

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

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August 15, 2025



Hebron resident Amanda Simmons was crowned 2025 National American Miss Connecticut Queen at a pageant last month in Springfield, Mass. She's shown receiving her crown from Lindsey Frederic, National American Miss Connecticut 2024. Photo contributed by Waldo Photos.

## There She Is, Miss Connecticut

By Toriana Williams

"I was in shock. When they called my name ... I stood there for a good five seconds."

When she snapped back to reality, Hebron local Amanda Simmons, 20, stepped forward and was crowned 2025 National American Miss Connecticut Queen at the state pageant held in early July at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel in Springfield, Mass.

Simmons, born and raised in Hebron, loves her hometown and all that it has to offer. Events like the Hebron Harvest Fair are considered a staple, and "the Maple Fest has some of the best cotton candy you will ever be able to find," she laughed. Currently, she is a student at the University of Hartford where she majors in digital media and journalism with a minor in communications. She plans to graduate early in January 2026.

At the time of her interview with the *Rivereast*, Simmons had just completed an internship with WPRI's "The Rhode Show", a morning lifestyle and talk show based in Providence, R.I. Every morning, Simmons would pass the time on her one hour and 45-minute drive there practicing her personal introduction for the pageant, repeating it over and over again to ensure she had it down.

Simmons' only prior experience with pageants had been a local one she competed in at the age of 12 – so by diving into National American Miss, she was entering a world that was more or less new to her.

"My mom helped a lot," she stated. "The rest of it I was doing on my own."

At family gatherings, Simmons enlisted others' help as well, setting up a table and having her cousins, aunts and uncles sit across from her. "I had them interview me just for practice,

to kind of prepare for the type of questions they would ask and ... feeling comfortable," she said.

However, no amount of practice can ready one for the hectic times that lay ahead in a beauty pageant competition. Over 70 women and girls competed in the National American Miss pageant from the state of Connecticut, with ages ranging from 4 to 39. The event was held over a three-day weekend from July 4 to the 6, and began with checking in, unpacking and socializing at a pajama themed welcome party.

"It was all really a lot of fun," said Simmons. "They're rehearsals as much as they are welcome parties."

Contestants got to know one another and practiced their walks and personal introductions, receiving tips from formerly crowned queens.

A competition is not without its hurdles though. To Simmons, "it can be challenging to get from one place to the next and staying on schedule."

Despite the challenges that all the women and girls faced, joy was easily found. On the first night at the welcome party, Simmons felt called to pray for all the contestants. "That was super out of my comfort zone. I was like, 'Lord, are you sure? Really?'" Simmons questioned. The call remained heavy on her heart, so Simmons

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## Familiar Face Takes Over Bacon Football

By Josh Howard

Bacon Academy/Lyman Memorial football has a familiar face taking over the program this fall.

After serving as the Bobcats' defensive coordinator in 2023, Sean Ladyga returned in the offseason to assume the head coaching duties.

"Coach Ladyga brings a wealth of football knowledge and years of experience as a coach to our football program," Bacon Academy athletic director Kevin Burke said in an email. "Sean has coached at the high school level in the ECC [Eastern Connecticut Conference] and CTC [Connecticut Technical Conference] for the past 26 years."

Burke added, "Sean will look to develop our student-athlete football players to be the best player, student and person they can be and bring pride to our program, school and com-

munity. I'm excited for Sean to lead our football team with outstanding character, respect and leadership for years to come."

Ladyga replaces Bill Chaffin, who resigned after heading the program for the past three seasons.

In his return to the sidelines in Colchester, Ladyga brings with him a wealth of coaching experience that includes being the head coach at Thames River, previously St. Bernard/Norwich Tech, from 2013-2016.

"I take a lot of pride in teaching the kids lessons that will help them later in life," Ladyga said of his coaching philosophy. "It's about holding kids accountable to make sure they understand that their actions mean something."

Ladyga takes over a program that ended last season on a high note, beating RHAM 23-0 in the annual The Battle for the Rail as the Bobcats

brought "The Rail" trophy back to Bacon Academy for the first time since 2019.

Leading an experienced group of players returning to the field from the 2024 team is quarterback Riddick Burroughs, who is entering his third year as a starter. Burroughs was also selected as an ECC All-Star a season ago for his work in the defensive backfield.

Ladyga expressed that having a seasoned signal caller like Burroughs back behind center is invaluable, adding, "He has that experience and understands what we are asking of him."

After serving as the defensive assistant under Chaffin in 2023, Ladyga took a year off from coaching last fall, saying the break was "very beneficial."

"I've got a fresh mindset and feel rejuvenated," he explained. "I'm excited about the kids

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a.m. Sundays in the sanctuary.  
**Food Pantry:** Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; **Senior Pantry** is on the opposite Wednesdays.  
**AA Meetings:** Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.  
**Sonshine Stampers:** Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Tag Sale Saturday, Aug. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; bag sale from 2-3 p.m.

The church is accepting donations for this sale. Donations can be left on the ramp in back of the church or dropped off daily between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. starting Thursday, Aug. 14.

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.

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a multi-family tag sale and pancake breakfast on Sunday, Aug. 24, at the firehouse, 11 School Rd.

The tag sale will run from 8 a.m.-noon. The breakfast will run from 8-10:30 a.m. and will include all-you-can-eat pancakes served with sausage, juice and coffee.

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

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will host a food drive to benefit Andover Food Pantry on Sunday, Aug. 24, from 8 a.m.-noon, at the firehouse, 11 School Rd.

The pantry is in need of the following: cereal, pasta and sauce, condiments, canned fish and meats, canned vegetable, mac and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, baking mixes, complete meal kits, water, and hygiene products and toilet paper.

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

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Basket Raffle night on Friday, Aug. 15, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Andover Public Library, located at 355 Route 6, will hold Dog Days of Summer, with Sheena the Therapy Dog, on Thursday, Aug. 21, at 1:30 p.m. Sheena will be here to listen to kids read to her, joined by her owner Jenifer Nadeau.

For more information or to sign up, call the library at 860-742-7428.



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RE8-15-25

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8/15/2022



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RE7-25-2



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Caregiver Support Group to Meet

The newly formed support group for caregivers will meet Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m., in the Andover Public Library on Route 6.

This is the group's third gathering and will highlight resources available from Roberta Dougherty – Andover Social Services and Municipal Agent; Pam Atwood of Atwood Dementia Group, who specializes in coaching families through the process of progressive dementia; and Andover Hebron Marlborough (AHM) Youth and Family Services.

The meeting provides a safe and welcoming space for individuals who are navigating the challenges, stresses, and rewards of caring for loved ones.

Caregiving can be a demanding journey, often accompanied by exhaustion, isolation, fear,

and stress. This support group is designed to bring together individuals who are traveling the same road, offering a space to share experiences, learn about resources, and connect with others who understand firsthand the challenges of caregiving.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss practical tips, tools, and strategies for daily caregiving, as well as gain insight into available resources. Whether you have recently stepped into the role of caregiver or have been providing care for years, this group aims to foster a sense of community, reassurance, and encouragement.

For more information, call co-host Dianne Grenier at 860-742-3033 or Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122.

Community & Senior Center Happenings

The Andover Community and Senior Center (ACSC) is open daily from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The lounge is open for cards, games and puzzles anytime, and coffee is always on. All are welcome. For all senior-related events, call the director at 860-798-6862. The center's monthly newsletter is available on the Town of Andover website, [www.andoverconnecticut.org](http://www.andoverconnecticut.org). Copies are also available at the center, Town Hall, and Andover Public Library. Call 860-798-6862 and ask for Haley in order to be put on the monthly newsletter email list.

**Volunteer Opportunities Available:** The center is looking for TGIF and Cards & Games helpers, kitchen servers, appointment confirmation phone calls, art teachers, cooking/baking instructors and other volunteers with special talents willing to share with the community. Evening hours are available. Please call or stop by the center if interested.

**Foot Care with Kylie:** Aug. 18. Thirty-minute appointments are available between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Cost is \$40 per session. Spots are limited; call Haley at 860-798-6862 to reserve your spot.

**Movie & Snacks:** Fridays, Aug. 15 and 29, 1 p.m. This is a free event; all are welcome.

**Transportation:** Please provide one week's notice for all requests. Registration is required. Paperwork can be emailed, mailed or picked up at the center. All passengers are required to fill out proper paperwork before utilizing transportation. Transportation is available to town events and meetings, voting, senior events, group shopping, and medical appointments. The driver's shift ends at 5 p.m.; please plan accordingly.

Transportation is curb to curb. Passengers must be able to navigate independently to the vehicle and during appointments. Driveways must be accessible. If assistance is required, passengers may bring an assistant (18 years or older). All seniors, veterans, and disabled are welcome. Call Linda at 860-498-2326 for all transportation-related questions.

**Reserving Space at the Center:** Call the director, Haley Proto, at 860-742-7305 x4510 or 860-798-6862.

**Chair Yoga:** Mondays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$7, payable at the time of class. Call Linda at the center for transportation.

**Hair Care with Helen:** Need a trim? Sign up for a dry haircut, offered by appointment between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each session is 30 minutes and costs \$20. Hair must be clean and dry before your appointment. Transportation is available if needed. Space is limited; call Haley at 860-798-6862 to reserve your spot.

**Kids Cuts with Rebecca:** Does your child need a trim? Sign up for a dry haircut with Rebecca on Friday, Aug. 15, available by appoint-

ment between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Each session lasts 20 minutes and costs \$20. Please ensure hair is clean and dry before the appointment. Transportation is available if needed. Space is limited; call Haley at 860-798-6862 to reserve your spot.

**Shopping Dates:** Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. Wilimantic 8/26 and Manchester 8/19. Transportation is available contact Linda at 860-498-2326.

**Chair Massage with Linda:** Tuesday, Aug. 27, 4-6 p.m. There are appointments every 30 minutes; cost is \$32. Sign-up is required, by calling Linda Derick at 860-655-4409.

**Food Pantry:** Mondays, 4-6 p.m. Transportation to Andover Congregational Church is available (except for on holidays). For more information on other available dates and times, contact Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226.

**Community Yoga:** Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 p.m. Cost is \$10, payable at the time of class. For more information, contact Linda Derick at 860-655-4409. Drop-ins welcome.

**Gentle Yoga:** Fridays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Cost is \$10, payable at time of class. For more information, contact Haley Proto at 203-645-4933. Drops-ins welcome.

**Seams Like Fun – Open Sew & Stitch:** Every Thursday, 12:30-4 p.m. Bring supplies and a snack. Transportation is available. Call Haley with any questions at 203-645-4933.

**Strong & Steady – Resistance Band Workout:** All supplies are provided. Meets every Friday, 10-11 a.m. Cost is \$7, payable at the time of class. For transportation, call the center and ask for Linda.

**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.

Legal Notice  
Andover Board of Assessment Appeals

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Andover will be in session in the Community Room of the Town Office Building 17 School Road, Andover Connecticut on the dates below. The purpose of the hearing is to appeal Assessments placed on the October 1st 2024 Grand List for Motor Vehicles.

