 Mahjong cards, which they purchase on their own.

Sweet Picks – Free Bakery Items: On Monday and Tuesday mornings, between 8:30 and 9 a.m., local grocery stores will donate bakery items (breads, desserts, etc.) Come take a look and take, in moderation, what you need. For senior center members only.

Tap: The center's tap dance group is open for new, experienced members. The group normally meets every Wednesday from 5-6:30 p.m. However, there will be no tap in August; the group will resume Sept. 3.

Social Services: Food Bank: Located at 3 Wilhenger Drive, and can be reached at 860-295-6008. There is an open house Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and 4-6 p.m. The food bank is in need of: canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, carrots), jam/jelly, fruit cocktail, and canned fruit. The food bank is open to qualified residents in need.

Meals on Wheels: Provides meals and daily visits. The program serves people 60 years of age and over, and their spouses or caregivers. A suggested donation of \$3 per meal is requested, but no one will be denied a meal if unable to donate. There is no income eligibility requirement. Menus can be modified to accommodate health concerns. You may apply directly with CRT by calling 860-560-5848, or call the senior center for a referral.

Senior Farmers Market Benefit Cards: This is a benefit card loaded with \$40 to use at any participating Farmers Market. Must be 60+ or a disabled individual residing in senior housing with congregate nutrition services and fall under these income limits: household of 1 – less than \$2,413/month, household of 2 – less than \$3,261. Call for more information.

Transportation: Transportation is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Rides must be reserved three business days in advance. Reservations are taken Monday-Thursday. Call 860-295-6209 for more information.

Watercolor Classes at Arts Center

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main Street will offer a Watercolor I Beginner Painting Class for adults on Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, from Sept. 2-Oct. 7.

Rebecca Moran, artist and professor of art at Eastern Connecticut State University, will teach the class. The class is for those who want to learn about watercolor for the first time or for the advanced beginner who would like a thorough introduction to the medium. The

Vacancies on Town Boards, Commissions

Marlborough is seeking residents to serve on various town agencies.

There are vacancies for full regular members for the Commission on Aging. There is also a vacancy on the Board of Education.

All residents of Marlborough who are registered to vote are eligible. Interested candidates should go to our town website and type in “Application for Board or Commissions” in the

4th Friday @ the Arts

[to over 6,000 people]

Admission to this program is free, subsidized by a Grant from the Marlborough Greater Together Community Fund of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. BYOW and nibbles to dine on. Other non-alcoholic beverages are available. There is on-site parking, and the Marlborough Arts Center is handicapped-accessible.

For more information, visit www.marlbrougharts.org, email info@marlbrougharts.org or call 860-467-6353.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship at Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., is held at 10 a.m. The service is also broadcast live every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver.

Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. Activity bags are available in the narthex for children to borrow during worship. After worship all are invited for snacks and refreshments in the Thienes Lounge. Sunday school will resume on Rally Day, Sept. 14.

Sunday, Aug. 10: The service will be led by Seaver. Her sermon title is “We All Have Faith” based on Luke 12:32-40 and Hebrews 11:1-3. As special music, a vocal duet will be performed by two Chancel Choir members.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is closed in August, and will reopen Sept. 12. The eBay store

Summer Concerts at Blish Park

Marlborough Parks and Recreation will hold Summer Concerts every Thursday in August at 6 p.m., at Blish Park. All are invited. Bring a lawn chair, have some dinner and enjoy a night of music at the lake.

All concerts are free of charge. For more information, call 860-295-6203. The upcoming schedule is:

Aug. 14, Joy Bloom (Children's Show); Aug. 21, The Rocking Heads; Aug. 28, Nightshift.

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Bacon Basketball Champ Shoots to Eastern

By Josh Howard

In the final month of her high school basketball career, Bacon Academy’s Katelyn Novak hit a significant milestone and added two more championships to her impressive athletic resume.

On Feb. 26, Novak and the Bobcats won the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championship and, ten days later, Novak eclipsed 1,000 career points while scoring a season-high 27 points during her final game ever at Bacon Academy as the team eliminated Wilcox Tech in the quarterfinals of the state tournament.

In her final game in a Bobcats’ uniform, Novak captained a team that defeated Windham to win the Class M state championship at Mohegan Sun Arena on March 15.

“Honestly it was so amazing,” Novak said of the whirlwind finish to her time on the high school hardwood. “I achieved every single goal I wanted to achieve and winning the state championship was the cherry on top. I always believed that our team could do it, but actually accomplishing that goal was unreal.”

Novak, who graduated Bacon Academy in June, will now live out her hoop dreams at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU).

In heading to Eastern, she is joining a Warriors college program that is entering a new era under first-year head coach Mandy King. King, who has previously led the basketball programs at both the Kean University and Washington & Lee University, replaces Denise Bierly, who retired after guiding the team to 553 wins and 15 postseason tournament appearances during her three-decade tenure.

Novak said the sustained success of the team at ECSU was one of the main factors in her decision to make Willimantic her new home away from home.

“I’m really happy to be going to such a good program. When I visited, I really liked the campus and everyone was welcoming,” noted No-

vak. “When I met the new coach, she was very welcoming too and has what I like in a coach.”

The Warriors, who play in the Little East Conference, are inheriting a player in Novak that is coming off consecutive All-ECC selections (2024 and 2025) and who was honored Class M All-State following a senior year in which she averaged 15 points, five rebounds, and three assists per game. She also starred on the defensive end of the court where she registered over three steals per game.

Bacon Academy head coach Kevin Fennell praised his prolific shooting guard for her work on and off the court, saying, “My coaching ability benefited from having worked with her over the last three years.”

“She held herself to a high standard, and also held her teammates to a level of expectation that was productive for the team,” added Fennell. “Our player-coach relationship included a lot of discussion about strategy and approaches to different games. I value her insight, and she was willing to accept coaching from the entire coaching staff.”

Along with her accomplishments in the arena, Novak was also a standout on the soccer fields. As a junior, she helped the Bobcats win a Class M state championship in 2023 and this past fall she was an All-ECC Honorable Mention selection as the Bobcats captured a conference title.

Bacon Academy girls soccer head coach Matt Rafala said that Novak became a team leader through her play and actions.

“Katelyn was a player who when I started wasn’t even sure she wanted to play soccer. Not only did she turn into a state title winning outside back who never left the field, but she had such fire and passion for everything she did,” added Rafala. “She always pushed the girls to compete harder during training as she hated to lose, but always had the ability to know when a lighter moment was needed.”

After being part of a soccer team that took



After helping Bacon Academy win a conference and state championship as a senior, Katelyn Novak will play basketball at Eastern Connecticut State University.

home both state and conference banners, Novak said that capping her athletic career in Colchester with conference and state titles on the court, “Completed my circle.”

Outside of sports, Novak was a high-honors student that took AP classes and was part of Bacon Academy’s “First Day” club that planned fun, interactive events on the opening day of the school year.

She will study health sciences at ECSU as she pens the next chapter of her basketball diaries.

“I’m really excited to see aspects of life and

create new memories with new teammates,” noted Novak, who is part of a recruiting class at Eastern that includes Aniya Jenkins and Maddie Topa, who she played with in the postseason all-star games. “I’m excited for those new connections.”

After helping Bacon Academy girls basketball secure both a conference and state title, Fennell noted that his departing all-state player is just getting started. “I believe she will continue to develop and improve as a college player, and I expect an outstanding career at ECSU,” Fennell said.

Special Olympics Golf Fundraiser

Colchester Special Olympics will hold its 16th annual Golf Fundraiser at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron on Friday, Aug. 8. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. Best Ball - Shotgun starts at 9 a.m.

All are invited to play, be a sponsor, or donate a raffle prize – 100% of contributions support our local team. A light breakfast, grab and go lunch, and a buffet dinner are included with golf registration. Raffle prizes will be drawn during dinner.

This fundraiser provides the opportunity for

Colchester Special Olympics to offer year-round sports training and competitions in bowling, swimming, track & field, and golf. Colchester Special Olympics is a registered non-profit organization, and any donation made would be tax-deductible.

The course does not allow walk-ons for tournaments, so please register by July 27. To register, or to be a sponsor, visit give.soct.org/colchester25.

Call or email any questions to Tim Wrinn at 860-608-0056 or teamcolchesterso@gmail.com.

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

Colchester Senior Center has announced a trip coming up. Trips are available to senior center members and their adult guests over the age of 18. Membership is free for Colchester residents aged 55 and older. There is an annual fee of \$15 for seniors residing outside of Colchester. For more information or to register, call 860-537-3911 or email csc@colchesterct.gov.

Boston Lights at Franklin Park Zoo in Boston: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 1 p.m. Take a leisurely walk on the one-mile loop (plenty of bench seating along the way) through the zoo as you feast your eyes on hundreds of glowing lanterns. Dive into an underwater paradise where sea turtles and a 115-foot octopus awaits your discovery. Prior to the lantern experience, enjoy an early dinner at Maggiano’s Little Italy, Boston. The cost is \$161 per person. Sign up before Aug. 16.

Newport Playhouse – A Twisted Christmas Carol: Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9:15 a.m. A *Twisted Christmas Carol* is a Texas spoof of Charles Dickens’ classic *A Christmas Carol*. It’s Christmas Eve in a small west Texas town, and cantankerous barbecue joint owner Buford Johnson is visited in a dream by ex-business partner Hank Walker, who takes Buford on a journey like Scrooge’s. The cost is \$160 per person and

includes a huge buffet dinner and cabaret style performances. Space is limited.

Boothbay Harbor, Maine: Monday, Oct. 6-Wednesday, Oct. 8. Visit the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, explore the village of Boothbay, have a lobster dinner, and enjoy a tour of the Harbor Lights and Sights Cruise. Free time for lunch and shopping in downtown Portland before returning home. This trip includes deluxe motorcoach, two nights’ hotel, two dinners, two breakfasts, sightseeing and admissions per itinerary, Friendship Tours escort, and driver & tour director gratuity. Cost is \$739 per person double/triple occupancy. Register before Aug. 18. Note: The Boothbay Harbor Inn is a two-story property with no elevator access.

Discover the Canadian Maritimes Coastal Wonders: May 23-June 2, 2026. This 11-day, 10-night trip includes airfare, hotels and meals (10 breakfasts, two lunches and four dinners). Cost is \$4,299 per person for double occupancy, if booked before Nov. 23. Collette will be at the Colchester Senior Center on Sept. 16 at 10:30 a.m. to do a trip presentation. For more information or to register for this trip, visit gateway.gocollette.com/link/1346736.



AARP Officers Installed... AARP Chapter 4019 of Colchester recently held an installation of officers, at Papa Z’s From left are: Frank Zvach (past president); Bill Otfinoski (secretary); Madlyn Starkey (treasurer); Norm Dupuis (director); Noreen Bibee (director); and Irene Watson (president). AARP meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Colchester Senior Center.

Art of Observation Nature Walk

The Colchester Land Trust (CLT) will hold The Art of Observation nature walk Sunday, Aug. 10, at 10 a.m. Meet at the field side of the Salmon River Picnic Area, on Gulf Road in East Hampton.

CLT board member Carli Herz will lead this slow walk along the river where you’ll learn about the river ecosystem and share your observations. End with an opportunity to gather at the Salmon River pavilion, learn more about nature observation and even do some nature journaling. All hiking levels welcome. Easy terrain, moderate elevation. As the trails are not groomed and have rocks and roots and wet areas, they are not stroller-friendly.

Please dress for the weather and wear ap-

propriate boots or sneakers. Bug and tick protection is strongly suggested. Leashed dogs are welcome, but waste bags are required.

Directions: From Route 16/Middletown Road in Colchester, follow to the Salmon River Forest parking lot, field side, on your left. Coming from East Hampton, the field will be on your right. Meet at the field side of the parking area.

The hike is free to CLT members and \$5 to non-member adults, though free to all children under 18. Advance registration strongly suggested. For more information, email Carli Herz at carlinherz@gmail.com.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane, has announced the following. **Unless noted, registration is required for all programs.** For full program descriptions and to register, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or for a full list of activities, visit www.colchesterct.gov.senior-center.

Monday, Aug. 11: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne, CoA Meeting; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 11 a.m.-noon, fitness orientation by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge, Set Back.

Tuesday, Aug. 12: 8:30 a.m., Golf League; 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., LTCOP Meeting; 10:30 a.m., Garden Club Crafting; 12:30 p.m., CHOICES Counseling, Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, Aug. 13: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit, Hand and Foot Game; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming; 2:30 p.m., CSC Staff Meeting.

Thursday, Aug. 14: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip; 11 a.m.; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes, Holiday Fair Planning; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Ahavath Achim Schedule

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

Services: Fridays at 6:30 p.m., live and on Zoom; Saturdays at 10 a.m., live and on Zoom.

Classes on Tuesdays: Folklore of the Talmud at 6 p.m., followed by Talmud at 6:30 p.m., and Kabbalah at 8 p.m.

For more information, or Zoom links, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Summer Soccer Camp for Youth

Colchester Soccer Club is offering a soccer camp Monday, Aug. 11 through Friday, Aug. 15, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Recreation Complex. Boys and girls ages 5-15 can participate.

Bacon Academy soccer players and coaches will be instructors during this annual fun-filled week. Go to www.colchestersoccer.org to register.

Contact president@colchestersoccer.org with questions.

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Colchester Awarded \$900K for Trail, Streetscape Improvements

By Toriana Williams

Several state and local officials met on Monday, July 28, to discuss a \$900,000 grant that was recently awarded to the town to improve the trailhead and streetscape network on Lebanon Avenue and Mill Street.

Funded by the Small Town Economic Assistance Program, the grant's purpose is to preserve the historical integrity and beauty of small towns in Connecticut, as stated on Connecticut's government website. This program is only open for districts which are ineligible to receive Urban Action Bonds, which are intended for "municipalities designated as economically distressed, public investment communities or urban centers."

The \$900,000 grant will be matched by \$220,000 from the town.

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, state Rep. Mark DeCaprio (D-33), First Selectman Bernie Dennler and other officials announced the details at the STEAP grant press conference, held at the Lebanon Avenue Air Line Trail spur.

"The timing for this project was right because Mill Street is due to be repaved," Dennler said this week. "Its sidewalks are in very poor condition and we just completed the Lebanon Avenue Phase 3 sidewalk extension. The STEAP project picks up where Phase 3 left off and incorporates the Air Line trailhead as a natural part of the downtown pedestrian network."

According to Dennler, numerous residents have expressed that the trailhead parking area feels "abandoned."

"Many people do not realize a trailhead even exists on Lebanon Avenue because the trail is set back about 1,000 feet from the road," he said.

A newly paved parking area will provide 17 parking spaces and the access drive will be extended, estimated to cost around \$160,000 according to the preliminary construction cost estimates.

Local business owners and residents have expressed dissatisfaction about Mill Street sidewalk conditions and the lack of pedestrian crossings designed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act at the Mill Street and Lebanon Avenue intersection, Dennler noted.

"This area is particularly bad in winter when water and ice pools along the sidewalk and road due to lack of proper drainage. These will all be addressed as part of the Mill Street portion of the project," said Dennler.

Of the overall cost of the project, \$176,000 is estimated to be used to pour a five foot-wide concrete sidewalk along Mill Street. In addition, \$4,150 is estimated in costs to install an ADA-compliant ramp and detectable warning strips.

Pollinator plant beds, designed to attract and support bees, butterflies and hummingbirds will be installed along the trail. Proposed medium sized flowering shrubs will be planted as well as street trees, which can create shade along the walkways, a welcome respite during warmer Connecticut days. These improvements are estimated to cost \$30,000.

Timber guide rails, privacy fences, trash cans, benches and interpretative signage is proposed to be implemented at the trailhead, which is estimated to cost \$106,100.

When Dennler ran in 2023 for first selectman, he campaigned for expanding walkability and outdoor recreation by pursuing state grants. "This project was a great contender for STEAP because it leverages the Air Line Trail as an economic asset to bring people downtown to support local businesses," he said.

Not only can the grant better the town infrastructure, it is hoped to have a positive community and economic impact.



Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, state Rep. Mark DeCaprio, First Selectman Bernie Dennler and others held a press conference on Monday, July 28, at the Lebanon Avenue Air Line Trail spur, to discuss a recently-award STEAP grant. Photo contributed by Monica Swyden.

"We want people to see the Lebanon Avenue spur as an attractive and welcoming place for people to start their walk, run, or ride – and we want to give trail users who start out-of-town a reason to come down the Colchester spur and then continue to local businesses," Dennler stated.

Within walking distance of the trailhead are a variety of local businesses, such as Colchester Donut & Café, ARK Distillery and Red Rose Café.

At the STEAP press conference, Alane Wilansky and Susan Caron, owners of the newly opened ARK Distillery, spoke on how the trailhead improvements will benefit local businesses and the positive impact they have already experienced from pedestrians utilizing the new

Lebanon Avenue sidewalks that were completed earlier this year with funding secured under the state LOTCIP program, wrote Dennler in his weekly "First Selectman's Report" newsletter.

"This area is alive with new businesses, the new Senior Center and will continue to grow with town and state support like this," Dennler said.

Other towns in New London County that have received state funds for improvements include North Stonington, Voluntown, Preston, Salem, Ledyard and Franklin.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026 but could extend into 2027 due to approval needed as they work within the state right of way on Route 16/Lebanon Avenue.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Sunday Services: All are welcome. Service is at 10:30 a.m., preceded by an Adult Sunday School Class at 9:30 a.m.; there is prayer before service at 10:15 a.m. Children's church is also available for ages 4-11. The main service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook; visit

www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook.

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

Small Groups: The church has various small groups for men and women that meet at different days/times/locations of the week. Call the church office for more information.

Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church is located at 60 Main St., and pastor is the Rev. Lauren Ostrout. The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and can be reached at 860-537-5189 or cfc06415@gmail.com.

Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m. The service is also broadcast via Facebook Live. Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship tab. Updated information is on the church's Facebook page.

Twelve-Step Meetings: AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday

at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.

Church Tag Sale: The church will hold its annual tag sale on Saturday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. All are invited to stop by and shop.

Boy Scout Troop 72: Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m. from September through June.

Class of '75 Reunion Coming

The Bacon Academy class of 1975 is planning its one and only 50th Anniversary Reunion. On Saturday, Sept. 6, from noon-5 p.m., the class is gathering at the Colchester Fish and Game Club for a relaxed, catered picnic by Oz 'N Bones.

The cost is \$50/person and can be paid by venmo@SABISHEL. Or, checks (made out to: 75 Reunion) can be sent to Scott Bishel, 155 Main St, Middletown CT 06457.

For more information, join the private class group on Facebook (search for "Bacon Academy-Class of 1975-Class Reunion"), or email baconclassof1975@gmail.com.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

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

Donuts with Don and Bible Study for Women will restart in September.

Ahavath Achim Chicken Barbecue

Congregation Ahavath Achim will hold a takeout-only chicken barbecue Sunday, Aug. 10, from 3:30-6 p.m.

Cost is \$20 for a full dinner, which includes half a kosher chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll and cookies.

Orders can be taken over the phone – including on the day of the event – at 860-537-2809.



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Grandma's Got a Gun

Colchester Community Theatre presents the world premiere of *Grandma's Got a Gun*, an original play by Joel Michael Kalinowski, on Saturday, Aug. 23, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 24, at 2 p.m., at Ahavath Achim Synagogue, 84 Lebanon Ave.

In the play, Evelyn Westbrook is sharp-witted, loving, and ...opportunistic. When her grandsons gather to celebrate her 80th birthday and one unexpectedly breaks his leg, she quickly devises a plan to help them rebuild their bond before it's too late. The forced close quarters (and a dash of her strategic meddling) lead to surprising revelations, new romantic possibilities, and healing from the shared grief they have all carried for too long.

Note: There will be a prop rifle used during the show and gun sound effects off stage. There

Chicken Barbecue Aug. 10

St. Joseph's Polish Society at 395 South Main St. is hosting a chicken barbecue Sunday, Aug. 10. Dinner will be served from 1-3 p.m., and Mark Reichard will play from 1-4 p.m.

Tickets are \$17 each and includes 1/2 a barbecue chicken, baked potato, corn on the cob and salad. Tickets must be purchased before Aug. 3 during regular club hours.

For more information, please call 860-537-2550.

is no violence and no one will get shot.

No food or beverages are allowed. The performance will last approximately one and a half hours, with a 15-minute intermission.

Tickets are \$15 each. Tickets are on sale at www.colchester.ludus.com. All ticket sales are final – no refunds or exchanges. Tickets will be available at the door on performance days subject to availability.

For additional information, please contact our Producer, Laura Brown at 860-305-8605 or email info@colchestercommunitytheatre.com.

Veterans Coffee House Meetup

All Colchester military veterans are invited to the monthly Coffee House gathering on Saturday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m.-noon. This meeting will be held at the Cragin Library, Norton Room A.

CBA Seeks Members

The Colchester Business Association is inviting local businesses to join and connect with fellow professionals, enjoy exclusive member benefits, and grow their business.

For more information, visit colchestercba.com or email info@colchesterctbusiness.com.

See More Colchester News, page 28

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Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

Taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Or simply going out to dinner? Bring the *Rivereast* with you! Whether it's across the globe or across town, we want to see where you've been! Snap a photo with the *Rivereast*, send it to bulletin@glcitizen.com along with your address and, if printed, you'll receive a gift card to Campagna Restaurant in Portland! Happy travels!



To the Bootmobile!... Daniel Kornegay from East Hampton, stops at L.L. Bean in Freeport every time he visits Maine. The store is known for its Maine traditional hunting boots, but probably not for its hunting boot vehicles. Kornegay had to stop and pose with a *Rivereast* in front of this fleet of Bean boot mobiles.



Christmas in July?... Emily and Brad Turker of Hebron recently enjoyed a 12-day expedition circumnavigating the Svalbard Archipelago in the Arctic circle. They reached a latitude of 81degree 38' North, 530 miles from the North Pole. And of course, they took the *Rivereast* just in case Santa missed the issue.



Lovely Lithuania... Joe and Pam Balskus of Portland, along with two of their sons and 12 other members of Balskus family (five siblings), traveled to their ancestral homeland of Lithuania to vacation in Vilnius and Palanga for 10 days in June. They brought along their *Rivereast News Bulletin*! During the trip, they enjoyed four days with their cousin Kristina and her family. Pictured are Joe and Pam at Vilnius Town Hall in the Old Town section of Vilnius.



Bernadette, Brewster, and the Bulletin... Bernadette Niland brought the *Rivereast* along at Sheep's pond in Brewster, Cape Cod.

Where in the World?

Going on a trip? Bring along the *Bulletin*!

Submit your travel photo holding the *Rivereast News Bulletin*, and you will win a \$25 Gift Card to Campagna Restaurant if your photo is one the four entries selected!

To enter, email your photo and address to: bulletin@glcitizen.com

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Town to Kick Off POCD Rewrite

East Hampton residents and businessowners are invited to participate in meetings to provide feedback that will help guide the town's future. The Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is a guidance document for town decision-making relating to land use and development, transportation, facilities and infrastructure, sustainability, and environmental preservation over the next decade. Revising the POCD for 2026 will require input from residents, property owners, and business owners. It is very early in the process, and there are several ways for the public

to get involved. Focused discussions, a community survey and other workshops are being planned, but the POCD Steering Committee is starting with informal neighborhood meetings to help make the coming workshops and events more focused on priorities you help identify. The next meeting will be Monday, Aug. 8, at 6 p.m., at Middle Haddam Public Library. Meetings typically last an hour and light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Juliet Hodge at 860-267-7450 or jhodge@easthamptonct.gov.

St. Patrick Church News & Notes

St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., is a member of St. John Paul II Parish, along with St. Bridget Church in Moodus. Masses are celebrated Saturdays at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick and 5:30 p.m. at St. Bridget, and on Sundays at 7 and 11:30 a.m. at St. Bridget and 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at St. Patrick. During the week, Masses are celebrated at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Patrick, and on Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Bridget.