Dates For Sessions are as follow  
Monday September 15th at 5:00pm  
Saturday September 20th at 10:00 am

All appeals are on a first-come, first served walk in basis. So there is no application due date. Just appear at the scheduled date and time.

Andover Board of Assessment Appeals  
Alan Roy Chairman  
Linda Armstrong  
Emily Timreck

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REB-15-26



From the Editor’s Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

The start of the school year is just around the corner – for most of *Rivereast*-land, the first day of school is in less than two weeks, believe it or not – but it’s not too late to sign up to host a foreign exchange student.

World Heritage International Student Exchange Programs, a nonprofit public benefit organization, is currently seeking host families to open their homes to international exchange students for the upcoming school year.

Each year, World Heritage offers families the opportunity to host girls and boys, ages 15 to 18, from all over the globe. Students come from over 60 countries, including France, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Australia, Spain, and more. The students are selected based on their academic performance, English proficiency and personal character, World Heritage says, and they are eager to become part of an American family, attend a local high school, and share their own traditions.

During their stay, World Heritage exchange students immerse themselves in American culture by living with and becoming part of a volunteer host family while attending a local high school. This experience allows them to improve their English skills, form lifelong friendships, and gain a deeper understanding of American life and values. In return, host families and communities benefit from the unique perspectives and cultural exchange that these students bring.

“Being a host family isn’t just about providing a place to stay; it’s about making a student from another country part of the family,” says Debra Garbon, World Heritage National Director. “Many host families find that the experience is just as rewarding for them as it is

for the student. The bonds formed often last a lifetime.”

Don’t think you can afford to host an exchange student? Think again. Host families provide a home and meals, true, but students come with their own spending money and health insurance, which, World Heritage says, ensures that hosting is a rewarding and enriching experience without financial burden.

Also, you don’t necessarily already need kids of your own in order to host an exchange student. According to World Heritage, host families come in many forms, including married couples (with or without children), single parents, young professionals, empty-nesters, same-sex couples, and retirees.

Ultimately, hosting a foreign exchange student sounds like a pretty rewarding experience – and one that can build lifetime connections. Indeed, as you’ll see on this week’s “Where in the World if the *Rivereast*?” page, state Rep. Steve Weir of Hebron hosted an exchange student from France for the 2023-24 school year. Romane Favant lived with the Weir family that year and attended RHAM High School. Weir and his family recently paid a visit to Romane and her family in France – so obviously, the families have kept in touch. That’s nice to see.

Families interested in hosting an exchange student can learn more and apply by visiting [www.host.world-heritage.org](http://www.host.world-heritage.org) or contacting Debra Garbon at 800-888-9040 or [info@worldheritage.org](mailto:info@worldheritage.org).

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What if, however, you don’t really want to host a student, but instead you want to *be* a

Editor’s Desk continued on page 6

## Bulletin Board

I noticed recently that a lot of people seem to be tapping into their personal experiences and life lessons to write inspirational children’s books. This got me to thinking, “Hey, I could do that.” So, I did. And here it is (supply your own illustrations):

Once upon a time there were two little boys named Jack and Tory. They were what people back then referred to as “bad boys.” That was before scientists realized that boys’ brains don’t fully develop until they’re like 60 years old, and frequently not even then.

So, in retrospect, it really wasn’t their fault that Jack and Tory frequently found themselves in unfortunate situations despite their best intentions, which—if not always particularly innocent—were also not intentionally malicious.

So it was that one day Jack and Tory were heading out to their secluded hangout in the woods to experiment with some matches Tory’s mother had carelessly left out on the kitchen counter. It was Tory’s considered opinion that removing this potential hazard was practically a public service on his part, though he modestly refrained from calling his mother’s attention to his newfound civic-mindedness.

It is indicative of the boys’ wide-ranging intellects that they were discussing religion as they made their way to their destination—avidly debating whether angels like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or if they’d rather have peanut butter and fluff.

Jack said they preferred peanut butter and jelly.

Tory insisted it was peanut butter and fluff.

“They never clear this stuff up in Sunday school,” remarked Jack. “If they talked about interesting stuff like this, it would be a lot less boring.”

“I liked when they talked about raining frogs down on the Fay-rows,” observed Tory. “That was pretty cool. I wonder if they were big bull frogs or those little frogs that are always getting squashed in the road.”

“Probably some of both,” speculated Jack. “I think God would probably want to mix it up.”

Once in the seclusion of the woods they got down to business, testing the flammability of the local flora with the purloined matches, approaching these experiments with a single-minded dedication that would have astonished their perpetually frazzled 6th grade teacher, who had (through no fault of her own) begun to doubt the existence of a merciful God.

They were down to their last match when they finally took notice of a hollow dead tree. Tory said he could start the tree on fire with the single remaining match. Jack, whose father had been in the war, said it would require at least a flamethrower to ignite something that big.

While respecting Jack’s secondhand combat expertise, Tory determined there was only one equitable way to settle their disagreement. Unlike their previous debate regarding the dietary preferences of angels—a dispute that was unlikely to be settled unless an angel decided to put in a personal appearance—this particular question could be fairly easily resolved.

So he threw a lighted match on the dead punk wood spilling out of the hollow tree.

The tree went up like a torch.

Failing in an attempt to beat out the flames, and hearing sirens in the distance as smoke billowed over the forest canopy, Jack and Tory demonstrated that their brains weren’t completely undeveloped.

They ran away.

“Don’t look back!” exclaimed Jack, visions of Sunday School lessons about Sodom and Gomorrah and pillars of fire suddenly coming to mind.

Tory not only wasn’t looking back, he was practically out of sight.

The next morning, the two pals met to discuss their misadventure. Despite their fears, it appeared they’d managed to evade detection.

“My mother just asked me a lot of questions about what I’d been doing all afternoon,” observed Jack. “And how come I smelled like smoke.”

“Mine too,” said Tory.

“Why do you suppose they only want to know what we’ve been doing when they hear sirens?” said Jack.

“Beats me,” replied Tory.

THE END

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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).



**Lovely Day for a Picnic...** Christ Lutheran Church members attended the annual congregation summer picnic Sunday, Aug. 10. They’re shown here enjoying a beautiful day, great food and outstanding fellowship together at the picnic.

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

### Correction

A letter to the editor in last week’s *Rivereast* indicated a recent Freedom of Information (FOI) complaint a Colchester resident filed is about election-related materials. It is not. It is about referendum-related materials.

### Gazebo Concert Thanks!

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Joseph N. Goff House Board of Directors, we would like to thank the generosity of our many sponsors, local businesses and individuals, who financially supported the 2025 Gazebo Concert Series. Though hot and sometimes rainy, the concerts were a great success, enjoyed by many members of the community.

Thank you also to the East Hampton Board of Education and the Congregational Church of East Hampton for the use of the gazebo, grounds and bathroom facilities. Lastly, thank you to all the local music lovers who attended the concerts each week and gave so generously during our collections to benefit local organizations. See you all next year!

Sincerely,

The Joseph N. Goff House Board of Directors  
Dean Markham, Melissa Pionzio,  
Mallory Kokus, Rebecca Tinnelle,  
Adele Cyr and Will Santos.

### RIVEREAST

## News Bulletin

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News copy deadline for *The Rivereast News Bulletin* is Tuesday at noon. Please address all letters & news articles to: *Rivereast News Bulletin*, P.O. Box 373, Glastonbury, CT 06033

**Letter Writers:** Letters must be 400 words or less, and must be submitted by Tuesday at noon. Email is preferred; send to [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com). All letters must include the writer’s town of residence and daytime contact phone number. Letters focused solely on national issues or national public figures will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and clarity, and are also subject to fact-checking. No bullying or name-calling will be tolerated. There is no guarantee that all letters will be published.

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

Thank You, CoA

To the Editor:  
The staff and members of the East Hampton Senior Center would like to send a wholehearted thank you to the East Hampton Commission on Aging for the donation of a refurbished treadmill for use in the center's gym. We are grateful to have such an active Commission, whose members are so devoted to supporting East Hampton's senior citizens.

Sincerely,  
Holly Marrero, Director  
East Hampton Senior Center

Music to My Ears

To the Editor:  
Imagine my overwhelming sense of relief to return from vacation and read that 88.5 acres on the north side of Kinney Road, a.k.a. 17 Kinney Rd, is "safe from overdevelopment...or, in fact, any development." This was music to my ears! In a letter dated 8/1/25, a fellow Amston letter writer also reported that "thanks to preservation efforts already in place, that property is now safe." It would be greatly appreciated if that letter writer would share their information publicly, clarifying exactly which policies are being referred to, including relevant boards, committees, dates and documents.

This news is truly fantastic, because, for decades, Amston residents have attended town meetings where large development plans, for this watershed, were presented to the public...2004, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2021, 2022 and, of course, the June 2000 Central Business District plans. Watershed residents have been through some trying times and any positive information would be epic.

On a similar note, it's great reading about Hebron's Public Works Action Committee and the updates on the vetting procedures for 550 Old Colchester Rd. See DPWAC meetings at hebronct.com and/or read their informative letters, here, in the paper.

As far as climate tipping points, cooling stations, locally sourced foods and looking out for one another, read the works of scientists like David Suzuki, ipolitics.ca (7/2/25), davidvsuzuki.org, and nature.com (8/27/24). An opinionated friend is a retired biology teacher in California. They, and several of their peers, also feel we've done serious damage to this planet. Wishing to remain anonymous, they did tip me off to fertilizers, animal waste, nitrates and excess salts invading private wells in California. See numerous articles online including kingswateralliance.org.

Moving on, Google search reports, "there is no evidence suggesting that Democracy Now! supports terrorism. ... They are known for providing a platform for voices and perspectives often marginalized in media coverage."

Meanwhile, the news isn't all bad. People are reading this newspaper. We can have meaningful community conversations and with 17 Kinney Rd., apparently, in a land preservation program, we can breathe a sigh of relief. It has meant a great deal to our neighborhood to be able to fight for our drinking water publicly. In doing so we have gained much knowledge and insight into both our town and state, land and water, policies. #save17

Jean Tulumieri – Amston

Thanks for Refreshments

To the Editor:  
The members of Colchester Veterans Honor Guard wish to express their thanks and appreciation to Mohamed Mosed of the Colchester Donut & Cafe for generously providing refreshments for our regular Veterans Honor Guard meetings. The members of the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard offer our thanks and appreciation for your bimonthly support of the Colchester Honor Guard.

Contributions such as yours enable the Veterans Honor Guard to recognize and honor the dedicated service of past members of the Armed Forces of the United States. As a result, last calendar year the Honor Guard performed 226 graveside ceremonies.

Alphonse Letendre  
Deputy Commander

Firehouse Plan Q&A

To the Editor:  
The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department and Board of Fire Commissioners will be publishing weekly updates regarding the need for a new Firehouse. The following are questions and answers that have been raised by town residents.

Q) I have heard that there is environmental contamination at 11 Skinner Street, and the town will be responsible for cleaning this up.