Becoming Catholic: The St. John Paul II community invites you to learn more about the Catholic faith through the OCIA program, which focuses on the teachings of Jesus and the Church and prepares individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. For more information contact Dani Annino at 860-267-6644 or sjp2dre@gmail.com, or Deacon Dan D'Amelio at deacondandamelio@gmail.com.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

The Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Road, Middle Haddam has announced the following. To register or for more information on any program, email middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com, visit middlehaddamlibrary.com or call 860-267-9093. Mailing address: P.O. Box 123, Middle Haddam, CT 06456. **Library Hours:** Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 3-6 p.m. **Featured Artist for July:** Starting Aug. 11, the artwork of Megan Desrosiers, who recently published a book of poetry based on poisonous plants titled *Gardens of the Underworld*, will be exhibited at the library. The exhibit will run through mid-September. **Saturday CommuniTea:** Is on hiatus, but library staff says that if you stop by during regular library hours, they'll be glad to put the kettle on. **East Hampton Plan of Conservation and Development Focus Group Meeting:** Monday, Aug. 11, 5 p.m. Public participation is encouraged. A flyer describing the plan and the meeting process is available. **Open Mic Night:** Friday, Aug. 15, 6-8 p.m. Share your talent or come and listen. Call the library to register. **Double Play with Cathy Kreger and Jon Swift:** There will be a live performance featuring guitar and stand-up bass on Sunday, Aug. 17, at 2 p.m. Call the library if attending. **Book Talk by Local Author and Artist Megan Derosiers:** Friday, Aug. 22, 5 p.m. Derosiers

will discuss her newly-released collection of poems titled *Gardens of the Underworld*, featuring illustrated poems based on poisonous plants. Call the library to register for this program, at 860-267-9093. Her artwork will be featured in an exhibit at the library from Aug. 11-Sept. 26. **Volunteer in the Library Garden:** Do you have a student, relative or friend who needs community service hours? Come assist with weeding the Historic Middle Haddam Public Library's new pollinator garden. There is plenty of crab grass to go around, so call the library and indicate when you can come. Call 860-267-9093 and ask for Janet or Melissa. **Mahjong:** Mondays, 10:30 a.m. All levels of experience welcome. **Fiber Arts Group:** Thursdays from 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery, etc. All are welcome. **Yoga with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga:** Mondays and Saturdays at 9 a.m., and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost is a \$15 drop-in fee. Register at tensummitst@gmail.com. **Saturday Family Yoga with Kathleen:** Will continue on the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. Cost is \$12 to drop in for two people and \$3 for each additional person. Register by emailing zenlotus860@yahoo.com. **Chair Yoga with Kathleen:** This new 'gentle yoga' program is held Fridays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$15 per class. Registration in advance is requested, by emailing Zenlotus860@yahoo.com or calling 860-638-9097.

VFW Big Bucks Bingo

VFW Post 5095 will hold Big Bucks Bingo on Sunday, Aug. 24. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and play begins promptly at 1 p.m., at VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple St. For \$100, attendees go all-in with a full suite of bingo cards. There will be no limits, and "serious cash prizes," the VFW said. A light lunch will be available. Seating is limited. Tickets are available during the normal weekly bingo game at the Post on Thursday nights, during the intermission. Email post5095bingo@gmail.com with any questions.

Darts for Vets

The second annual Darts for Vets will be held Saturday, Aug. 9, at VFW Post 5059, 20 North Maple St. Doors open at 11 a.m., and darts fly at 1 p.m. Admission is \$30 (includes \$10 to the prize pot and a \$20 donation to the VFW Relief Fund). There will be a cash bar and the kitchen will be pen, and there will also be raffles. For more information, contact Jason Prince at 860-837-4550.

EHMS Soccer, Cross-Country Registration

Student/athletes who are interested in trying out for boys soccer, girls soccer, or boys/girls cross-country teams can register online at arbitersports.com. Athletes must have all the proper paperwork submitted online and have an updated physical in order to try out. Registration should be completed by Monday, Aug. 18. For further information, call EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

Resident to Lead Center at CCSU

Toni Ryan of East Hampton will lead the Center for Excellence in Social and Emotional Learning (CESEL) at Central Connecticut State University as director starting this fall. CESEL is an initiative housed within the School of Education and Professional Studies that focuses on the development of social and emotional well-being for children and adults through education, advocacy, and research. "We are excited that Dr. Ryan has assumed the role of director for the Center for Excellence in Social & Emotional Learning. She has an extensive background in research regarding awareness-based leadership and PreK-12 experience and is an ideal faculty member to lead the center," said Dr. John Barile, dean of the School of Education. An associate professor in Central's Department of Educational Leadership and Instructional Technology, Ryan brings decades of expertise in educational leadership, curriculum development, and social and emotional learning (SEL) to her new role. Prior to her appointment, she served as CESEL's inaugural research coordinator, where she led research efforts and established CESEL-funded grants to support innovative projects in SEL across school communities. In addition to her work with CESEL, Ryan serves as director of the Leadership Community of Practice for CCSU's Teacher Residency Program, forging new partnerships between higher education and PK - 12 districts, with a focus on supporting educators and future leaders through collaboration and shared learning. "I am deeply honored to take on this role," Ryan said. "Our vision is to position CESEL as a vital resource that supports educational research and harnesses collective wisdom about

Art Show Coming

The East Hampton Art Association is sponsoring a Peachy Keen Art Show on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the First Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St. There will be art to view and purchase, and also peach shortcake for sale for \$10 per serving - including a raffle ticket for a free artist's picture - and bottled water for \$1. The show is rain or shine. Admission is free.

Athletic Hall of Fame Accepting Nominations

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame Association (EHAHOFA) is accepting nominations through Sept. 7. If you know of a worthy candidate - which could be an athlete, coach, team or contributor -- email seidlt@sbcglobal.net for a nomination packet or go to the Hall of Fame website, ehahof.wixsite.com/bellringer for more information. The induction ceremony will be Friday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club. Also, the EHAHOFA's membership and committee are very small, and new members are sought, preferably those that have a knowledge of history of sports in East Hampton. Email seidlt@sbcglobal.net if interested.



Toni Ryan

SEL practices; to build resilient, adaptive learning communities capable of meaningful transformation; and to work collaboratively with our members, organizations, and PK - 12, higher education, and community partners to advance social and emotional learning in ways that truly serve our students and the broader educational community in Connecticut." Ryan is also an active scholar and practitioner and is currently conducting a multi-year, grant-funded research study exploring the development of pre-career and veteran women educational leaders as agents of systemic change. To learn more about the Center for Excellence in Social and Emotional Learning, visit ccsu.edu/education/social-and-emotional-learning.

Congregational Church News & Notes

East Hampton Congregational Church is located at 59 Main St. Sunday services are at 10 a.m. The Rev. Robin Blundon is the interim minister. Sunday School is provided for children and coffee hour is directly after service for fellowship. For more information about the church and its activities, visit cc-eh.org or call the church office at 860-267-4959. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a collection for household hazardous waste on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Deep River Town Garage, 206 Winthrop Rd. (Route 80), Deep River. This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

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Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., announces the following. **Registration is required for all programs** unless noted; register at myactivecenter.com or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center for more information and a list of regular weekly and monthly activities, including games, quilting, Bible study and more.

Lunches: Served Monday through Friday, to ages 60 and up. Call to reserve a meal or sign up online. Reservations for the next day’s meal are due by 10:30 a.m. the day before. Meals are free; a \$3 donation is requested. A Form 5 document must be completed before registering for lunch; stop by the senior center to complete and submit the form.

Monthly and Special Events: Wonderfully Wicked Women’s Group (WWW): First and third Mondays at 10 a.m. in the East Hampton Library Community Room. This is a low-key opportunity to meet others and share resources, with the theme of Sisterhood.

Mighty Magnificent Men’s Group: Meets every second and fourth Monday at 10:30 a.m. All men are invited for a social hour of facts, activities, and snacks.

Trailblazers Senior Walking Group: Monday, Aug. 11, 9 a.m. All pace levels welcome. Contact the senior center for information.

Blood Pressure Checks: Monday, Aug. 11, 12:30 p.m., administered by Chatham Health.

Micro Cooking Class: Thursday, Aug. 14, 1 p.m. Get ready for a No Cook, No Bake micro cooking class, featuring rice paper Wraps with dipping sauce. Led by center director Holly Marreo, the class is limited to six participants.

Bike Rides for Seniors: Friday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m., with Kim Clouser from AirLine Cycles, featuring a ride at Route 66, Willimantic – near Mackey’s. Bring your bike, a drink and sun block/bug spray. Call the center to register.

Save the Date for Annual Senior Picnic at Sears Park: The picnic will be held Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring live music, food trucks, games, information booths and more. The senior center will be closed that day.

Parks and Rec News & Notes

East Hampton Parks and Recreation has announced the following items of interest. For full program descriptions or more information, or to register, call 860-267-7300 or www.easthamptonrec.com.

Zumba Classes: At Sears Park Pavilion Mondays and Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m. No dance experience necessary. Cost is \$10 to drop in or \$50 for a 10-card class punch.

Dog Day in the Park: Sunday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Sears Park. Parks and Rec. is currently seeking vendors and dog-related businesses to join the fun. There is a \$25 vendor fee.

Fall Golf Clinics: At Portland West Golf Course, with golf pro Gerry D’Amora. Held at the on-site driving range, with the potential to get out on the course on the final day. No experience necessary. The **Ladies Fall Golf Clinic** will be Tuesdays, Sept. 2-30, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Fee is \$150/resident, \$160/non-resident. For **Junior Golf Clinics**, the fee is \$120/resident, \$130/non-resident, and the schedule is: Grades K-2, Wednesdays, Sept. 3-24, 4-5 p.m.; Grades 3-5, Wednesdays, Sept.

3-24, 5:15-6:15 p.m.; and Grades 6-8, Tuesdays, Sept. 2-23, 4-5 p.m.

Parfum Des Fleurs (The Perfume of Flowers): A Floral Diffuser Workshop: At Sears Park Pavilion Thursday, Sept. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Craft your own reed diffuser with floating flowers and a custom floral blend. All materials provided; no experience needed. Cost is \$35.

Introduction to Watercolor Painting: Mondays, Sept. 8-29, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Alison Walck will guide people into the world of watercolor artistry in this hands-on workshop for beginners. Fee for the four classes is \$50/resident, \$60/non-resident.

Aging Gracefully: Modern Makeup Workshop for Women 40+: At Blush Beauty Collective, 185 Marlborough St., on Monday, Oct. 27, at 6:30 p.m. Learn to use your current products in smarter, more flattering ways and discover age-appropriate techniques to enhance your natural beauty. Bring your own makeup bag. Cost is \$40, and includes a complimentary makeup brush set, eyeshadow palette and signature mocktail.

Free, Reduced-Price Lunch Policy

East Hampton Public Schools this week announced its policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free or reduced-price meals served under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP), or free milk served under the Special Milk Program (SMP).

Local school officials have adopted the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) for family size and income criteria for determining eligibility. The following income guidelines will be used in Connecticut from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, for determining participant’s eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals and free milk in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

Income Guidelines for Child Nutrition Programs: July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026
Free Meals

Household Size	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	20,345	1,696	848	783	392
2	27,495	2,292	1,146	1,058	529
3	34,645	2,888	1,444	1,333	667
4	41,795	3,483	1,742	1,608	804
5	48,945	4,079	2,040	1,883	942
6	56,095	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079
7	63,245	5,271	2,636	2,433	1,217
8	70,395	5,867	2,934	2,708	1,354
Each additional family member	7,150	596	298	275	138

Reduced-price Meals

Household Size	Annual gross income	Monthly gross income	Twice per month	Every two weeks gross income	Weekly gross income
1	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
Each additional family member	10,175	848	424	392	196

- The income calculations above are based on the following formulas:
- monthly income is calculated by dividing the annual income by 12;
 - twice monthly income is computed by dividing annual income by 24;
 - income received every two weeks is calculated by dividing annual income by 26; and
 - weekly income is computed by dividing annual income by 52.

All numbers are rounded upward to the next whole dollar. Students residing in households with income at or below the levels shown in the chart above are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals or free milk through SMP. Applications are available on the district website; please visit www.easthamptonps.org/page/nutritional-services-and-school-lunch. Paper copies are also available in each school’s main office. To apply for free or reduced-price school meals or free milk through SMP, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Only one application is required per household and an application for free or reduced-price school meals cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions.

The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purposes of determining eligibility and for administration and enforcement of the lunch, breakfast, and milk programs through SMP. Additionally, all school-aged students in income-eligible households can receive school meal benefits regardless of a student’s immigration status and the district/school does not release information for immigration-related purposes in the usual course of operating the CNPs. Note that the district may share your eligibility information with education, health, social service, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. This information may also be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

No application is required if the district directly certifies a student based on a household member receiving assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program. All students in these households are eligible for free school meals or free milk through SMP. The school district will notify households receiving assistance under the SNAP/TFA programs of their eligibility and all enrolled students residing in the household will be offered free school meals or free milk through SMP unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any students were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free meal or milk benefits extended to those students. Households receiving SNAP or TFA benefits for their children should only submit an application if they are not notified of their eligibility by Aug. 25.

Some students may be directly certified for free or reduced-price meals or milk through SMP based on HUS-

KY A (Medicaid). No application is required if the district directly certifies a student based on participation in HUSKY A (Medicaid). Students in these households are likely eligible for free or reduced-priced meal or milk benefits and will be notified of their eligibility and their children will be offered free or reduced-price school meals or milk through the SMP, unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any students were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free or reduced-price school meals or milk benefits extended to those students.

Additionally, some students may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk through SMP if the students were determined to be eligible for Summer Electronic Benefits (S-EBT). No application is required if the district determines that a student is eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk due to participation in S-EBT. Students in these households are likely eligible for free or reduced-priced meal benefits and will be notified of their eligibility and their children will be offered free or reduced-price school meals or free milk accordingly, unless the household notifies the determining official that it chooses to decline benefits. If any students were not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact the district or school to have free or reduced-price school meals or milk benefits extended to those students.

If a student is not directly certified, the household should complete and submit a free and reduced-price meal application form. The application for households receiving SNAP or TFA benefits require the SNAP or TFA client ID number and the households may be asked to provide proof of the SNAP or TFA client ID number. The signature of an adult household member is also required.

Students in households participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Please complete and submit a free and reduced-price meal application or contact the determining official for more information. For a tutorial on how to complete the application, visit vimeo.com/777367788.

When known to the district/school, households will be notified of any student’s eligibility for free school meals if the individual student is “Other Source Categorically Eligible” because the student is categorized as either: homeless; runaway as defined by law and determined by the district’s or school’s homeless liaison; or enrolled in an eligible Head Start or pre-kindergarten class as defined by law. Households with students who are categorically eligible under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs should complete and submit a free and reduced-price meal application and check-off the relevant box. Questions should be directed to the determining official. For any student not listed on the eligibility notice, the households should contact the school or determining official about any student also eligible under one of these programs or should submit an income application for the other students.

Households notified of their children’s eligibility must contact the determining official or school if it chooses to decline the free school meal benefits. If households/students are not notified by the district/school of their free meal benefits and they receive benefits under qualifying public assistance programs or under Other Source Categorically Eligible Programs, the parent/guardian should contact the determining official for their school.

Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are categorically eligible for free school meals. A foster parent does not have to complete a free/reduced-price school meal application if they can submit a copy of the legal document or legal court order showing that the student is a foster child. Additionally, a foster child may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced-price school meal benefits, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving free school meals. A foster child’s eligibility for free school meals does not automatically extend to all students in the household.

Free and reduced-price school meals application forms for all other households require a statement of total household income, household size, and names of all household members. The last four digits of the social security number of an adult household member must be included or a statement that the household member does not have one. The adult household member must also sign the application certifying that the information provided is correct.

Under the provisions of the policy for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price school meals, the Director of Nutrition Services, Kate Caselli, kcaselli@easthamptonct.org will review applications and determine students’ eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals. If a parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If they wish to make a formal appeal, a request either orally or in writing, may be made to Dr. Timothy Van Tasel, Superintendent, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, tvantasel@easthamptonct.org or 860.365.4000 for a hearing to appeal the decision.

The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure. Each school and the central office of the school district has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by an interested party.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes at any time, the household should contact the school to file a new free and reduced-price school meals application. Such changes may make the students of the household eligible for reduced-price school meals, free school meals, or free milk, if the household income falls at or below the levels shown in the Income Eligibility Guidelines.

Questions regarding the free and reduced-price school meals application process may be directed to the determining official at 860.316.7324. A video tutorial on how to complete a free and reduced-price school meals application can be viewed at vimeo.com/777367788.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audio-tape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Water System Flushing

The Town Center Water System and Royal Oaks Water System will be flushed from Monday, Aug. 11, through Friday, Aug. 15. The Town of East Hampton Water Department periodically flushes its water lines to ensure that the valves are in good working order and to maintain water quality. Flushing will be between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Please excuse any temporary drop in pressure and any possible discoloration of the water during flushing operations. Customers are advised to avoid using washing machines, dishwashers or other water using devices during flushing operations. Running the cold water will help to clear discolored water. If discolored water or low pressure persists into the next day, call the Town of East Hampton Water Department at 860-267-2536.

Haddam Neck Fair to Make Return

Celebrating 113 years of agricultural heritage, fun and community, the 2025 Haddam Neck Fair will run Labor Day weekend, from Friday, Aug. 29 through Monday, Sept. 1, at the fairgrounds, 26 Quarry Hill Rd., East Hampton. This year, Friday Night Truck Pulls are back by popular demand. Watch the power and grit of the Street Trucks competition light up the Large Ring as engines rev and crowds cheer. Live music will fill the air all weekend, with performances on the Main Stage from local and regional favorites. Whether you're into country, rock, or folk, the fair's 2025 entertainment lineup features something for every ear – including day and night performances. Fairgoers can also enjoy tractor pulls, animal barns, educational exhibits, games, rides, and the petting zoo. There will also be carnival rides and skill games, family-friendly demonstrations, food vendors, and more. And don't forget to stop by Chainsaw Carving and Fly Whiskers on the South Lawn, in addition to the entertainment at the Gazebo and Grange. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for senior/military, and a weekend pass is \$35. Kids under 12 are free, and parking is also free. Skip the line and buy your tickets online now at haddamneckfair.com.

Faith Formation Registration for 2025-26

The St. John Paul II Parish, the churches of St. Patrick in East Hampton and St. Bridget of Kildare in Moodus, has opened registration for classes beginning in September. All registrations must be received by Sept. 4. The registration form is available in the Faith Formation Building, in both churches and on the Faith Formation website, www.sspatrickenbridgethct.org; it can be downloaded, completed and returned to the Faith Formation Office either in person or through email or snail mail. Fees for the grade 1-7 program are \$50 per child with a \$100 family cap; fees for the eighth grade and confirmation preparation program are \$100, all-inclusive with a one-time registration. All classes will be held in the Faith Formation Building and Marian Hall at St. Bridget Church on Sunday mornings twice per month. Classes will take place 10-11:30 a.m., dismissing in time to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass. To participate, families need to be registered with the St. John Paul II Parish and children entering a sacrament preparation year must have completed the year of faith formation classes the prior year. Also, for any first-time registrations, a baptismal certificate is required. For more information, call the Faith Formation Office at 860-267-6644 or email Dani Annino at sjp2dre@gmail.com or Molly Bickford at sjp2ym@gmail.com.

‘Driving for Drafts’ to Return

The 11th annual “Driving for Drafts” Duke Memorial Charity Golf Tournament, to benefit the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue, will take place Saturday, Sept. 13, at Portland Golf Course, 169 Bartlett St., Portland. Shotgun start is at 1 p.m., with check-in beginning at noon. Enjoy a grilled lunch and a buffet dinner along with raffles and prizes. Cost is \$150 per person. Sponsorships are also available, including an “In Memoriam” sponsorship to honor a loved one or a pet. Registration closes Sept. 6. To sign up as a participant or become a sponsor, forms are available at www.ctdraftrescue.org/2025-golf-registration-and-sponsorship, or send an email to cdhr.golf@gmail.com. This event is named after Duke, a neglected and emaciated Clydesdale that the CDHR rescued in 2015. After his rescue, it was discovered that Duke was a former Budweiser Clydesdale, and became a local celebrity making appearances at events, including the golf tournament. Sadly, Duke passed away about a year after his rescue. The CDHR is a non-profit organization located in East Hampton, dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter. For more information, volunteer opportunities, or to donate, please visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue.



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Light Up the Lake

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug group is inviting boat owners to decorate their boats in lights and gather on Aug. 9 at 8:30 p.m., in the waters in front of CVS/Lake Pocotopaug sign.

From there, slowly cruise around the lake passing by Sears Park first then continue cruising around the lake passing by the many lake/beach associations and bays. Boats should cruise at no wake speed. People participate at their own risk.

This is not an organized boat parade; you do not need to fill out an entry form – just show up! Property owners, businesses and lake associations are encouraged to put lights up as well.

Sears Park will be open past dusk for people to park and watch the boats go by. The Friends cannot guarantee that boats will go around the whole lake or pass by at any particular time.

For more information, follow on Facebook at Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, or call Cap Egan Nelson at 860-395-7844.



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Tag Sale

Donations Accepted

Epoch Arts is accepting tag sale donations for its September Two-Weekend Tag Sale.

Drop-off times are 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, at the lower end of the Epoch Arts building, 27 Skinner St., in the garage area by Helping Hands, 27 Skinner St. Please do not drop off donations at the main entrance to the building.

Items not accepted; recliners, couches, headboards, mattresses, bed frames, high chairs, cribs, car seats, computers, printers, keyboards, TVs, VCRs, exercise machines, textbooks, encyclopedias, old-style phones, large toys, strollers, single chairs, office chairs, paint and cleaners, file cabinets, and broken furniture.

For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.



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QUALIFICATIONS: NO PURCHASE NECESSARY! Entries are limited to one per day. One winner will be selected on Friday, August 22, 2025. Winner will be notified by phone number provided on giveaway ticket. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. There is no substitutions or cash equivalent for prizes. Prize will be picked up at City Fish Market. All City Fish employees and their immediate family members are excluded from this promotion. Winner must pick up prize no later than Saturday, August 30th.

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Lions Raffle for Scholarship Program

The East Hampton Lions Club is conducting a raffle to support their annual scholarship program. The Lions will offer four \$1,500 awards to graduating East Hampton students. Applications are available by contacting the East Hampton High School guidance office. The raffle offers a \$2,025 grand prize. First place is \$225 with two winners, second place is \$125 with two winners, and third place is \$55 with two winners. Also, the first-, second-

and third-place winners will be reentered for the grand prize draw. A total of 700 tickets will be sold, at \$10 per ticket. The raffle runs through Saturday, Oct. 25, with the drawing to take place that day at the East Hampton Lions Club picnic pavilion at 62 N. Main St. Time for the drawing is 2:25 p.m. For information or tickets call Lion Tim Denman 860-519-4951.



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2025 BACON ACADEMY ATHLETICS GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Friends of Football at Bacon Academy would like to thank all those who supported the tournament this year, which was held at Blackledge Country Club on August 1st. All of our volunteers, donors, tournament sponsors & Blackledge staff contributed to an extremely fun and successful event.

THANK YOU!!

The following companies generously supported the tournament through sponsorships or donations of raffle prizes, food and other services. We greatly appreciate their involvement & wish to recognize all of their efforts.

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Chicken Marsala Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce

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VFW to Host Beer Tent

VFW Post 5095 will have a beer tent at the 39th annual Brit Jam, Connecticut's premier motorcycle show and swap meet, which will take place Sunday, Aug. 17, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds, 26 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

VFW Post 5095 will be the sole provider of beer for the event, with proceeds benefiting the post home and local veterans. The show is expected to draw thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts and locals for a day packed with chrome, camaraderie, and classic tunes.

From rare British bikes to vintage American models, Brit Jam is a celebration of motorcycle heritage. Live music will be provided by Ozone Pete and friends.

Quilt Project to Benefit the Food Bank

The East Hampton Quilt Project is selling raffle tickets for a 62" x 62" quilt, created by local women. Proceeds benefit the East Hampton Food Bank.