A) The current owner has remediated the site to a "commercial standard" per CTDEEP standards. This has been confirmed by a Licensed Environmental Professional, LEP. There are still some remaining items that need to be remediated to bring the site to a "residential standard" per DEEP standards. The reason this site needs to be brought to the residential standard is because in the future, firefighters may be sleeping within this building. To bring this site to the residential standard, the town has included \$250,000 in the proposed budget. This cost is based on an opinion letter by the LEP to address these remaining issues.

Q) I have heard that the building is within a flood zone and there will be additional insurance costs if we proceed with this purchase.

A) The flood zone does NOT impact the building. The building is 5-10 feet away from this delineation. Additionally, initial discussions with the insurance company indicate any additional costs will not be needed.

The following link addresses this issue: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=11%20skinner%20st%20east%20hampton%20ct>

Q) Why are we not renovating or expanding Barton Hill Headquarters?

A) The current building sits on a .69-acre property and is not adequate for expansion due to property lines and Air Line trail.

The following link shows the current Firehouse, 3 Barton Hill Rd., and property lines. [https://hosting.tighebond.com/EastHamp-tonCT\\_public/#/%23search-count](https://hosting.tighebond.com/EastHamp-tonCT_public/#/%23search-count)

If you have any specific questions, please attend one of our weekly workshops, held Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Company 1 Firehouse.

East Hampton Board of Fire Commissioners

Thank You

To the Editor:  
I would like to thank all of the East Hampton residents who helped me when I fell on Old Home Day. A special thanks to Jim McKinney, who stayed with me until the ambulance came. I'm home recovering from surgery and doing well.

Sincerely,  
Ann McLaughlin – East Hampton

Keep Colchester BOE Successful

To the Editor:  
This is Donna Antonacci. I am the incumbent Colchester BOE Chair, but writing now as your fellow resident and a mother of a student. While Marguerite (Margo) Gignac and I have been on the Colchester Board of Education for nearly four years, we have advocated for key English curriculum changes including:

- Age-appropriate and less politicized themes in literature, plus an emphasis on the classics;
- Helped review and pass through the Wonders Reading Program for pre-K to grade 3;
- Returned grammar to grades 4-12, reinforcing core skills.

Overseeing curriculum is a small portion of what we do on the BOE, but it is significant. We always work in a bi-partisan manner, never allowing politics to affect our children's future. Let's continue our success in November. Think Row C for BOE.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Donna Antonacci – Colchester  
Candidate for Board of Education

Together, We Can Help End Alzheimer's

To the Editor:  
Alzheimer's disease touches so many lives — our families, our friends, and our community. But together, we can make a difference. The Marlborough Senior Center has formed a team for this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's, and we invite you to join us in raising awareness, supporting families, and funding vital research. The walk takes place on Oct. 19 — and every step brings us closer to a world without Alzheimer's.

Whether you walk with us, make a donation, or volunteer your time, your support matters more than ever. Join our team, donate, or learn more at: <http://act.alz.org/goto/marlboroughct-seniorcenter>.

Let's walk for hope, for help, and for a future free of Alzheimer's. If you need support call 24/7 Helpline: 1-800-272-3900. This line is operated by master level social workers.

Shoshana Merced  
Director of Human and Social Services,  
Marlborough

11 Skinner Street

To the Editor:  
The Board of Finance fully supports the new firehouse and knows it is necessary. We have requested additional details about the costs and timelines to complete the environmental remediation before we can recommend spending tax dollars.

There are just too many unknowns, and this is the responsible way to move forward.

Respectfully,  
Bridget McLennan, Chair  
East Hampton Board of Finance

We the People

To the Editor:  
Hello to the wonderful Colchester community! My name is Cari Duigou and I have lived in town since 1986. My husband and I raised our three children here and they all were educated in our public schools. It was important to me to participate in the PTO, which I enjoyed for a dozen years. I plan to run as a Board of Education Candidate on the Republican slate this November.

As an educator for 25 years now, I am interested in keeping Colchester's students excelling in our schools and helping both the students and taxpayers with responsible budgeting. We want to make sure that educational bureaucracy does not supersede the town's interest and the interest of the families that live here.

Please send your thoughts and concerns to the editor so that we can have an honest dialogue among all parties and have the people of Colchester's voices be heard. We want to hear what you have to say. People over politics. Let's unite, we the people of Colchester...

Sincerely,  
Cari Duigou – Colchester  
Republican Candidate for Board of Education

Hebron's Small Town Potential

To the Editor,  
Congratulations to Colchester for the award of \$900,000 from the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) to "improve the trailhead and streetscape network on Lebanon Avenue and Mill Street," as reported in the *Rivereast* on Aug. 8. The State of Connecticut's STEAP web page insightfully notes, "Preserving the historical integrity and beauty of our small towns is vital to our economy and quality of life." Colchester will be using the funds to improve access between the Air Line Trail State Park and local businesses. First Selectman Bernie Dennler recognized the connection between outdoor recreation and economic activity, saying, "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. ... This area is alive with new businesses, the new senior center

See Letters, page 6

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 5*

and will continue to grow with town and state support like this.”

Over the years, the town of Hebron has had substantial success with STEAP funds. Perhaps this program can be used in the creation of the Cesar Peters Park at 17 Kinney Road? Establishing a network of trails and enhancing access to this remarkable property will clearly preserve “the historical integrity and beauty” of Hebron. With two historic stone wall lane-ways connecting directly to Church Street, one across from Hebron Elementary School and one across from the future site of the St. Peter’s affordable housing complex, the location offers a truly special quality of life experience for Hebron’s students, residents and visitors. The new sidewalks, and perhaps a new trail connecting to St. Peters Park, will allow trail users to easily find their way to our historic district and community center, which is also “alive with new businesses.”

Noting funds are already available for Hebron, Preservation Connecticut’s Archeological Circuit Rider Stefon Danczuck stated in 2023,

“This site could be a wonderful way to engage the community of Hebron with their rich, historic past. Given the site’s proximity to the Hebron Center Historic District, this area could be added to the district and create a larger learning experience for those interested in their local history. ... As a Certified Local Government recognized by the State and the National Park Service, Hebron could utilize preservation planning funds to help this dream of their citizens to become a reality.”

Please join the effort to create the Cesar Peters Park and visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook to #Save17.

Sincerely,  
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

**I Would Be Honored**

To the Editor:

Nearly two years ago, I was honored to be elected Colchester’s town treasurer. Since then, I have worked diligently to safeguard public funds, strengthen oversight, and ensure transparency in both our municipal and school ac-

counts. This experience has given me a clear understanding of where our tax dollars go and how to make them work harder for the people of Colchester.

I am now seeking a seat on the Board of Finance to continue this service. My career as an IT Architect for one of the nation’s largest health insurers has sharpened my skills in analysis, problem solving, and managing complex budgets. Coupled with nearly two years of direct involvement in the town’s financial operations, I will bring both technical expertise and practical insight to budget decisions. I will ask the tough questions, expect clear answers, and keep taxpayers’ interests at the forefront.

I have been proud to call Colchester home for the past 19 years, where I live with my two daughters. Outside of work and public service, I am an avid automotive and racing enthusiast, a devoted music lover, and someone who enjoys learning and tackling hands-on challenges.

Over the coming months, I will be listening to residents, sharing my vision, and working to earn your trust. I would be honored to have your support and your vote this November.

Thank you,  
Sean Gillespie – Colchester  
Candidate for Board of Finance

**Response to Letter**

To the Editor:

I’m responding to a letter last week by John Farrell. In it he spread, at best, misinformation about my recent Freedom of Information case against the Town of Colchester. At worst, he flat-out lied. He tried to whip up a wild conspiracy about “protecting our elections,” as if they’re under attack.

Yes, I filed an FOI request to inspect ballots. They were referendum ballots, not election ballots. That distinction matters. Elections and municipal referenda are legally separate, and my request had nothing to do with any election. While John will never say this out loud, the FOI Commission ruled in my favor. Unanimously. They found the town violated the FOI Act by denying my request and ordered the town to comply with my request within 45 days.

It’s a landmark ruling, one that sets precedent

for citizen oversight in Connecticut. The decision reaffirms that municipal referenda belong to the people. And it’s no surprise John hates it as it challenges the kind of unchecked government power he seems eager to defend.

Instead of dealing with facts, he does what he always does: smear anyone who dares to disagree. In John’s world, if you do something different than he would, you must be acting in bad faith and with sinister motives. According to him, I took time away from my family just to “harass” him, Bernie Dennler, and other local officials. The idea that someone might simply hold a different belief is apparently beyond his grasp.

The ego it takes to think that way would make a certain leader in Washington blush. Or maybe, just maybe, John is projecting his own behavior onto others. And let’s not forget that he’s not just any resident. He’s a loud, vocal representative of the Colchester Democratic Town Committee. That begs the question: how much of his disdain for transparency is shared by his party leadership?

This case was never about politics, at least not for me. It remains about transparency, accountability, and the public’s right to know. John can twist himself into knots claiming otherwise, but these principles aren’t only legitimately held, they’re at the core of what I believe.

If John actually believed in democratic principles, he’d be celebrating this decision as a win for every resident of Connecticut. Instead, he’s pouting because a victory for the people is a loss for the authority he’s been guarding.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

**Seeks Finance Board Seat**

Dear Colchester Community:

My name is Krista Kardys and I am a Democratic candidate for the Board of Finance. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have lived in Colchester since 1994. My husband and I chose to raise our three children in Colchester. All three have since graduated, and I will forever be grateful for their experiences and education in our public schools.

My professional work experience in nursing has prepared me well to be an effective member of the BOF. I have been a registered nurse for 32 years. During my career as a nurse, I have served in many leadership roles, including RN supervisor in long-term care, resident care director in assisted living, case manager in home health care, and school nurse for Colchester Elementary School. My role in health care requires that I am able to effectively communicate, apply critical thinking, analyze data, and collaborate to make the best-informed decisions for my patients. I will do the same for my community. During my time as a school nurse, I supervised the nurse’s office within a defined budget.

Prior to becoming a nurse, I was a volunteer EMT serving the towns of Rocky Hill and Marlborough. As an EMT, I worked alongside fire and police departments to care for people at their utmost times of need. I saw the importance of the entire community’s role in supporting our first responders and emergency management services to keep each other safe.

Being a part of the Colchester community has given me the opportunity to give back. I am currently an elected official on the Board of Assessment Appeals. Serving on the BAA has given me valuable insight into how our town taxation process works and the struggles that our taxpayers face. I am also a proud member of the Comstock Regional Lions Club and I previously served as vice president of Bacon Academy Project Graduation.

My years of being an active Colchester community member, my leadership skills acquired as a nurse and elected official, and my commitment to giving back have positioned me to be a strong member of the BOF with a clear understanding of our residents’ needs. I ask for your support in November.

Krista Kardys – Colchester  
Candidate for Board of Finance

*Note: Kardys is a member of the Colchester Board of Assessment Appeals but said she is speaking as a citizen.*

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Power

To the Editor:

While serving on Colchester’s Board of Education, I saw the board’s immense power. They have the power over superintendents’ contracts. A position that has about three times the compensation of our first selectman. They have the power to approve multi-year, multimillion-dollar union contracts without the consent of the Board of Finance. They have the power to approve policies that affect Colchester’s public schools. They have the power to transfer millions of dollars between line items, after voters approved their spending limit. They have the power not to spend all the money approved by the voter. They have the power to oversee 65% of the total Town’s spending. In summary, their power has the largest impact on taxpayers’ payments.

Then there is BOE power over their transparency. They control what they know, and what they present to the public. They can control how long voters can comment at their meetings.

So, while the first selectman race is the head of the ticket, the BOE selections are the most important. Do voters feel education is underfunded or a runaway freight train? Do they need to be more transparent about the financial impact of Superintendent and union contracts? Do they need to add audit summaries to their budget package?

In closing, I know most Colchester registered voters don’t vote in local elections. The last two election cycles had nonparticipation rates of about 52%. Yet, for the other 48%, I hope they take a serious look at the BOE race. Voters have power too.

Be well,  
James McNair – Colchester

Democrats and Abortion

To the Editor,

In last week’s issue of the *Rivereast*, in the letters to the editor, two contributors tried to claim the Republican Party was a party of racism and against civil rights for all. One stated, and I quote, “a party is defined by its base and its platform, not by its name.” In 1973 Roe vs. Wade was passed, allowing women to abort their unborn children. The vote by the Supreme Court was split 7-2 with conservatives and moderates voting ‘yea.’ Since Roe vs. Wade was passed, more than 63,000,000 babies have been murdered just in the U.S. and this is not counting those babies aborted by the abortion pill.

As a result of this bill, the Evangelical Christian Right was formed as a political force to end the brutal murder of babies in the womb. The party, which includes those from the Christian Right, who oppose abortion since the late 1970s and today, is now the Republican Party. Their “base and their platform” is very vocal being against abortion, while the Democratic Party is very vocal for abortion. Since 1973, 20,000,000 Black babies have been murdered on the altar of abortion, the number one cause of death per capita for Black babies. In fact, 48.4% of abortions in Ohio in 2022 alone were performed on Black women.

My point: as these two gentlemen accuse the Republican Party of being a mob who lynched Blacks, caused segregation, are taking away entitlements, being racist, let me remind you which party today is continuing to support the taking of a life on the altar of abortion and creating genocide in the Black community. As one writer wrote, “a party is defined by its base and its platform, not by its name.”

Respectfully submitted by,  
Wendy J. Worley – Colchester

Dementia Talks No. 27

To the Editor:

Apologies for missing last week’s submission. I started a new job and missed the deadline!

Based on my last submission, I received some questions about types of memory tests that can be conducted in a non-specialist setting. Please confirm with your provider office as to what test they use and confirm they have staff trained to administer the tests. That is the best I can do in this public setting knowing I’m not a clinician.

Also, in my last submission I noted that I would share some exciting results from a multi-year Alzheimer’s Association study.

The U.S. POINTER is the first large-scale, randomized controlled clinical trial to demonstrate that an accessible and sustainable healthy lifestyle intervention can protect cognitive function in diverse populations in communities across the United States. This study included two lifestyle interventions – one being structured the second being self-guided. Both interventions focused on physical exercise, nutrition, cognitive challenge and social engagement, and heart health monitoring, but differed in intensity, structure, accountability and support provided.

The net result is that both interventions improved cognition in older adults at risk of cognitive decline.

This is exciting news as the data confirms that things we do to keep our body healthy makes a difference when it comes to a healthy brain. Things like: challenge your mind, eat right,

manage diabetes, sleep well, protect your head, continue learning, be smoke-free, manage your BP, move your body whenever you can.

The following initiatives are will be launched by the Alzheimer’s Association as a result of the study: a personal brain health assessment tool, virtual brain health training program for health care providers, community recognition program for organizations championing brain health, brain health roundtable that will unite leaders across health care, public health, community and corporate sectors to accelerate impact.

Please see <https://aaic.alz.org/releases-2025/us-pointer-study-results-announced.asp> for additional details or Google: AAIC US Pointer Study Results 2025.

Know you are not alone.

With much love and peace,  
Tonya Maurer – Amston  
Alzheimer’s Hot Line 1-800-272-3900

Bizarre, Unfounded Claims

To the Editor,

A recent Marlborough writer’s letter starts out addressing me as a “gentleman” but concludes with a bizarre claim of the existence of “a clear through-line” from his racist Democratic Party forebears to today’s MAGA supporters! He also made several other unfounded and very questionable claims.

He doubts my likely-understated claim of 20 million illegal aliens entering our country

See Letters, page 28

# ENTERTAINMENT



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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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com) along with your address and, if printed, you'll receive a gift card to Campagna Restaurant in Portland! Happy travels!



**Amsterdam Meet-Up...** John and Patty Matra were recently visiting their son and daughter-in-law in Amsterdam. They knew their Amston Lake neighbors John Loge and Marge Mattson were getting ready to depart on a riverboat cruise that started in Amsterdam. So, they connected – and John Loge brought along a copy of the *Rivereast*! Pictured are John Loge, Patty Matra, Marge Mattson and John Matra.



**Bienvenue!...** State Rep. Steve Weir and family recently traveled to France to visit their exchange student, Romane Favant, in her home country. Romane is pictured here – holding the *Rivereast*, of course – along with her parents, Sebastien and Maylis, at their home. Romane lived with the Weir family for the 2023-24 school year, and attended RHAM High School.



**Bucket List Trip...** Eileen and George Sheehan of Portland brought the *Rivereast* to the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, Mount Rushmore and Glacier national parks.



**Maine Memories...** Jess Poulin, Ashley Zeeb, Allison Avery and Elise Keser brought along the *Rivereast* on a recent trip to Boothbay Harbor, Maine!

# Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?  
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### Introduction to Zentangle

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., will offer an Introduction to Zentangle on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m.-noon.

Zentangle is a method of making art using structured patterns to enhance focus and a sense of calm and relaxation. It requires few supplies and can easily go anywhere from the kitchen table to the airplane to a sports event.

Laura Marks, a certified Zentangle instruc-

tor, will lead the class. She has many years of teaching in a wide variety of settings, including since 2016 at the Arts for Healing Program of Hartford Hospital for cancer survivors and their caregivers. She is in the process of becoming certified as a health and life coach.

Cost is \$50 per student. Registration forms are at [www.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org). Online registration is preferred but mail-in is also possible.

### 4th Friday @ the Arts

The Marlborough Arts Center welcomes Parker's Tangent for its next 4th Friday @ the Arts Café series. The concert will be held Friday, Aug. 22, at 7:30 p.m., at the Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St.

Parker's Tangent, based out of New Haven, plays blues- and roots-based original art rock. The band's lineup features a female lead singer, drums, guitar, bass, and violin. Each of the musicians has many years of experience in other local bands. Parker's Tangent has played the main stage of the New Haven green, Toad's Place, Cafe 9, Lyric Hall, The New Haven Road Race

[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](http://www.marlbrougharts.org), email [info@marlbrougharts.org](mailto:info@marlbrougharts.org) or call 860-467-6353.

### Parks and Rec. Programs

Marlborough Parks & Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit [www.marlbroughct.net](http://www.marlbroughct.net). For more information, call 860-295-6203.

**Youth Programs: 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.

**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.

### 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](mailto:stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com). The church website is [www.stjfcchurch.org](http://www.stjfcchurch.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](mailto: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 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.

### Tag Sale Save the Date

The Town Wide Tag Sale will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration fee is \$25.

For more information, call 860-295-6203.

### Vacancy for Finance Board Alternate

Marlborough is looking for residents interested in filling a vacancy for an alternate member of the Board of Finance.

All residents of Marlborough who are registered to vote are eligible. For the application, interested candidates should go to the town website and type in "Application for Board or Commissions" in the search bar.

The closing date on applications for vacancies

is 30 days from the first date that the vacancy is posted in the newspaper; in this case, that first date is today, Aug. 15.

Applications can be dropped off at the Town Hall in the Town Clerk's office or you can mail them to: Marlborough Town Hall, Town Manager's Office, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447.

### New Grief Share Session to Start

A Grief Share support group will run Tuesdays, starting Sept. 16 and ending Dec. 16, from 5-6:30 p.m., at Fellowship Community Church, 24 South Rd.

The group consists of 13 videos and discussion sessions with the last session on Tuesday, Dec. 16, which will be a Celebration of Life to honor your loved one.

There will also be a session titled Surviving the Holidays on Tuesday, Nov. 18. You do not have to attend Grief Share to register for this session. There will be a future news release for this session in the *Rivereast* sometime in October.

The sessions include watching a video, group discussions, and doing the sections pertaining to the video in the workbook at your leisure.

Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions

include "Is This Normal?" "The Challenges of Grief," "Grief and Your Relationships," "Why?" and "Guilt and Anger." This is not a consecutive program. If you have started a Grief Share program before and have not finished or come in the middle of the sessions, you may still participate again.

There is a \$20 one-time registration fee, which includes the workbook. You will get the workbook at the first session. If you have already paid the \$20 registration fee from the previous Grief Share program, you will not need to pay again.

For more information, call 860-338-1060 or email [shopgirl53@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shopgirl53@sbcglobal.net). Registration is on [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org). Click 'Find a Group' and look for Fellowship Community Church. You may register there to see the schedule for the sessions and other information pertaining to Grief Share.

### 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](http://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.

**Stories and Songs:** Monday and Friday mornings at 10 a.m. through Aug. 22. For children ages 0-5 with their caregivers (siblings are welcome to attend). Registration is not required. Held outside and inclement weather will cancel

the program.

**Level Up Your Perler Beads Skills:** Love crafting with perler beads? Tweens and teens (ages 10 and up) can come Mondays, Aug. 11 and 18, at 4 p.m. to learn how to make 3D creations. The library will provide the beads, boards, and patterns. Registration is required.

**Read to the Dogs:** Monday, Aug. 18, 6-7 p.m. Young readers are invited to come in and read to a certified Reading Education Assistance Dog. Reading to a dog is a low-pressure way to encourage beginning readers, the library said. Register for a 15-minute time slot to secure your child's spot. There is a limit of two children per time window (one per dog).

**Children's Concert at Blish Park:** The library is partnering with Marlborough Parks and Rec for a children's concert at Blish Park on Thursday, Aug. 14, beginning at 6 p.m. Joy Blooms will offer fun, upbeat music. While you're there, get your face painted and play some yard games.

### Marlborough Day Returns Aug. 24

On Sunday, Aug. 24, the CT River Valley Chamber and It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe will present the family-friendly Marlborough Day. Taking place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Blish Park, the day will feature live entertainment, over 40 vendor booths and civic organizations, kid-friendly activities including the Roaming Railroad, face painting, and a photo booth. Performances by local favorites The Modern Riffs and DeeJay Renee Prescott of Shaded Soul will be showcased, along with the Marlborough Fife and Drum, and the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department. There will be a martial arts demo by Phoenix Martial Arts, and an appearance by Alex the Mermaid will also be featured.

Each family attending will receive a complimentary swag bag (while supplies last), and each individual attendee will receive a ticket to be entered into our door prize drawing for a mountain bike! Attendees must stop at the Chamber welcome booth to receive the ticket and the event program. Food trucks will be on

site for the day, and will feature tacos, pretzels, snacks, seafood options and of course desserts.