The quilt depicts 12 sites in East Hampton, including The Air Line Trail, The Bevin House, Bevin Bros. Manufacturing, Hurd Park, Congregational Church, Pumpkintown at Paul's and Sandy's Too, Lake Pocotopaug, Comstock Bridge, Old Bank building, Pine Brook Preserve, Library/Community Center, and EH Draft Horse Rescue.

The group is selling raffle tickets for \$10 each or 3/\$25 (cash only). Tickets are available at Paul's and Sandy's in the main building, East Hampton Public Library, Old Bank, and The Hairtage. For continuous updated information on when and where tickets will be sold, visit sites.google.com/view/easthamptonquiltproject/home.

The drawing will be on Nov. 22 at 10 a.m. at the Food Bank.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Services at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., are held Sundays at 10 a.m. in person and on Zoom. The church sanctuary is handicapped-accessible by using the lift.

Adult Bible Study: Held at 8:45 a.m.

For more information, call 860-267-1248, visit www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH or www.bethlehemeh.org.

Senior Mixed Golf League

Seniors in all of the Rivereast towns are invited to join the Belltown Fall Senior Mixed Golf League, which starts Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 9:30 a.m., at Portland West Golf Course.

All skill levels are welcome to join. Contact Jack Anderson for more information at 860-882-3752 or jackande52@aol.com.

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Senior Center News & Notes

Class of '80 Reunion

There will be food, live music and a cash bar and tickets are \$50 per person. Contact Lynne Nursick at 860-338-4279 for more information, or join the class Facebook page for all the details.

Summer Volunteer Opportunity – Help Serve Congregate Meals! The center is seeking volunteers to assist with the Congregate Meal program on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lunch is served at noon, and volunteers are needed for about an hour or less to help plate and serve meals to older adults. This summer-only position will run through August.

The church is open for prayer and meditation,
and the church office is open, from 2-4 p.m.

Portland Fair News & Notes

A “Trashion” show and Triple Crown of Baking have been added to the events in the Crafts and Community tent. The Trashion show is a chance to show creative ways to embrace the themes reduce, reuse and Recycle. The Triple Crown of Baking is being held in conjunction with the Guilford and Durham Fairs. Each fair has a signature item: Guilford is German Chocolate Cake, Durham is Lattice Cherry Pie and Portland is Baked Apple Cider Donuts. Participants will submit the signature item to each fair. If the same baker wins first place at all three

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Bench and Tree Donation Program: Parks

Zion Lutheran News & Notes

Learning: Sunday school, for children age 3 to grade eight, is on hiatus until the fall. For more information, call Sylvia LeShane at 860-342-0658. The Adult Education group has been viewing and discussing the video series *The Chosen*. This group is also on summer hiatus and will resume in the fall.

Alto, Tenor, Bass Vocalists Sought

No auditions or prior experience are required. Rehearsals will commence Tuesday, Aug. 26, from 6:45-9 p.m., at St. Francis Church, Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, 10 Elm St., Middletown, in preparation for the spring concert scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School. New members may enroll through Sept. 16.

Celebrating 35 years of community engage-

Check www.trinitychurchportlandct.org for more information, a calendar of events, to donate, or to listen to past sermons. If you have any prayer requests to lift up, email the church office at trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.

Also, the fair committee is finalizing its entertainment lineups and hopes to announce the complete schedule soon. Jeff Pitchell will return to our stage on Saturday night. A new act on the grounds will be Arestov's Acrobatic Extravaganza, which will present routines at various times throughout the weekend.

Volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in volunteering, contact volunteerportlandfair@gmail.com.

and Recreation is now accepting donations for benches and trees at the Portland Recreational

benches and trees at the Portland Recreational Complex. If interested in dedicating a bench or tree, call Andy for more information at 860-342-6757.

Youth Fall Tennis Lessons (Grades 1-8): Tuesdays, Sept. 2-Oct. 7, at the Portland High School tennis courts. Led by a USTA-approved coach, all participants receive a free tennis racquet and ball.

Adult Fall Tennis Lessons: Saturdays, Sept. 6-Oct. 11, at the Portland High School tennis courts. Led by a USTA-approved coach.

Tai Chi for Long Life: At Riverfront Park
Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., and Saturdays,
10:30-11:15 a.m.

Community Outreach: The Worship and

Music Committee is collecting snacks for the summer months to be donated to the Food Bank.

Year-Round Giving: Pull tabs are collected year-round and donated to the Ronald McDonald “House that Love Built,” supporting families with seriously ill children. Zion recycles computer ink cartridges to support office supplies for Sunny Hill Preschool and Zion.

For more information about any church activities, or if you are in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email zion.lutheran@snet.net, or visit zionlutheranportland.org. The office is closed on Fridays in the summer.

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**Bereavement
Support Group**

St. Mary Church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., invites all to attend the Bereavement Support Group.

The evening session of the group meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. The afternoon session meets the fourth Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the church library.

Call Susan Bongiorno to register at 860-685-1966.



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Local Nonprofit Marks First Year

By Margaret O’Callaghan

A Fight Against, an organization run by Portland resident Naji Chester-Payne and his daughter Nija, has marked its first year as an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit – and its signature fundraising event is just around the corner.

Chester-Payne founded A Fight Against, Inc., in memory of his mother, Barbara Payne, who passed away from cancer in 2022. Though this is the organization’s first year as a nonprofit, it’s now in its third year overall – and honors Barbara Payne’s legacy by hosting fundraising events that bring people together in the fight against various causes.

“What started as a small, private gathering has grown into a regional effort, drawing participants from across Connecticut and neighboring states,” according to the organization’s website, www.afightagainst.org.

For four years, both Chester-Payne and his daughter have been working very hard in the Portland community – specifically for the children. Chester-Payne said his family has been volunteering in their communities for generations, but said the thing that inspired him to take matters into his own hands was a dual effort between him and his mother, before she passed, to give back.

He proudly mentioned the fact that both his mother and father had received awards over the years for their contributions to their communities. “It felt like something I had to carry on.”

Coming up Saturday, Aug. 16, is A Fight Against’s fourth annual “Riverfront Rumble.” The wrestling fundraiser will take place at Concentric Brewing, 91 Main St., from 12:30-2:30 p.m.; gates open at 11:30 a.m.

The event is produced in conjunction with Long Island-based Victory Pro Wrestling, and will feature the stars of VPW what the wrestling company says will be “an unforgettable afternoon of high-impact action, drama, and family-friendly fun.”

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, UCC, located at 554 Main St., holds worship Sundays. All are welcome this Sunday, Aug. 10, for summer worship at 9:30 a.m. Church pastor the Rev. Judith Cooke will preach “Priority Order,” based on Isaiah 1:1, 10-20.

Also at 9:30 a.m., Church School children will explore their faith with active learning, and the nursery will look after infants through

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed all day on Saturday, Aug. 30, and Monday, Sept. 1, for Labor Day.

Youth Programs: Level Up at Your Library Summer Reading Program: Visit the library to pick up your reading log, or visit the Summer Reading portal on our website to track your reading electronically. Each day you read 20 minutes or more counts towards your summer reading goal. Earn prizes each time you reach five days.

A Minecraft Movie Double Feature: Wednesday, Aug. 13, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Cool off and enjoy some popcorn and popsicles during this family film. Summary: four misfits are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination. To get back home, they’ll have to master this world while embarking on a quest with an unexpected, expert crafter. Rated PG, the movie runs 101 minutes.

Chalk the Walks: Tuesday, Aug. 19, 10:30 a.m. All are invited to decorate the library sidewalks with images and messages of kindness. Chalk and popsicles will be supplied. Registration is not required for this drop-in event.

School Supply Bingo: Thursday, Aug. 21, 10:30 a.m. All are invited to this morning of bingo at the library and win some school supplies. Registration is required and space is limited.

Three-Part Cartooning Workshop with Jason Deeble. Monday, Aug. 18, through Wednesday, Aug. 20, at 2:30 p.m. Over the course of three days, kids in grades 3-5 will learn about plot and character development, sequential storytelling and more as they “Level up” their drawing skills at this workshop with author, graphic illustrator and educator, Jason Deeble. This program is funded in part by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and Connecticut Humanities.

Among the stars that will be in Portland on Aug. 16 will be VPW champion Da Big Boofa Dezmond Cole, Tag Team champions The Even Stevens, and such wrestlers as Temptatious Tiphani Grady, Rocker Boy Nick Robles, and Jayden Stehle.

Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased at www.victoryprowrestling.com.

On its website, A Fight Against said it is “committed to supporting individuals affected physically, mentally, and spiritually by unfortunate experiences.” One of its newest endeavors in advance of that cause is a video game club for kids who want to make friends and “come out of their shells.”

While all sorts of gaming consoles are used, Chester-Payne said he encourages the kids to use retro consoles that emerged during his own childhood, so they can “feel what I felt.”

The space the club uses has been offered by a friend of Chester-Payne’s – just more proof that community work creates safe spaces for all. Since those who partake in the video gaming sessions are kids who are isolated, want to make more friends, or are special needs children, it’s important that they’re given a place to be kind and authentic, he said. Each kid is learning to utilize their social skills while having fun with others who have the same goal. All sorts of games are played, but Chester-Payne joked explaining he tries very hard to keep it kid-friendly.

Since becoming an official, government-recognized charitable group, A Fight Against has collaborated with Oddfellows Playhouse in Middletown as well as the Portland Library.

On a personal basis, Chester-Payne said he is very grateful to have started such a great group. “It’s helped me to help others.”

He said the group has managed to solidify its relationship with Middletown, expanding to the next town over. It was hard at first to spread their word over to the town, as the *Rivereast* doesn’t

preschool children. After worship is Fellowship Hour, when the congregation gathers for conversation and refreshments.

Also on Sunday, the Missions Team will provide a homemade dinner for St. Vincent DePaul in Middletown.

FCC is located at 554 Main St. For more information, go to firstchurchportlandct.org or call 860-342-3244.

Registration required.

Fall Storytimes: Start the week of Sept. 8; registration will open Monday, Aug. 25. The storytimes are: **Preschool Storytimes** (for ages 3-5): Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 9-Oct. 28. **Toddlers and Tots Storytimes** (for ages birth to 2): Wednesdays at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sept. 10-Oct. 29. Registration is required for each program and space is limited.

Adult Programs: Adult Summer Reading Program: Level Up at Your Library: When you sign up for the Adult Summer Reading Program, you receive a coupon for a free book/books (up to \$2 in value) from the Friends’ Ongoing Book Sale & another coupon when you log 2,000 pages. Last year, there were 100 participants and this year the “Level Up” goal is 150 participants. For every adult who joins the reading program and reads at least one book this summer (including audiobooks and graphic novels) the Friends of Portland Library will donate \$3 towards two musical instrument rental scholarships for the 2025-26 school year for two students at Brownstone Intermediate School.

Multigenerational Drumming Circle: Monday, Aug. 11, 6:30 p.m. Gather on the Waverly Town Green for a West African-inspired drum circle led by Mark Zarrillo, knowledgeable in West African music, culture and with 40 years drumming wisdom. Drums will be supplied.

Adult Craft Night: Wire & Sea Glass Jewelry: Wednesday, Aug. 20, 6 p.m. Local crafter Laurie Lynne of Creative Girl Studios will teach different techniques to make wire wrapped sea glass jewelry. Each participant will leave with two completed pendant necklaces, a sachet bag and instruction sheet. Space is limited.

Fall Craft and Vendor Fair

Trinity Church Portland is sponsoring a Fall Craft and Vendor Fair on Sept. 27. There are still some spaces available for \$20.

Space is approximately 20’ by 20’ outdoors on the flat grass lot on the corner of Main and Spring streets. Bring your own set-up. If it is raining, the fair will move indoors.

If interested, email trinityvitalconnections@gmail.com or call/text 860-463-6444, and you will be sent a registration form.



A Fight Against, an organization run by Portland resident Naji Chester-Payne and his daughter Nija, is marking its first year as an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Earlier this year, the organization ventured to Middletown to participate in that town’s Juneteenth parade.

cover the town. But this year, A Fight Against was in the Middletown Juneteenth parade as what he explained as the “Portland Representative,” which helped the organization’s outreach a great deal, he said.

He said the organization likes to collaborate on projects with other groups to bring the community together, and to raise money for other nonprofits.

“We usually give out more than we take in,” Chester-Payne explained.

He added that a lot of funds come out of his own pocket, but he expressed his gratitude for the family and friends who have given so much to help A Fight Against thrive and continue to help countless others.

On the website, the statement that defines

the motivation for such sacrifice is: “Difficult situations affect many aspects of life. We believe healing requires a holistic approach addressing the mind, body, and spirit. Through compassion and collective effort, we create opportunities for fun, growth, hope, and recovery.”

Chester-Payne is looking forward to the future that’s in store for the community he’s built with his daughter, Nija, who is going off to study acting and then pursue a teaching career. He said he hopes to continue to grow A Fight Against.

A Fight Against has created a safe space for people from all walks of life, has expanded past Portland, inspired others to give back, and given many a purpose to reach out to make new friends, all while giving to worthy causes.



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Street Garden Project Winners

Portland’s 2025 Street Garden Project encouraged local businesses to beautify their storefronts with vibrant plantings. Judges from the Portland River-Valley Garden Club visited the gardens in June, and people could also vote for their favorite in the “Portland’s Choice” Award. Pictured here are some of the businesses with award-winning gardens.



Sarah and Dan Weeden of Sarah’s on Main pose with their street garden that received the Best Theme award (the design theme that best represents the business) in the Portland Street Garden Project.



Kerianne Burchardt of Savvy Swap Consignment and Michelle Engel of Highland Sol Flower Farm collaborated to create a garden sanctuary on Main Street. This garden won the Portland’s Choice Award and third place overall in the Portland Street Garden Project.



Rosella Stevenson (right) of Mirabito Energy Products is joined by a colleague when receiving their ribbon for the Tiny But Mighty award in the Portland Street Garden Project 2025.



Jen LaFave of BeStronger Personal Training LLC stands with the street garden display that earned Portland’s Choice Award – Runner Up. Dance with Miss Alicia and Inner Circle Martial Arts (not pictured) also contributed to the design.



Amy Estabrook of Bud’s Cafe displays her Marvelous Mix award ribbon for her window boxes in the Portland Street Garden Project.

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Matthew Pegolo of PegArch Architecture and Design collaborated with Dominic DiMauro and Kaylee Rugar of Tropical CT (not pictured) to create a tropical street garden in Portland. The garden received the Wow Factor award in the Portland Street Garden Project.



Mike and Louise Walsh of Dog Tales Grooming and Pet Care won Second Place in the Portland Street Garden Project.



Debby Carle of Magic Mirror Unisex Salon stands in front of her garden display of various head planters. She won the Most Creative Garden award in the Portland Street Garden Project 2025.



Clemente Fabian of Fabian's Pizza displays his award ribbon with his street garden. He won First Place in the Portland Street Garden Project for his creative container garden display.

Books for the Beach, Puzzles for the Patio

The Friends of the Portland Library announces that Books for the Beach and Puzzles for the Patio are now available at the Second Hand Prose used book shop at the library, 20 Freestone Ave.

There are recently released fiction, non-fiction and romance novels plus a variety of children's and teens' books and quality puzzles for kids and adults. Also, a new collection of large print books has just been added.

Proceeds from the book and puzzle sales are used by the Friends to support the many children and adult programs offered by the library, including the popular summer programs as well as the museum passes and additions to the DVD collections.

PHS Class of '75 Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 1975 50th Reunion committee committee has scheduled a weekend of celebrations, beginning with a picnic on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 1-5 p.m., at Riverfront Park, 284 Brownstone Ave. On Sunday, Oct. 19, from 2-6 p.m., all are invited for a luncheon at Terrazza at Quarry Ridge Golf Course, 9 Rose Hill Rd., Portland.

The committee is seeking current contact information (address, email, phone number, cell number) for classmates. If you have any information to share, please contact Sue Hale Colby at mrstrucking@aol.com or Jane Klemmba at kl-embajane@comcast.net.

Nominations Sought for Spirit Awards

Nominations are now open for the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award, honoring the unsung heroes in the community who embody kindness, dedication, and the true spirit of service.

Submit your nomination by noon Monday, Sept. 1. Nomination forms are available at the Waverly Senior Center (7 Waverly Ave.) or can be emailed upon request.

To request a form or for more information, contact Sarah, Heather or Judy at 860-342-6761 or email selliott@portlandct.org.

Chip Sealing Underway

The Portland Department of Public Works began chip sealing the following roads this week, and the work will continue throughout the month:

Birch Tree Hill Road, Breezy Corners Road, Buttonhook Lane, Culver Lane, Deerfield Lane, Fox Run, Jobs Pond Road, Lisa Court, Maple Road, Old Carriage Road, Olde Homestead Village, Stonegate Drive, Wagon Wheel Lane, Wildwood Road, Woodhaven Drive and Pepperidge Road.

Parking on the road during working hours (7 a.m. to 5 p.m.) will be banned starting August 4th through the completion of the chip seal project. Any cars left in the road during working hours will be towed at the owner's expense.

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

The department apologizes for any inconveniences and urges residents to use alternate routes where possible. Please use caution and consider worker safety when driving through a work zone.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a collection for household hazardous waste on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Deep River Town Garage, 206 Winthrop Rd. (Route 80), Deep River.

This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland.

Visit www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

PHS 60th Class Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 1965 is hosting a 60th Class Reunion to reminisce about the good old days and catch up with old friends. The event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11, from noon to 3 p.m., at Farrell's Restaurant in Portland.

The reunion committee is seeking current contact information (address, email, phone number) for classmates. If you have any information, please contact sueanderson06480@aol.com.

Obituaries

Colchester Daniel McCarthy

Daniel Kevin Patrick McCarthy, 70, of Southington, passed away Thursday, July 17, at his home after a short illness. He was the loving husband of Janet (Dziedzic) McCarthy for 15 blessed years.

Dan was born April 26, 1955, in Marlborough, Mass., to the late Leo and Irene (Fairbanks) McCarthy. He graduated from Bacon Academy in Colchester, and went on to earn his degree in Mortuary Science from Briarwood College where he also met the love of his life, Janet.

In 1996, Dan co-founded The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester. He enjoyed a long and rewarding career as the director of The D'Esopo Funeral Chapel in Wethersfield. After his retirement in 2021, he continued to look forward to lending a hand at D'Esopo whenever he was called upon.

Dan was proud of his Irish heritage and enjoyed traveling, especially with Janet. He was happiest at home, spending time with his family and being the greatest "Papa." He enjoyed taking his grandchildren fishing at the Southington Sportsmen's Association and they all looked forward to the Association's annual fishing derby.

In addition to his wife Janet, Dan is survived by her two children, Alex John Ricciardone and his wife Nicole and Robyn Ricciardone, and two cherished grandchildren, Alexander and Valentina, all of Southington. He is also survived by his brother, Sean McCarthy and his wife Patricia of Lebanon and Maureen Marvin and her husband Michael of Colchester and several nieces and nephews.

Burial was held privately, according to his wishes. Donations in Dan's memory may be made to the CT Humane Society (cthumane.org).

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held from the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Saturday, Aug. 9, beginning with calling hours from 1-3 p.m., followed by a memorial service at the funeral home at 3:15 p.m.

East Hampton Camille Joseph Plourde Jr.

Camille Joseph Plourde Jr., 70, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully at his home Monday, July 28. Born Dec. 19, 1954, in Chicago, Ill., he was the son of the late Camille and Lillian (Cote) Plourde.

Joe was a longtime resident of East Hampton. From the get-go, Joe was curious and industrious always wanting to understand what made things tick. As a youth, he held multiple paper routes for several years, enjoyed skiing with close friends on the lake, was a star basketball player, worked on cars and anything mechanical and always had time for his family. Joe was a master machinist working at A-1 Aerospace in New Britain until his retirement.

Joe is survived by his longtime partner, Kathleen York; two sons, Levon Plourde of Arizona, Daniel Plourde of East Hampton; two brothers, Thomas Plourde of Marlborough, Anthony (Louise) Plourde of Enfield; sister, Elizabeth (Steven) Steinkamp of Portland; granddaughter,



Adriana; and several nieces and nephews and great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his sister, Deborah Hawkins.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, Aug. 7. To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland Patricia Hill Nolan

It is with deep sorrow and profound gratitude for a life well-lived that we announce the passing of our beloved Patricia Hill Nolan on Friday, Aug. 1. Patricia passed peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family, at the age of 85.

Born in Middletown on Oct. 30, 1939, Patricia – known affectionately as Pat – grew up in Portland and graduated from Portland High School. In 1960, she married her high school sweetheart, Thomas Nolan. Together, they built a beautiful life filled with love, laughter and cherished memories.

Patricia was a beloved wife, sister, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother whose warmth and wisdom deeply touched all who knew her. While raising her young children, she pursued her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse, proudly graduating from the Ona M. Wilcox School of Nursing and earning her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Eastern Connecticut State University at age 40, followed by a distinguished career at Middlesex Hospital until her retirement.

She found joy in the simple pleasures of life: cheering her loved ones through sporting events, summers on Cape Cod, watching Red Sox games, and tending to her beloved farm animals and flowers.

Patricia was preceded in death by her mother, Winifred Smedick Hill; her father, William H. Hill; and her son-in-law, Rick Stevens. She is survived by her devoted husband of 65 years, Thomas Nolan; her brother, William Hill, and his wife, Kathleen; her children, Colleen, Tim (Lynn), Chris (Ellen), and Kathleen (Matt); as well as her 12 beloved grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, each of whom brought her immeasurable pride and joy.

Calling hours will be held at Doolittle Funeral Home on 14 Old Church St. in Middletown on Friday, Aug. 8, from 4-7 p.m. Funeral services will be held at Saint Mary Church on Freestone Avenue in Portland on Saturday, Aug. 9, at 10 a.m., followed by a burial in Center Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000 Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101-9908 or to Middlesex Hospice Care at Home, 117 Main St. Ext., Middletown, CT 06457 in Patricia's memory.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.



Portland Judith Sheehan Graves

Judith Sheehan Graves passed away peacefully Monday, Aug. 4, at the age of 88. She was born in Hartford, the daughter of Fred and Helen (Shannon) Sheehan, on Feb. 22, 1937.

Judy was the wife of Richard Graves, who passed away in February 2021. She leaves behind her children: Chris (Pam) Graves, Katie Graves, Jeff (Becki) Graves, and daughter-in-law, Karen Graves. She is survived by eight grandchildren: Sam (Seth), Megan, Nathan, Evan, Carter, Carly, Riley, Makenna; sister-in-law: Carol Graves; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband of 56 years, her son Dan Graves, her sister Kay Sheehan, her brother Fred Sheehan and his wife Andrea, sister-in-law Reet O'Connor and her husband Jim, and brother-in-law Don Graves.

Judy grew up in Northampton, Mass., and graduated from Northampton High School and continued her education at Smith College earning a BA in American studies.

Judy started her career as an art teacher sharing her passion for creativity. It was during this time that she met her husband Rich and they relocated to Portland, and together they raised four children. Judy was involved with the church where she found community and purpose. At home she loved working in her garden and most of all loved being with her family. In 2007, she and Rich moved to Laurel Ridge in East Hampton where they quickly became part of the closeknit community.

Judy will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her creativity, and the way she made everyone feel loved and welcome. Her presence brought warmth to every room and her kindness touched the lives of many.

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for the kindness and care that Judy received from her nurses and caretakers over the past year.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Monday, Aug. 11, at 10 a.m. in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be in Center Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Sunday, Aug. 10, from 4-6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Judy's name to the Portland Food Bank, 7 Waverly Avenue, Portland, CT 06480.



Beach. Well past middle age he began to paint. He took lessons in Westport, and was good at it. His watercolors of beach scenes and barns are beautiful.

Larry was one of those rare individuals who was content with whatever he had or didn't have. He was delighted by little things like feeding the birds, watching squirrels and doing crossword puzzles. He loved his family and his neighbors, and loved telling jokes to both. He had a deep and abiding faith and loved going to Mass at St. Mary Church every Saturday, where he could socialize with fellow parishioners.