CT River Valley Chamber President Jessica Olander thanked the participants, volunteers, sponsors and committee members for making this event happen. "We couldn't do this without everyone. I love this event, and we work really hard to bring the best to Marlborough and showcase our businesses and community."

Marlborough Day Committee Chairman Craig Robinson, of It's So Ranunculus, added, "This event is a great community day. We are happy to bring the businesses and residents together to showcase our beautiful park and celebrate Marlborough."

Marlborough Day draws over 750 people annually to the area. Complimentary parking will be across the street at the Park Road field lot, and handicapped parking will be at the main lot next to the entrance.

For more information, visit [www.crvchamber.org/events](http://www.crvchamber.org/events).

### 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. 21, The Rocking Heads; Aug. 28, Nightshift.

### Congregational Church Golf Classic

The Marlborough Congregational Church Golf Classic will take place Monday, Sept. 29, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

Check-in and lunch begin at 11 a.m., with a shotgun start at 12:15 p.m. Cost is \$145/person, which includes a round of golf with a cart, lunch and dinner. Awards will be presented in various categories for both men and women. Pay by Sept. 1 to be entered in an Early Bird drawing.

Exclusive sponsorships are available from \$50 to \$1,500.

For more information or a registration flyer, contact the church at [office@marlcongchurch.org](mailto:office@marlcongchurch.org).



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# EHHS School Resource Officer Set to Start Year

By Margaret O’Callaghan

School is starting up again soon for East Hampton kids – and that means it’s time for Frank Necavo to begin roaming the halls at East Hampton High.

Nevaco has been the school resource officer at East Hampton High School for the past five years.

Before this career, Nevaco had worked in law enforcement for years, with previous experience in Hartford and over 20 years in Rocky Hill. He explained that when he joined, it was required for each officer to have at least 15 years of experience working in that profession.

Nevaco explained that being in law enforcement was difficult, with long, unreliable hours and constant chaos – but now, he enjoys going to work each and every day. There are fewer traumatic incidents, he said, and more opportunities to verbally connect with people.

Nevaco’s daughter graduated from EHHS with the Class of 2021 and she had brought up the fact that there was suddenly an opening within the school. When he took the job, just a few minutes away from his home, he noticed such a great difference in the position compared to before, “It was eye-opening.”

The typical day for Nevaco begins with arrival to the school just a bit before students are let in. He greets them at the door and ensures that students are the only ones allowed in and out.

Nevaco made note to mention to the *Rivereast* the visitor policy at the school. “The security is exceptional at East Hampton,” he said. The high school uses a system referred to as ‘Raptor’ that scans the identities of visitors to ensure they do not have a criminal record. The front office is

often times very busy handling that, so he likes to be prepared, but it has been a learning thing.

Nevaco makes sure that while students are changing classes in the hallway, he can be seen. He explained that part of his job is *being* seen, since it creates an environment for students to be left at ease, especially if there’s bullying occurring. “You try to be the best adult you can be,” he said.

Nevaco said he makes sure that he speaks to students and staff, understanding he must maintain the perfect balance of friendliness and professionalism. Nevaco said he has created great relationships between himself and the students and that they’ll come up to him for advice. “Some have real problems, some don’t!” he said.

But whatever the issue may be, Nevaco will always listen. Most of his time while on the clock is centered around listening and observing rather than physically mandating the high school. Though, sometimes he must take action.

As in any high school, fights are not uncommon – and the lunch room is especially chaotic, so Nevaco tries his best to keep the room peaceful enough for all students to enjoy their lunch to some degree.

Now that he’s been in a school environment for a few years, Nevaco explained his newfound respect for teachers.

“My wife is a teacher of 30+ years,” he began, explaining that he used to tease her for having the summers off, but now he knows first-hand that the break is extremely well-deserved.

Nevaco said his goal is for his school days to go by uneventfully, so that he doesn’t have to scold or report any of the teenagers.

One of Nevaco’s favorite parts of being part of

the team is learning from and talking to the kids he protects. He hears about their academics, athletics, and social lives – as well as the occasional gossip. He believes that it’s important for the students to remember he’s there to support them, not get them into trouble.

Nevaco admitted his title can certainly be an obstacle for that bond, but he stressed he and the students do always seem to connect. Nevaco reiterated the importance of not overstepping boundaries with students, especially when it comes to teachers and parents – again, he finds the most importance in listening rather than speaking, “Security officers are there to protect [kids] in schools – as much as we can.”

Another difference he finds with working with teenagers rather than as a cop in Rocky Hill or Hartford is “kids have a hard time with rules; they always want to know *why!*” He said he doesn’t want to always go into detail about the reasons for a closed bathroom or a student being pulled aside for swearing, but they push because they are curious.

Each school officer in the state is highly trained, Nevaco said. They’re all First Aid and CPR certified, as well as being required to attend multiple training programs annually, one of which is mandated by the Connecticut Police Academy. They also have to be put through psychological training, for when some students may experience a meltdown. Nevaco said he’s learned how to hold and protect students that may be experiencing one, and in a way safe enough for the student to feel calm and collected.



Frank Nevaco

Recently, Nevaco said he’s also had to go through seizure training sessions, as there are several students at EHHS that are prone to seizures.

So when classes begin at East Hampton High School on Aug. 18, students are encouraged to keep an eye out for Nevaco – as he’ll be keeping an eye out for them.

## 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 line-up 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.

## Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. on Sundays. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to [www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com](http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com) for directions. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers, priest-in-charge.

**Donations:** Food items for the East Hampton Food Bank may be placed in the black totes at the rear of the church.

**Returnable Bottles and Cans:** Are collected in cans by the shed.

**Gardeners Still Needed:** Volunteers are still

needed to weed, water, and plant in the Pollinator Garden. Speak with Rogers if you are able to help.

**Cookie Booth:** Some time slots are still open for volunteers to work at the Cookie Booth at the Haddam Neck Fair during Labor Day Weekend. Check the sign-up sheet in the rear of the church. Donations cover the cost of the cookie dough are welcome.

**Information/Assistance:** Contact Senior Warden Donna Hryb at 860-633-0472 or [donnaadubehryb@gmail.com](mailto:donnaadubehryb@gmail.com) for more information.

## 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](http://myactivecenter.com) or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or [seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov](mailto: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](http://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. 18, 9 a.m. All pace levels are welcome.

Contact the senior center for information.

**Putting Yourself First – The Best Gift is You:** Monday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m. Hosted by the Wonderfully Wicked Women’s Group, this program is a journey of self-discovery and personal growth.

**Tech Time with Sam:** Tuesday, Aug. 19, 10:30 a.m. Sam Bolton from East Hampton Public Library will be on hand to answer your technical phone, iPad and laptop questions. Bring your device with you to the session.

**Annual Senior Picnic at Sears Park:** Wednesday, Aug. 20, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring live music, food trucks, games, information booths and more. Cost is \$3. Note: The senior center is closed for the day.

**Drum Circle with Mark Zarillo:** Thursday, Aug. 21, 1:30 p.m. This interactive program that uses drums to create energizing beats and help build a sense of community. No experience needed. Cost is \$5.

**Design & Create:** Thursday, Aug. 21, 1:30 p.m. Make something together during this hands-on craft session led by senior center staff member Cindy Houle.

**Bike Rides for Seniors:** Friday, Aug. 22, 10 a.m., with Kim Clouser from AirLine Cycles, featuring a ride at Air Line Trail, 69 Smith St., East Hampton. Bring your bike, a drink and sunblock/bug spray.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://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 August:** 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 through Sept. 26.

**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.

**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 Me-**

## 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](http://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.



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# Another Successful ‘Light Up the Lake’

By Margaret O’Callaghan

Area boat owners were invited to join the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug on Saturday, Aug. 9, for the Friends’ annual parade known as Light Up the Lake. Those who wanted to see the parade were invited to drive around the lake from North Main Street and see the beautiful ‘floats’ designed by each and everyone in participation.

The lake was shining with the lights the boat captains had decorated with, showing off a beautiful scene for the residents to admire. The event was free and uncoordinated – no sign-ups required; boats just needed to operate at no wake speed, and, of course, be steered carefully.

Several users posted about the event on Facebook to the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug community as well as the Let’s Talk East Hampton board, showing off their favorite floats of the night. Sunrise, sunset, and moon pictures are often posted to the community boards, but this event had the pages swamped with beautiful images of the event for days.

Well-known resident Cap Egan Nelson, of Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, said over 40 boaters participated, and “the creativity and enthusiasm were amazing both on shore and on the water.”

Sears Park was open past the usual closing time in order for the participants to join safely.

Those who were not in boats and were property owners upon the lake were also encouraged to participate in their own ways, by decorating their homes and yards with cheerful lights as well for maximum ambiance. Business owners were also encouraged to do the same.

Nelson also explained, “We asked the boaters to start in the waters in front of the Lake Pocotopaug sign. This way they cruise past Sears Park first for the people who gathered to see the boats.”

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug posted to its official Facebook account, “Thank you Lake Pocotopaug for an amazing evening. What creativity and enthusiasm.”

And with that, another successful lake parade for the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug was in the books!

Past parades have been in celebration for Halloween as well as St. Patrick’s Day, always creating grand holiday spirit for the residents of East Hampton and Lake Pocotopaug lovers.

Lake advocates say that hopefully this event can draw more care and consideration for the wildlife as well as the safety of Pocotopaug. The lake has been a popular center for the town for years and continues to grow and see more families come in and visit the landmark.

The next event that will be put on by The



Decorated, illuminated boats, such as the one seen here, took to Lake Pocotopaug in style last weekend, when the Friends of Lake Pochtotopaug group held its annual Light Up the Lake.

Friends of Lake Pocotopaug will be a wine-tasting event, happening in the fall, “Sip, Savor & Support the Lake!” On Sept. 14, lake lovers will be encouraged to join the organization in attending their \$50 per person event, in which wine, snacks, beer, raffle tickets, souvenir glasses, and music will be present.

It will take place on Laurel Island, with free boat transfers, but no private docking allowed.

The boats will run from 1-4 p.m. The boat transfers will be located at 70 N. Main Street at West Shore Marine. More information is located on the Friends’ official Facebook page in the form of an e-flier.

According to the organization, all proceeds will support the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug’s lake projects.

## 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](https://sites.google.com/view/easthamptonquiltproject/home).

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

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

**Music at the Fair:** All are invited to join the church at the Haddam Neck Fair Bandstand on Sunday, Aug. 31, at 11 a.m., for a Community Worship Service. The Vocal Choir will be accompanied by keyboard, guitars and drums.

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

**Children’s Ministry:** Children’s Ministry, for children in kindergarten through 5th grade, is

held in Fellowship Hall during worship. The theme is “Friends with God” and is taught through Bible stories where the characters are friends with God. A toddler nursery is also available. Confirmation Class is held on alternate Sundays during the worship service.

**Vocal Choir:** Will resume in the fall, on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. New members are always welcome.

**Adult Bible Study:** Will also resume in the fall, on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Music Room.

**Women’s Fellowship:** The next gathering will be in the fall.

**Office Info:** The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8 to 4 p.m. The church website is [www.hncovenantchurch.org](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org).

## Haddam Neck Fair 5K Returns Aug. 31

A tradition returns this August as the Haddam Neck Fair once again kicks off its final day with the 5K Road Race. Runners and walkers of all ages are welcome.

The 2025 race will take place Sunday, Aug. 31 at 9:30 a.m., beginning and ending at the fairgrounds in East Hampton. Participants can look forward to a rural course that winds through Haddam Neck’s rolling countryside. The 5K features relatively flat stretches, two gentle declines, and one short but steep climb. The race is USATF certified, USATF sanctioned and insured, and will be professionally timed by Platt Systems.

All finishers will receive a commemorative medal, and top runners in multiple age categories will be recognized with awards. Those who pre-register by Aug. 15 will receive a free race T-shirt. Entrants who register between Aug. 15 and Aug. 25 can take advantage of a discounted

fee but will not receive a shirt. A limited number of T-shirts will also be available for purchase on race day.

This year’s entry fees are \$18 for pre-registered runners and \$20 for day-of registrants. Seniors age 65 and over may register for \$13 in advance or \$15 on race day. Online sign-up fees may apply.

Runners can register online at [runsignup.com/Race/CT/EastHampton/HaddamNeckFair5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/EastHampton/HaddamNeckFair5K) or submit a mail-in application by Aug. 25 to Road Race c/o Margaret McCutcheon Faber, P.O. Box 326, Middle Haddam, CT 06456. Checks should be made payable to the Haddam Neck Fair Association Fairgrounds.

Free fair admission is included for all registered participants on the day of the race.

For more information or questions about the race, contact Margaret McCutcheon Faber at [msmfaber@gmail.com](mailto:msmfaber@gmail.com) or 860-301-5856.

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St, has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register for a program, call 860-267-6621 or visit [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org).

**Hours:** Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**All-Ages: Summer Reading Closing Party:** Friday, Aug. 15, 3-5 p.m., at the Center School fields. There will be a petting zoo, popsicles, and a DIY tie dye treat for everyone to take home. Plus, find out if you’re one of the lucky Summer Reading prize winners at 4:30 p.m. All ages welcome; no registration required.

**Adult Programs: Paint & Pastries: Grades 8-12 and Adults:** Monday, Aug. 18, 11 a.m. Start your morning with a splash of paint and syrup. No experience needed; just a hunger for creativity (and maybe waffles).

**Book Club Al Fresco:** Tuesday, Aug. 19, 6:30 p.m., at the picnic shelter at Sears Park. Bring your chair and come together to read and discuss the monthly selection. Copies of the month’s book are available for checkout at the circulation desk. Register as inclement weather may affect the location and require notification.

**Meet the Authors of Saved: Equine Rescues of Connecticut:** Tuesday, Aug. 26, 6:30 p.m. Photographer Sarah Grote and author Andrea Steele will bring awareness to how equines come

to be at risk and introduce you to the Connecticut people who work to rebuild the lives of these animals. Learn specific ways to stop neglect and abuse.

**Teen Programs: Teen Advisory Board Annual Kick-Off Meeting: Grades 8-12:** Tuesday, Aug. 19, 6 p.m. Take a leadership role in shaping how the library serves teens like you. You’ll help plan programs, improve the Teen Space, and more.

**Teen Writing Circle: Grades 7-12:** Thursday, Aug. 21, 3-4:30 p.m. Free write and have some time to share your work and inspire one another.

**Magic: The Gathering (Grades 7-12):** Wednesday, Aug. 27, 1-3 p.m. Whether you already know how to play the card game or want to learn, come together and play with people of all skill levels. Bring your own decks or use one of the library’s.

**Children’s Programs: Pajama Storytime: Grades K-3:** Monday, Aug. 18, 6:30 p.m. Put on your favorite pajamas and come for a bedtime favorite and a craft.

**Read to a Therapy Dog: Grades K-3:** Wednesday, Aug. 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Readers will be assigned a 15-minute time slot between 3:30-4:30 p.m. to read to Jovie, a certified therapy dog. This is an opportunity to read aloud in a comfortable environment.

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**Village Car Show...** The 2025 Village Car Show raised \$1,500 with a matching donation of \$1,500 being given by sponsors Belltown Motors and Fowlers Auto Wrecking. The \$3,000 was donated to the East Hampton Ambulance Association Scholarship Fund. In the photo at left are Village Car Show founder Tony Flannery with East Hampton Ambulance Association members Kim Danaher, Saige Sevigny, and Keri Ann Chowanec. Also pictured are the Village Car Show committee members Jennifer Day, Kathleen Waldie-Strong and Cynthia Blair. This year’s Best in Show winner was Scott Goodspeed with his 1968 Plymouth Road Runner. Pictured in the photo at right are Scott and Lorraine Goodspeed, along with Flannery and Day.



### Epoch Arts Six-Day Tag Sale

Epoch Arts is holding its annual six-day, two-weekend, gigantic indoor, rain or shine, tag sale next month.

Shop the Christmas and Holiday Room, or check out areas like books, arts and crafts, linens, clothing, kitchen, toys, bath and beauty, and music. Also, there will be much furniture, electronics, sports, tools, and more. All proceeds directly fund Epoch’s youth programs for the year.

The Tag Sale runs Fridays, Sept. 5 and 12, from noon-5 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, Sept. 6, 7, 13 and 14, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 5 has an early bird special from noon-2 p.m., with an entrance fee of \$25 (pay at the door), for those who wish to have a first sneak preview.

The tag sale is held at 27 Skinner St. For more information, visit [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org).

### 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.

### Faith Formation Registration for 2025-26

The St. John Paull 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.sspatrickenbridgetehct.org](http://www.sspatrickenbridgetehct.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.

**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](mailto:sjp2dre@gmail.com), or Deacon Dan D’Amelio at [deacondandamelio@gmail.com](mailto:deacondandamelio@gmail.com).

tion.

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](mailto:sjp2dre@gmail.com) or Molly Bickford at [sjp2ym@gmail.com](mailto:sjp2ym@gmail.com).

### 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.

### 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](mailto:post5095bingo@gmail.com) with any questions.

### EHAA Scholarship

The East Hampton Ambulance Association is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to an undergrad student who has completed one year of studies in a health/medical program. You must be a resident of East Hampton or Haddam Neck.

Application deadline is Aug. 31. For more information and an application please go to [ehms.org](http://ehms.org).

### 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](mailto:seidlt@sbcglobal.net) for a nomination packet or go to the Hall of Fame website, [ehahof.wixsite.com/bellringer](http://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](mailto:seidlt@sbcglobal.net) if interested.

### Police News

7/26: Raymond Beck, 20, of East Hampton, was issued a summons for speeding, East Hampton Police said.

7/31: Christopher Scaplen, 40, of East Hampton, was issued a summons for sixth-degree larceny, police said. That same day, Scanlon was also arrested and charged with criminal trespass, third-degree assault and breach of peace, police said.

8/4: James Kochuk, 38, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, risk of injury to a child and disorderly conduct,

police said.

8/4: Alivia Oruczadeh, 36, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, police said.

8/4: Kristin Kossack, 48, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an officer, police said.

From Aug. 4-10, officers responded to 20 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and eight alarms, and made four traffic stops, police said.

### Wine-Tasting Fundraiser

A Wine-Tasting Fundraiser to benefit the projects of the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug (FOLP) will take place Sunday, Sept. 14, from 1-4 p.m., on Laurel Island.

The cost is \$50/person which includes round-trip boat transfers, wine-tasting, a souvenir glass and a small snack. Limited beer tasting is included, along with soda for non-drinkers.

There will be a teacup raffle and live music by John Moore. Jack Solomon will be available to answer questions about the history of Laurel Island. Guest can relax, explore the island and enjoy lawn games.

A representative from the Conservation Lake Commission will be on hand to answer any

questions regarding Lake Pocotopaug.

Boat transfers will run continuously from 1-4 p.m. from West Shore Marine, 90 Main Street. Parking is available at Sears Park. Note that there is no outside food, no outside alcohol, no smoking, and there is also no private boat docking on the island. This event is rain or shine. Limited tickets are available in advance or on the dock.

For tickets, call Kevin Kuhr at 860-395-7548. Tickets will also be available from any FOLP member.

For more information, visit [www.FLPEH.org](http://www.FLPEH.org) or look for Friends of Lake Pocotopaug on Facebook.

### ‘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](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org/2025-golf-registration-and-sponsorship), or send an email to [cdhr.golf@gmail.com](mailto:cdhr.golf@gmail.com).

### Call to Artists

The East Hampton Art Association will have its 45th annual Art Show Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St.

If you would like to display your work, please contact [ehaact@gmail.com](mailto:ehaact@gmail.com) for the details and registration form (which must be mailed back along with the entry fee and received by Aug. 29.).

For more information, find the association on Facebook or look online at [easthamptonctartsassociation.org](http://easthamptonctartsassociation.org).

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH) or [www.bethlehemeh.org](http://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](mailto:jackande52@aol.com).

### Class of ‘10 Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 2010 is planning its 15th reunion.

Share your availability at [tinyurl.com/4yuex98x](http://tinyurl.com/4yuex98x).

### 58th Class Reunion Coming

All 1967 Bellringers are reminded to save the date for the 58th class reunion coming up Sunday, Sept. 21, from 1-5 p.m., at The Dublin, 42 East High St. Order off the menu, paying as you go.

For reservations, call Helen at 860-918-2332, Rita at 860-798-1092 or Geri at 860-682-2067.



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**Rocking & Rolling...** Members of the East Hampton Senior Center Design & Create class, led by staff member Cynthia Houle, recently dedicated a new Rock Message Box, which members of the community can enjoy as they visit the senior center/library complex. Senior center member Dave Rogers built the box and the participants in the class painted rocks with various words that can create inspirational messages when combined together. The box is located near the bike rack in front of the library and senior center.

### EHHS Class of '75 Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 1975 will hold its 50th Reunion Saturday, Aug. 23, at 5:30 p.m., at Campagna Restaurant, 151 Marlborough Rd.

The cost is \$40 per person and can be paid by [venmo@Sandra-Ross-195](mailto:venmo@Sandra-Ross-195), or checks can be sent to Sandra Ross, 131 Deer Run Drive, Colchester, CT 06415.

### GOP Meet 'n Greet

All are invited to join the East Hampton Republicans for a Meet 'n Greet fundraiser and raffle at The Dublin, 42 E. High St., next Thursday, Aug. 21, at 6 p.m.

Candidates will be on hand to answer questions and listen to concerns. Raffles will include a stay at the Cape, a Hew Hampshire getaway, a Lancolm Beauty Bag, plenty of gift baskets, and a Gift Card Tree.

The Dublin will have live music, drinks and good food.

### RTC Meets Next Week

All are invited to the next meeting of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee on Tuesday, Aug. 19, at 6:30 p.m., at The Dublin, 42 E. High St.

Attendees will learn about volunteer opportunities in the community. For more information, email [ehctgop@gmail.com](mailto:ehctgop@gmail.com) or [www.easthamptonrtc.com](http://www.easthamptonrtc.com).