Special thanks to Portland Care & Rehab for their outstanding care and compassion and to Matilda, his home helper for five years and was so loved by my father.

A memorial Mass will be held Wednesday, Aug. 13, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be at a later date in Mountain Grove Cemetery, Bridgeport. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Tuesday, Aug. 12, from 4-6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to a veterans' group of your choice.

Moodus Emily K. Foster

Emily K. (Siegmann) Foster, 35, of Moodus, beloved wife of Steven Foster, passed away Thursday, July 31, at Yale New Haven Hospital Smilow Cancer Center, surrounded by her loving family. Born Oct. 14, 1989 in Middletown, she was the daughter of William and Cheryl (Fay) Siegmann of East Haddam.

Emily grew up in East Haddam and was a 2007 graduate of Nathan Hale Ray High School. As a little girl she enjoyed racing RC cars with her father, and dance classes. Emily loved going to Kirby, Vt., with her family where she acquired the nickname "Emy the Hemmy" because she was always under "pop's" feet when she was little. It became a second home for her; many weekends were spent snowmobiling on the vast trail, riding the old Ford tractor and picking weeds for pennies.

After high school, Emily worked in accounts payable under the supervision of her aunt Jodi at Jackson Chevrolet and eventually moved on to become a bartender at the Town Tavern, where she left a lasting impression with everyone she spoke to.

Emily loved the outdoors; she was an avid gardener and was always admiring the beauty around her home that she had built together with her husband, but most of all she loved being a wife and wonderful mother to her two daughters.

Besides her husband Steve and her parents, she is survived by her loving daughters, Madelyn and Lillian; her maternal grandmother, Doreen Fay "Mama" of East Hampton; her mother-in-law, Mary Foster "Mimi" of East Lyme; brothers-in-law, Ryan Foster of East Lyme, Ben Foster of East Haddam; Aunt Jodi Fay Stubbings (Dan) of Lebanon; Uncle Stephen Fay of East Haddam.

She was predeceased by her maternal grandfather, George (Bud) Fay "Pop," her paternal grandparents, Warren and Lorraine Siegmann; and her father-in-law, Robert (Butch) Foster "Pop-Pop."

Friends may call at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Sunday, Aug. 10, from 4-6 p.m. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. A Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, Oct. 11, at a time and place to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Connecticut Cancer Foundation in Emily's name or to the family's GoFundMe.

To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



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Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week



Portland High School Class of 2024 graduate Luke Stennett won the Manchester Open Amateur Championship last week. Stennett will be entering his sophomore season at the University of Rhode Island.

By Josh Howard
Here are the Rivereast Standout Athletes of the week for the week of July 28 – Aug. 3:

Luke Stennett – Portland (Golf): Luke Stennett, a 2024 Portland High School graduate, won the Manchester Open Amateur Championship earlier this month. Competing at the Manchester Country Club in Connecticut, Stennett shot a three-under (69) to secure his first Manchester Open victory. He is coming off a freshman season at the University of Rhode Island in which he was named the Atlantic-10 Rookie of the Year. Prior to Rhode Island, Stennett became the first player in Connecticut to win four individual high school state championships and was a three-time All-Shoreline Con-

ference Player of the Year.
Danielle Riley – East Hampton (Track and Field): Riley placed ninth overall in the Hepthathlon at Willow Brook Park in New Britain. Riley, who will be entering her junior year at EHHS, shined in both the javelin and high jump at the seven-event challenge — placing third in the javelin and fifth in the high jump. Her combined score of 3,276 was the third highest of any freshman or sophomore that competed.
Fayz Baig – Marlborough (Baseball): Baig, a 2025 graduate of RHAM High School, pitched a gem in game one of the Little Palestine Classic, held by Baseball United at Ozinga Field in Crestwood, Illinois. Baig struck out six over three scoreless innings as Pakistan rolled past Palestine 16-2. During his time at RHAM, Baig was a two-time all-state selection and was honored All-Central Connecticut Conference

(CCC) in all four seasons. He had committed to play baseball for the Long Island University.
Alex Sanchez – Colchester (Track and Field): Sanchez closed his track and field career at Bacon Academy by placing seventh overall and scoring 5,085 total points in the decathlon at Willow Brook Park in New Britain. Sanchez shined in the throwing events at the 10-event challenge, placing fourth in the discus and javelin and fifth in the shot put. He also placed fifth in the 1500 meters and seventh in the 110-meter hurdles. Following his graduation from Bacon Academy in June, Sanchez now joins the cross-country and track and field programs at the University of Bridgeport.


Correction: In the July 25 edition, an error was made in the Standout Athlete of the Week section. Jessica Starr was incorrectly identi-

fied as finishing third overall in the 400 meters when she actually finished third overall in the 400-meter hurdles. The Rivereast regrets the error. Below is the correct version of Starr’s accomplishments:
Jessica Starr – Cobalt (Track and Field): Starr was named to the Big East Outdoor Track & Field All-Conference team following her junior year with the Huskies at the University of Connecticut. Starr helped the UConn women’s program win a fourth straight outdoor conference championship by placing third overall in the 400-meter hurdles at the Big East Championships. In the race, she ran a personal-best 59.43, the second fastest time in program history. Starr is a 2022 graduate of East Hampton High School and will be entering her senior year with the Huskies indoor and outdoor track and field program.

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The early stages of communication disorders are easier to spot when you know the signs.

IDENTIFY THE SIGNS

Early detection can improve treatment and quality of life. For more information visit IdentifyTheSigns.org.




Beltown Tennis Played 3x Weekly

The East Hampton Parks and Recreation tennis program for adults is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-10 a.m., at the Sears Park courts. Players from all Rivereast towns are welcome.

This mixed-doubles program is free, requires no partners and is open to all levels of adult play, except beginner.

Pre-registration is not required; just show up. For more information, call or text Natalie Hurt at 860-227-8538.

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This message is dedicated to the two firefighters who were ambushed and murdered in Idaho in late June and to the police officer who was shot in Manhattan in late July.



911

Emergency Call 911

This number quickly dialed brings to our aid and rescue the sacrificial and loyal commitment of dedicated public servants. Since their needed services are often performed with little thanks in the

midst of a drifting, shifting society, we want to express our sincere appreciation to our law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel and others who give of themselves within our society. This responsibility is sanctioned by God (Romans 13:1-6) and by history. It involves the **PROTECTION** of life and property, the **PREVENTION** of crime, the **DETECTION** and arrest of offenders, the **PRESERVATION** of peace and order, the **ENFORCEMENT** of the laws, and the **RESCUE** of those in distress and danger.

Emergency! “Save Me, O Lord”

This cry from the heart of one poor, repenting sinner is immediately heard by an ever present, all-knowing, all-compassionate God who is waiting to meet the deepest need of every human heart. The Lord Jesus Christ is waiting to save and rescue your soul.

The RIGHT PERSON to CALL upon:
“They have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that CANNOT SAVE. Look unto ME, and BE YE SAVED, all the ends of the earth: for I AM GOD, and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:20, 22). “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). “Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man” (Psalm 60:11).

The RIGHT REASONS for making the CALL:
“Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Thy Name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for Thy Name’s sake ... Help me, O LORD my God: O save me according to Thy mercy: That they may know that this is Thy hand; that Thou, LORD, hast done it” (Psalm 79:9; 109:26-27). “ .. in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have (desires) all men to be SAVED, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one MEDIATOR between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:3-5).

The RIGHT CALL:
“The same Lord over all is rich unto all that CALL upon Him. For whosoever shall CALL upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved” (Joel 2:32; Romans 10:12-13). “BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31). “For the SON OF MAN is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).
Why not look to and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ so that you might find God’s SAVING GRACE and His EVER PRESENT HELP!

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Route 217 (East Street, Westfield) midway between Route 66 and 372

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9:30 am Sunday School - all ages
10:45 am Morning Worship
6:30 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday:
7:30 pm
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

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Independent • Bible Centered • Route 66 and 372
Contact us if you are interested in a free Bible correspondence course/
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BIBLE LINE FOR CHILDREN: Call 860-344-1103

CIT167-25

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Wetland Ecosystem Exploration

The Colchester Land Trust (CLT) will hold a Wetland Ecosystem Exploration Saturday, Sept. 14, at 11 a.m., at the Bulkeley Hill Preserve. Meet at the field side of the parking area.

Megan Trujillo, board member, will discuss the unique plants, wildlife, and hidden wonders that thrive in the wetland environment.

Boots are recommended for the wetland exploration hike. Magnifying glasses, bug catchers, and critter nets are encouraged to enhance your experience. The CLT will also look to bring some of the materials to provide to the participants as well.

Trails are not groomed and have rocks and roots and wet areas. The trail is not stroller-friendly.

The hike is for ages 6 and up. There will be a longer hike to the wetland area, so be prepared to walk. The hike is free for CLT members, and \$5 for non-members. Children under 18 are free. Sorry, no dogs for this event.

Rain postpones to a date yet to be determined.

For more information, contact Megan Trujillo at meganl.trujillo@gmail.com or text or call 518-526-6882.

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

Touch-A-Truck: All businesses are invited to bring your vehicles to the Touch-A-Truck event on Thursday, Aug. 14, from 6-8 p.m., on the Town Green. If interested in participating, please register at colchesterctrec.recdesk.com/ Community/Home or email parksandrec@colchesterct.gov. Indicate how many trucks you will bring, and what type. Final details for arrival and parking will be emailed to those that have responded as the event draws closer. This is going to be a large town-wide event with food trucks.



Students from the Eastern Connecticut Transition Academy recently paid a visit to the Colchester Giving Garden, to help harvest food and feed the garden beds.

Giving Garden Paid a Visit

The Colchester Giving Garden recently was visited by the Eastern Connecticut Transition Academy students for a morning of helping at the garden. Each summer, students from the program join in at the garden.

Twenty pounds of fresh vegetables were harvested that morning, to be donated to the community. The students also helped feed the garden beds with an amendment.

The garden is up and running its 13th year of operation, and organizers always welcomes anyone who wants to join in. Volunteers meet Tuesdays at 5 p.m. at 95 Norwich Ave. No gardening experience is necessary.

For more information, email colchester-givinggarden@gmail.com or stop by on a Tuesday evening.

Summer Reading Program Underway

Cragin Memorial Library, located at 8 Linwood Ave., is holding its Summer Reading Program. The theme of this year's program is "Color Your World."

You do not have to be a resident to participate. Simply log your reading with the library by Aug. 29. This year there are programs for Adults (ages 18+, or graduated from high school); Teens (ages 11-18, or entering grades 6-12); and Kids (ages 0-11, or entering grade 5).

Adults: With each book you finish (up to 25) stop by the library for a raffle ticket and prize. Put your raffle tickets toward one of the library's grand prizes.

Teens: When you log 300 minutes, stop in and pick up your summer bag. Log your reading to earn Cragin Bucks and shop in the library store. Every 30 minutes earns one Cragin Buck.

Kids: When you log 200 minutes, stop in and pick up your summer bag! Log your reading to earn Cragin Bucks and shop in the library store. Every 20 minutes earns one Cragin Buck. Sign up and start logging at craginlibrary.read-squared.com.

For more information about all of the library's summer programs, visit www.colchesterct.gov/cragin-memorial-library/pages/monthly-news-letter-events.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

CHVFC Golf Classic

The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company (CHVFC) annual Golf Classic will be held Friday, Sept. 26, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

The CHVFC is a nonprofit organization that has been providing service to the Town of Colchester and its neighboring communities since 1854. The tournament is held to raise funds to support the company's school scholarship fund, recruitment, retention, and to maintain the Schuster Park training facility and event venue.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or player, please contact 860-537-2512, email CHFD28golftournament@gmail.com, or visit the CHVFC Facebook page for a QR code.

Community CPR

Colchester Fire & EMS, located at 52 Old Hartford Rd., will hold a Community CPR and "Stop the Bleed" event on Friday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

In this free Family and Friends CPR class, learn CPR and relief of choking in adults, children and infants. Use of an AED (automated external defibrillator) is also included in the training, and participants will receive a student manual for ongoing reference.

To sign up for the class, contact Fire Headquarters at 860-537-2512 or firedepartment@colchesterct.gov. The class is for Colchester residents only.