### 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.

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### Free Home Energy Audits Available

All this month, East Hampton residents can receive free Home Energy Solutions Energy Audits.

According to the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force, the Home Energy Solutions program supports cost-saving measures for residents (homeowners, tenants and landlords) by improving energy efficiency within the home. Residents who participate usually receive many hundreds of dollars in energy-saving measures, the task force said.

After Aug. 31, the fee for a Home Energy Solutions Energy Audit will revert to \$75.

Schedule an assessment by visiting [HeatSmartCT.org/East-Hampton](http://HeatSmartCT.org/East-Hampton), or calling 877-878-3006 (be sure to mention "HeatSmart").

### Bingo at VFW Post

All are invited to bingo every Thursday at VFW Cobra Post 5095, located at 20 North Maple St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and games start at 6:30 p.m. There are cash prizes.

Pre-order a fresh homemade sandwich to eat or a drink in the bar to be served during intermission.

### 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](http://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.

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## Unconscious Man Pulled from Lake

By Margaret O'Callaghan

On Sunday, Aug. 10, a man was pulled out of Lake Pocotopaug by his family members onto land in Sears Park, after being knocked unconscious.

It seemed to be originally suspected that the man had hit his head on the side of the boat, but Police Chief Dennis Woessner said in a statement to *Rivereast News*, "The person was unconscious but breathing and was transported to the Marlborough Medical Center. Preliminary investigation revealed the male jumped off a moving pontoon boat into the water and struck his head on something in the water, knocking him unconscious."

He was taken to the hospital from Sears Park on North Main Street. The incident remains under investigation and no further information is available at press time.

Lake Pocotopaug is 511 acres according to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station website. It's home to a thriving and progressing ecosystem, which of course means

there will be wildlife that needs to live among rocks and other objects that may be dangerous to swimmers.

Typically, there are wavering algae levels that have affected the lake throughout the years, and while that's improving greatly, it's still an issue. The algae can murk up the water, leading to difficulty seeing deep into the water, especially with the summer sun glare, according to a previous lake study.

The safety of the lake has been questioned for years – not so much regarding the obstacles and rocks and debris that lie below the surface, but rather the quality of water.

Until 2021 when the new lake aeration was planned and instilled, the water quality in the lake was poor, according to many members of the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug Facebook Community. While the water has improved greatly in recent years, along with its ecosystem, people have still expressed concerns over the quality, due to development.

### VFW Lobster Fest Fundraiser

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095, in partnership with the VFW Post 5095 Auxiliary, will hold the 19th annual Lobster Fest Fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 27, from noon-5 p.m., at 20 North Maple St.

This longstanding community tradition is the organization's largest annual fundraising event. Proceeds will directly benefit local veterans and their families, as well as contribute to critical repairs and improvements to the Post Home.

Attendees will enjoy an afternoon of food and entertainment, including the return of DJ 128, who will provide music throughout the day. There will be a raffle table with various prizes.

Menu highlights: 1¼-1½ lb. fresh Atlantic lobster, ¾" thick prime ribeye steak, 1 lb. baked

potato, fresh local corn on the cob, homemade Chamis Clam Chowder. Optional Add-On: 1 lb. of fresh steamers.

Tickets are \$65 and include choice of one lobster or one ribeye steak, accompanied by baked potato, corn, and chowder. A \$25 add-on includes one additional lobster or ribeye steak, and a \$15 add-on includes 1 lb. of fresh steamers.

Tickets are available by advance purchase through VFW Post 5095 at 860-267-8837 and by visiting the post at 20 North Maple St. in East Hampton during canteen open hours (Tuesday-Friday, 3 p.m.-close, and Saturday and Sunday, noon-close. Availability at the door will be extremely limited and cannot be guaranteed.

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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](mailto: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](http://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1346736).



Colchester Lion Laurie Stanavage, right, has received the Jean Andrews New Lion Award. Presenting her with the award is Lion Julie Shilosky.

Resident Receives ‘New Lion’ Award

Colchester resident Laurie Stanavage is recipient of this year's Jean Andrews New Lion Award.

Jean Andrews and her husband Doug joined the Colchester Lions on June 9, 2000. As soon as they joined they became active members right away. They were at all of the fundraisers and loved being Lions. Then Jean was diagnosed with cancer. She fought a hard battle, enduring chemo, etc., but always had a smile on her face, the Lions said. When she became too sick to come to meetings or fundraisers, she insisted on making calls to members on meetings or manpower, she insisted that her dues be paid, and she continued to do whatever she could from home right up until she passed in 2002.

This Colchester award is in her memory for new Lions that have been members less than two years and, like Jean, had become very active in a short time.

Stanavage, previously a Leo mom, joined the Colchester Lions June 2024. Immediately upon joining she has been active in every event and this year she has stepped up to be the organization's tail twister. This award was given in recognition of her devotion for community service.

The Colchester Lions Club has 86 members and meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the St. Joseph Polish Society, 395 S. Main St. For more information or to get involved with the Colchester Lions Club, visit [www.colchesterlions.org](http://www.colchesterlions.org).

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](mailto:cfc06415@gmail.com).

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 a.m. The service is also broadcast via Facebook Live. Worship videos are at [www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org](http://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.

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

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 [megan.l.trujillo@gmail.com](mailto:megan.l.trujillo@gmail.com) or text or call 518-526-6882.

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# CCT to Tell Story of Grandma and her Gun

**By Toriana Williams**

On her 80th birthday, Evelyn Westbrook isn't even thinking about slowing down and certainly not putting down her gun.

In Colchester Community Theatre's upcoming production of local actor and first-time playwright Joel Michael Kalinowski's new play, *Grandma's Got a Gun*, heart and hysteria will surely collide.

"It follows a family," Kalinowski began. "A grandmother that raised her three grandsons."

After coming to the conclusion her grandkids aren't as close as she would like them to be, Evelyn, ever the opportunist, takes a chance to trap them all in her house until she has her way. What more could a birthday girl want?

Meddling in their lives to heal old, and subsequently new, wounds, chaos ensues whilst balancing heavy topics like grief and healing. Kalinowski admitted his writing has been described as irreverent. "I talk about heavy stuff in lighter ways," he said. "People should kind of feel like they're in that moment with the family."

Despite it being his first time having written a play, Kalinowski isn't nervous. "I could not get somebody better than Wallis to direct it," he shared. Wallis Johnson, director of the play and founder of CCT, has been in show business for decades. She described the story as a beautiful comedy full of misunderstandings, forgiveness and the love that can be found in families.

Johnson's biggest highlight is working with the actors. "They are really, truly, incredibly gifted," she said. Without spoiling it, the interactions and chemistry between the characters is a must-not miss.

"I hope the audience leaves feeling lighter," said Johnson. "Real life can be challenging, so I hope that the audience leaves ... with a smile on their face ... and remembering the tender love that Grandma has for her grandsons."

Kalinowski, who will also play the grandson Julian, explained how his character will have a lot of physical comedy in the show. "That's a challenge, because my leg is broken for most of

the show," he laughed.

Angela Dias, a retired former reporter, will play the role of the grandmother Evelyn, who she described as feisty, funny and having a deep love for her family. Evelyn's mission is to ensure the closeness of her grandchildren, "and she has some very unorthodox methods of accomplishing that," said Dias.

Even through all the chemistry and talent a cast contains, challenges will always rise. "Joel has written a play that's very funny," she spoke. "There are some challenging parts having to do with props, timing and [physical comedy]."

Yet, working with the CCT, Dias described it as community in the truest sense even though it's her first time performing in a show with this cast. "I'm very admiring of their talents, their skills ... and they're just great people."

Tim Adams, who will play the youngest grandson Wesley, is in his second production with real life and onstage girlfriend, Laura Sarrazin, who will play Wesley's girlfriend Flora.

"It's fun having someone to bounce ideas off of even outside of rehearsal," Adams said. "Obviously playing a couple works because we have a natural chemistry already."

He called the rest of his colleagues a "solid cast", with a wonderful grasp on their characters. Adams' character, Wesley, tries to be funny, which is what drew him to the role. However, does it work? "I identify with being a bit of a mess," he laughed.

As Adams went back for his scene, the cast and crew continued to rehearse in a small room decorated with a couch, chairs and pictures to enhance the close quarters theme apparent in the play. Don't forget to join the Westbrook family and grab a front-row seat to witness this emotional rollercoaster.

Performances will take place on Saturday, Aug. 23, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 24, at 2 p.m., at the Ahavath Achim Synagogue, 84 Lebanon Ave. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 on CCT's website, [colchestercommunitytheatre.com](http://colchestercommunitytheatre.com).



Laura Sarrazin, left, and Tim Adams kiss passionately on Grandma's couch, while an appalled Grandma (Angela Dias) averts her eyes, in rehearsals for Colchester Community Theatre's brand-new play *Grandma's Got a Gun* this week. The play will be performed Aug. 23 and 24 at Ahavath Achim Synagogue.

## 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](http://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](mailto:colchesterctrec.recdesk.com/Community/Home) or email [parksandrec@colchesterct.gov](mailto: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.

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### 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](http://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.



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### 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](mailto:csc@colchesterct.gov), or for a full list of activities, visit [www.colchesterct.gov](http://www.colchesterct.gov).

**Monday, Aug. 18:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Denim Bangle Bracelet Class; 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. 19:** 8:30 a.m., Golf League; 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:30 a.m., Watercolor Class No. 1; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**Wednesday, Aug. 20:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring,

Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Pineapple Paradise Luncheon; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

**Thursday, Aug. 21:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Card-Making; 11 a.m.; Yoga; noon, Senior Benefits; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet, Clay Pocket Heart.


**Friday, Aug. 22:** 9 a.m., Social Service Hour, Open Art Studio; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group, Lunch Bunch @ Lenny and Joe's Fish Tales Restaurant; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:30 p.m. Bingo.

**Unleash Your Joy – The Art of Meditation:** Monday, Aug. 25, 10:30 a.m. In this presentation, you learn the benefits of meditation and several ways to meditate even if you think you can't. This is a free program. Space is limited.

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### 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](mailto:firedepartment@colchesterct.gov). The class is for Colchester residents only.

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

### 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.

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# Understanding the Problems Within Local Childcare

By Madison McGeachy

For most parents, not just in Connecticut but throughout the country, the top priority is safe, reliable care for their little ones. With such a demand, where is the supply? And why is the affordable supply so hard to come by?

These same questions have been raised by a local mom who's not only struggling to find the care her and her children need, but also finding care that does not come with an exorbitant price tag. Alysha Fagan of Colchester is one of the numerous mothers faced with the global childcare crisis.

Following the arrival of her new baby in January, Fagan was not in search of professional childcare at first, but as her maternity leave came to an end, she found herself in a position where she would need to seek professional options.

Then came the search for affordable, reliable care for her infant; however, she was met with very few options – and barely any one that was affordable.

“When you actually, in reality, need childcare because you need to work to make money for your family, it's not sustainable,” Fagan told the *Rivereast*.