A future class will be Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 2:30-5 p.m.

Colchester History Museum Open for Season

The Colchester History Museum is open Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The museum, located at 24 Linwood Ave., will be open through Dec. 28. All are welcome.

The museum is free and offers both permanent and special exhibits all highlighting the people and events in Colchester's history. The museum offers guided and self-guided tours.

For more information, contact the Colchester Historical Society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860 537-3240.

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RivereastNewsBulletin

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

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 21st, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.
PZC Application #24-23; 54 Riverview Street. Proposed special permit modification to add boat yard use. Application and property of Birdon LLC. Map 3, Lot 8. Zone R-10.
Dated at Portland, CT this 8th day of August 2025
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 8/8, 8/15

Legal Notice
Andover Inland Wetlands and
Watercourses Commission

The Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission RECEIVED the following application at their Regular Meeting on August 4, 2025:
• Permit Application **IWWC #25-09:** Andover Lake Management Association (ALMA), **81a Lakeside Drive (ALMA Right-of-Way).** Installation of a 4-foot by 8-foot prefabricated aluminum dock with two steps within Andover Lake. If you have any questions, please contact the Andover Wetlands Agent at 860-742-7305 x4221 or email (preferred) at wetlands@andoverct.org

1 TB 8/8

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 "Famous" cookie guy

5 Not quite shut

9 One who's not "it"

14 2022 Jordan Peele flick

15 Bit of baby talk

16 "Easy on Me" singer

17 Much-loved

19 Burrowing rodents

20 Ultimate goal

21 Direct info source

23 Marginal marking

25 Vintner's vessel

26 Electrician's device

29 Put out

31 Beer topper

32 Like legal voters

37 Ship of Greek myth

38 Dry cell part

39 Surfer's concern

40 Restores to office

42 Rider's grip

43 Rest area sight

44 Basketball stat

46 Panama, for one

48 Insulating foam

51 Farmers' spreads

53 Brisk, in music

57 Case opener?

58 B-24 bomber of WWII

60 ____ Dame

61 Diner offering

62 Centers of activity

63 Cornered, in a way

64 Very Soho

65 Spic-and-____

DOWN

1 Neat anagram

2 Daybreak, poetically

3 Kind of column

4 Reef predator

5 Tainting

6 Condiment

7 Highly capable

8 Diameter halves

9 Poor one

10 Object of worship

11 Amazon drop-offs

12 Gagan of the court

13 Bowler's button

18 Coin opening

22 In a clingy manner

24 Amphitheater

26 Many miles away

27 Additional

28 Judicial officer

30 Recoveries

33 Understood

34 Perfect model

35 Make corrections

36 Cub Scout groups

41 Bad-mouthed publicly

45 Excitement

46 Start to "got a clue"

47 SAG member

49 1965 march site

50 Basket material

52 Emerald Isle

54 Resting on

55 Cola lead-in

56 2000 film, "____ Brockovich"

59 Slugger's need

Answers to Previous Crossword:

O P E L T A S S M E W S
F L U E H A B I T A L O E
F A R E A B E R R A T I O N
S N O W F A L L E X I T E D
P A U S E C A L L E R S
A V E R S S M O K E D
R E A D S P A R E A C T S
P A N Y A O U N D E H O E
A L S O B O D E U S A G E
L S P R U N E R L E M O N
H A P P E N S S L E E P
A D O R E D S T A R T L E D
M A L E F A C T O R H A Z E
A G E S N O U N S E I R E
L E S S T O N E S N A P

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Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, located at 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend. The church choir always welcomes new members. Services are also available on Zoom; visit www.westchesterconchurch.org for login information. Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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

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

Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.
Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knitting Group meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. The Blessings Box is at the end of the church parking lot and contains donations of non-perishable food, personal care, and other items for those in need. Take what you need; donate what you can. Also, the church sponsors the Wounded Warrior Project, a donation opportunity to help veterans.

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



The Willimantic-based Prue Law Group has opened its fourth office location, at 167 Lebanon Ave. Suite B in Colchester.

Law Group Opens Colchester Location

The Prue Law Group, P.C., a law firm serving eastern and central Connecticut since 1980, has opened its fourth office location, at 167 Lebanon Ave. Suite B in Colchester.

This expansion strengthens the firm's ability to serve clients throughout eastern and central Connecticut, the law firm said. The new office joins existing Prue Law locations in Willimantic, Brooklyn and Coventry.

"Opening our Colchester office represents our continued dedication to serving the legal needs of Connecticut families and businesses," said attorney Patrick Prue, founder of the Prue Law Group. "This location allows us to better serve existing clients in the area while making our specialized services more accessible to new clients who value the combination of big-city expertise and small-town personal attention."

"The Colchester area presents significant opportunities for growth, particularly given the region's demographics that align with the firm's core practice areas," Prue continued. "With a median household income of \$114,505 and median age of 43, Colchester represents an ideal market for the firm's estate planning and business law services."

Attorney Evelina Ruszkowski, who leads the firm's estate planning practice, emphasized the strategic importance of the location.

"Colchester sits at the heart of our service area, connecting our eastern Connecticut roots

with our expansion into central Connecticut," Ruszkowski said. "This office will enable us to provide even more responsive service to clients navigating complex estate planning, probate, and business law matters."

The firm's expansion comes as part of a broader strategic growth initiative that included a rebranding effort launched earlier this year. The updated brand identity reflects both the firm's established reputation and its vision for serving the next generation of Connecticut residents and businesses.

The Colchester office will offer the full range of legal services provided by The Prue Law Group, including: estate planning, probate and settlement; elder law and conservatorships; business law; real estate law; personal injury law; litigation; and divorce and family law.

"This expansion allows us to better fulfill our mission of improving the lives of our clients and community," added Prue, who has more than 20 years of experience as a probate judge. "By bringing our services closer to where people live and work, we're making it easier for families and businesses to access the legal guidance they need when legal matters truly matter."

For more information about The Prue Law Group's new Colchester office or to schedule a consultation at any of the firm's four locations, visit pruelawgroup.com or call 860-423-9231.



Scholarship Presented... Alpha Delta Kappa's (ADK) Beta chapter presented Juliana Martino, a recent Bacon Academy graduate, a \$1,500 scholarship for her interest in her community, scholarship, and dedication for education of others. ADK is a professional women educators' altruistic international organization. Pictured, front row, are Ellie Jurczak of Newington, Juliana Martino of Colchester and Desiree Martino of Colchester; back row, Karen Mislivets, formerly of Colchester, Nancy Rogalsky of Middletown, Liz Caffrey of Portland, and Roberta Avery of Colchester.

"PET OF THE WEEK"



Tigger, 4yrs, is a sweet , affectionate boy that came from a home with too many cats. Although he was well taken care of , he didn't get as much attention as he would have loved to have! He can be a little shy at first but is eager to be held and snuggled.



Lila, 3yrs, came to POA with a beautiful litter of kittens and was a devoted mother. Now it's Lila's chance to be pampered and find her furever home. She is a sweet girl who is very focused on her people and seeks out attention. She loves a good chin scratched and purred loudly when snuggled by her foster mom. The most important thing for Lila is to find a person she can cuddle with and who will love her for the rest of her life.

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



Protectors of Animals, Inc. 144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford, CT 06118
A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization,
rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs.

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Fees for Services Public Hearing
Colchester Sewer and Water Commission
6:00 p.m. – 26 August 2025
Meeting Room 2
127 Norwich Avenue – Colchester, CT.
The Colchester Sewer and Water Commission will hold a Public Hearing to present and gather public comment on the proposed rates and fees for Sewer and Water utility services for Fiscal Year 25-26. Copies of the draft rate schedule will be available in the Town Clerk and the Public Works offices of the Colchester Town Hall as of August 11th, 2025.
Joseph Leone, Director of Public Works, Town of Colchester

LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:
I. Petition 2025-16 & 17: Petition of Savy & Sons for Special Permit and associated Site Plan approval to construct a 20,000 square foot storage building at Parcel #10-10 and 612 Church Street on 3.44 acres in accordance with Section 3.E.2.5.1 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, Amston Village District.
II. Petition 2025-18: Petition of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to revise Section 5.O.3 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations to allow Temporary Liquor Permits to be granted for up to three (3) years and renewed during that time by the Zoning Enforcement Officer.
III. Petition 2025-19: Petition of Colby Salline for Special Permit approval to construct a 30' x 52' garage in the rear yard at 162 Skinner Lane in accordance with Section 2.E.8 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations, R-1 District.

Planning and Zoning Commission
Aug 13, 2025, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (America/New_York)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://meet.goto.com/352453581>
You can also dial in using your phone.
Access Code: 352-453-581
United States: +1 (571) 317-3122
Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://meet.goto.com/install>

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 24th day of July 2025.
Frank Zitkus, Chair

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
IWWA ACTIONS

At the Regular Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency Meeting held on Wednesday, July 30, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM reviewed and decided the following:
IW-25-014: IWWA for proposed Text Amendments to Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency Regulations – Approved
Effective date of August 27, 2025
IW-24-033: Peter Marlowe, 88 Young Street, Timber Harvest in Upland Review Area. Map 21/ Block 52/ Lot 22C – Denied
Chairman Joshua Wilson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS, FREE REVIEW: Comic Books, Vintage Toys, Sports Cards, Adv Signs/Cans (Soda, Beer, Gas Station), Zippos, License Plates, Jewelry, Postcards, Etc. Call/Text 860-817-4350

I PAY TOP: Cash for your Grandma's Costume & Fine Jewelry stash! Older & Newer jewelry and collectibles wanted, the good, the bad & the ugly! The more the better! Call for an appointment, I will come to you. 25 yrs exp. Call Julie Gorneault 203-443-9602.

WANTED TO BUY: your sterling silverware, tea set, or any item made of sterling. Top cash price paid on the spot. I can come to your home or meet you at a place of your choosing. Call/text Dominic at 860-836-5013 or email dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net.

WANTED TO BUY: All antiques; toys, military, watches, advertising, jewelry, coins, clocks, signs, all musical instruments, guitars, saxophones, keyboards, trumpets, amplifiers, accordions, vintage electronics, hi-fi stereo, amplifiers, pro-audio, radios, ham equipment, tube type equipment, plus more. 1 item or entire estate. Call 860-707-9350.

WANTED: Individual firearms, collections & estates including, military & related items. Federally licensed firearms dealer. Appraisal. Richard Pleines. 860-663-2214.
Help Wanted



PETS

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES: starting soon. Offering Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Need and Want; CGC/Therapy; Agility. Over 25 years experience. Michelle Larson, Paws-N-Heel DTC, 860-267-6040. paws-n-heeldogtraining.com.

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

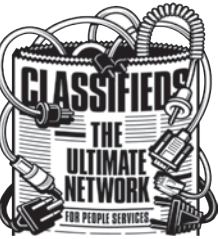
EMPLOYMENT

EXPERIENCED GUTTER INSTALLERS WANTED: 5 days a week, no weekends, paid holidays. Call Wood & Wood Seamless Gutters at 860-205-2573.

WETHERSFIELD TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE: Hiring. Inbound call handling, flexible hours, relaxed work environment. Requirements: Work 1 weekend day per week, Willing to work on holidays Around The Clock Telemessaging (860)529-6881

POSITION WANTED

MATURE VERY EXPERIENCED: Home Health Care person. Have worked with Home Health Care Agencies. Available for live in care. Excellent references. Please call 860-519-6679



New Beginnings for Life is a smaller company with a big heart that cares for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are seeking kind, patient, and passionate candidates to join our team. We have individuals who need care and companionship in Colchester and surrounding towns. We have great benefits, and the rate of pay is \$17.25 per hour. For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester. For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am. These positions are in Colchester. If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please feel free to call us and ask for more information at **860-531-9426**

RES-1524

WAREHOUSE HELP WANTED
GLASTONBURY BUSINESS SEEKING RESPONSIBLE & RELIABLE PERSON WITH SKILLS FOR SHIPPING, RECEIVING & OTHER WAREHOUSE DUTIES. MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, 22-26 HOURS PER WEEK, \$18.50 PER HOUR. PERMANENT POSITION. **(860) 633-4248**

Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin
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1 TB 8/8

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sale

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