Upon gaining knowledge about the state of

the daycare/childcare systems within Colchester, Fagan said she started asking questions, specifically to her center. After climbing up the totem pole of people within the daycare, Fagan spoke to the director, where she was informed of the term “childcare desert” and how, unfortunately, this term applies to Colchester.

‘Childcare deserts’ refer to the areas where there are too few licensed slots for the number of children who need care. Colchester is one of them, leading parents of the town to be stuck, and having to deal with the high prices of their very limited choices due to having no other option.

These problems aren't limited to Colchester though, which brings to light the recent passing of the Early Childhood Education Endowment.

The legislation, which was passed by the state Senate and signed into by Gov. Ned Lamont in June, established the Early Childhood Education Endowment, implementing the largest expansion of access to early childhood education in Connecticut history. As of July 1, the new state

funded early care and education program, Early Start CT, was launched, as a result of the bill.

Early Start CT combines the three existing programs of Child Daycare Contracts, School Readiness Grants, and State Head Start Supplement Grants, into one new program. Though, since it was launched barely a month ago, expected timelines are understandably far down the line.

As stated through the OEC website, a majority of the next two years consist of developmental and foundational work, with the introduction of Local Governance Partners. The first expected action is set to take place in July 2027, allotting contracts for infant, toddler, and preschool spaces, which are to be awarded through a competitive statewide RFP process, alongside of a OEC local community needs assessment.

The passing of the bill and the implementation of Early Start CT are big steps in the right direction, but where does that leave people like Fagan? Many feel the current problems surrounding

the childcare system and the lack of childcare can be traced to the spread of misinformation, or no information at all, in small-town, local-level daycare centers.

The government making large advancements in areas of the states/towns that need attention can be seen as beneficial, Fagan said – but from there, communication between businesses and their patrons, as well as communication between communities as a whole, is important for allowing these needed changes to hold the weight they're supposed to.

Though reaping the benefits of Early Start CT won't be immediate, a better understanding of information and communication may make the wait time more bearable, Fagan said.

“We deserve to be able to leave our children with people who are well-versed, educated, and can take care of them and not have to worry about if we can pay the rest of our bills so that somebody can take care of our brand-new baby,” said Fagan.

### 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.

### 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.

### AARP to Resume Meeting

The Colchester Area Chapter No. 4019 of AARP is resuming its monthly meetings after its summer break on Tuesday, Sept. 2. The meeting is being held at Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane.

Board members will meet at 12:30 p.m., with the general membership gathering at 1 p.m. All members are encouraged to bring food for the refreshments table to share. Socializing and coffee time will go from 1-1:30 p.m., with the main members meeting immediately after.

The speaker for September is Colchester Resident Trooper Zach Cash, who will answer questions submitted prior to the meeting about what to do in certain situations. Sample questions include “What do I do when solicitors come to my door?” and “What do I do if I am a scam victim?” This will be followed by an audience Q&A.

Colchester-area seniors are encouraged to attend this free gathering and also learn more about the local AARP chapter.

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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](http://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](http://westchesterconchurch.org), email [westconchurch@gmail.com](mailto:westconchurch@gmail.com) or call the church at 860-267-6711. Pastor Ron Lake can be reached at 860-428-3460.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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 [christianlifechapel.org](http://christianlifechapel.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.

### 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](mailto:CHFD28golftournament@gmail.com), or visit the CHVFC Facebook page for a QR code.

### Resident Graduates

Samantha Gauthier of Colchester recently graduated from Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y.

Gauthier graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and public health, with a minor in philosophy and cognitive science.

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**Chicken Marsala** Sauteed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce

**Balkan Meatballs** Beef meatballs sauteed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

**Stuffed Pork Chop** Stuffed with broccoli, gorgonzola cheese and ritz crackers in a brown cognac sauce

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# Selectmen Advance EMS, Paving and Public Safety Measures

By Toriana Williams

On Aug. 7, the Colchester Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to support two initiatives that would expand emergency medical services for the town.

The board authorized a letter of support to be drafted for the Colchester Fire Department's application to obtain a Primary Service Area (PSA) designation at the paramedic level. Currently, Colchester is one of five municipalities without an assigned PSA, and securing one would allow Colchester EMS to provide advanced life support directly, instead of relying solely on contracted paramedics from Middlesex Paramedics.

Fire Chief Steven Hoffman and EMS Captain Kaitlyn Standish also received unanimous ap-

proval to pursue a license for non-emergency patient transfers, such as moving a patient from a skilled nursing facility to a hospital.

Hoffman iterated that the license would not obligate the department to perform transfers but would allow them to do so if there were staff and vehicles available. Increasing delays in private transfer services can cause patients' conditions to worsen, resulting in the possibility of a 911 emergency.

"This is one of those stopgaps that could potentially prevent that," said Hoffman. The license would also allow generation of additional revenue for the town and department, as they would charge for transfer services.

Some residents raised concerns about both

measures.

Resident Mike Dubreuil questioned whether the PSA request was a "quiet attempt" to expand the fire department budget without public input. However, Hoffman stated that there would be a hearing open to the public to voice their opinions before a definitive ruling.

Resident and paramedic supervisor David Laspino, meanwhile, worried that transfer work could tie up local ambulances during major emergencies.

In other business, the board approved several infrastructure and public safety items. An amendment to the town's paving plan will add Prospect Street and Cato Corner Road, at a cost of \$102,000.

The selectmen also unanimously adopted a memorandum of understanding offering dis-

counted police special duty assignment rates for nonprofit organizations and advanced a proposed town ordinance requiring notification of the resident state trooper's office before any third-party road work. The ordinance would allow police to evaluate whether traffic control is needed to improve construction zone safety.

"There's no question there's been fatal accidents across the state in construction zones," stated Hoffman. "We don't want to find ourselves in a situation where we could have stopped this job from happening."

The ordinance will go to the town attorney for review and ultimately to a public hearing.

The fire department, in partnership with MissionCIT, will host a hybrid EMS training program, which would be open to department personnel, public and mutual aid agencies.



Kim Talarczyk (left), a co-founder of Colchester Cares, presents Deb Martin (right), from the Honor Rotary, a check for \$1,600 that will help fund food supplies for Thanksgiving Baskets the Honor Rotary puts together in November. They work with Youth and Social Services to provide full Thanksgiving meals to Colchester residents in need.

## Colchester Cares Makes Third Quarter Donations

Colchester Cares recently contributed \$4,800 to the Colchester community, with its third quarter collective donations.

The Honor Rotary, the Colchester Garden Club, and the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company each received checks for \$1,600.

Colchester Cares is a giving group that supports various causes in Colchester. Members, who have each committed to donating, \$100 a quarter, get together each quarter to present current needs in town and then vote online

where to send the group's collective donations.

The group was established in 2020 and since its inception has donated over \$60,000 to Colchester causes.

Colchester Cares always welcomes new members who would like to give back to the community. The group's next meeting will be held at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. For more information, visit [www.colchestercares.org](http://www.colchestercares.org) or follow the group on Facebook.

## Summer Reading Program Wrapping Up

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](http://craginlibrary.read-squared.com).

For more information about all of the library's summer programs, visit [www.colchesterct.gov/cragin-memorial-library/pages/monthly-newsletter-events](http://www.colchesterct.gov/cragin-memorial-library/pages/monthly-newsletter-events).

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### Chip Sealing Underway

The Portland Department of Public Works is chip sealing the following roads this 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.

### Alto, Tenor, Bass Vocalists Sought

The Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords, conducted by Samuel Tucker and accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra under the direction of Alan Dougherty, is currently seeking dedicated individuals to join its expanding alto, tenor, and bass sections.  
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 engagement, this ensemble delivers performances featuring an array of musical styles, including

popular classics, contemporary hits, and select classical and patriotic works. The group's mission is to uplift spirits, alleviate stress, and foster wellness through music. The group has 90 current members from across Connecticut. Affiliation with Middlesex Health is not required for membership.  
Proceeds from the concerts and annual patron drive are allocated toward scholarships for Middlesex County seniors intending to pursue degrees in nursing or music. To date, the Vocal Chords has awarded \$87,500 to area students.  
For further information, visit [vocalchords20.org](http://vocalchords20.org) or contact 860-342-3120. Additional resources are available on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

### Portland Exchange Touch-A-Truck

The Exchange Club of Portland will be holding its annual Touch-A-Truck event on Sunday, Aug. 24, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Exchange Fairgrounds.  
The Exchange will have trucks and vehicles of all types for children to come and sit in. The event will be horn free for 11 a.m.-noon.  
All proceeds from the event will benefit VFW Portland Post #6121 for their improvement project for their building.  
The VFW focuses on serving veterans, the military and communities, while advocating for veterans' rights and fostering camaraderie

among those who have served in overseas conflicts. This includes ensuring veterans receive their earned entitlements, are respected for their service, and are recognized for their sacrifices.  
The Oscar Meyer Weinermobile is scheduled to be at the event.  
Admission \$5 per person and can be purchased at the gate. Hot dogs, ice cream and refreshments will be available for purchase. Parking is free.  
If you have a vehicle of any type for the Touch-A-Truck event, call Jamie Leonard at 860-301-6998.

### Soccer Club Fall Registration

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) is now accepting registrations for the fall 2025 Rec Season. Recreational registration will be accepted until Sept. 6. PSC will only accept registrations through online, at [www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub](http://www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub).  
Cost per registrant is \$75. The schedule is: Pre-K: 8:45-9:30 a.m. (Saturday only); Dribbler: 9:15-10:15 a.m. (Saturday only); Kicker: 9:15-10:15 a.m. (Saturday games and practice on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15 p.m.)  
Dribbler and Kicker divisions will receive team shirts. Pre-K division will receive team shirts and balls. These will be available for distribution on Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 5:45-7

p.m., at the Recreational Complex.  
The Club-Recreational program will run from Sept. 6-Oct. 25; no Rec Soccer during Columbus Day weekend (Oct. 11). All games will take place at the Recreational Complex.  
The age breakdown is: U4 (born in 2022) – Pre-K; U5 (born in 2021) and U6 (born in 2020) – Dribbler; U7 (born in 2019) and U8 (born in 2018) – Kicker.  
For more information, contact Chad Wilson, president, at [nosliw.dahc@gmail.com](mailto:nosliw.dahc@gmail.com) or 205-999-8842; Chris Donahue, vice president, at [donahuecj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donahuecj@sbcglobal.net) or 860-638-7400; or Anne Whalen, registrar, at [awhalen34@yahoo.com](mailto:awhalen34@yahoo.com) or 860-690-3414.



A birthday celebration was held at Concentric Brewing on July 26 to both honor Wayne ‘Duffy’ Duff and raise money for Middlesex Health, to benefit cancer patients. From left are Brian Aida and Drew France of Concentric, George Gilbert, Duffy, and Sarah Moore of Middlesex Health.

### Cancer Fundraiser Honors Duffy’s Birthday

by George Gilbert IV  
Saturday, July 26, was a special day in Portland, as residents gathered at Concentric Brewing to honor Wayne ‘Duffy’ Duff’s 91st birthday – and also raise money to benefit cancer patients.  
Duff, a cancer survivor himself, wished to create a more profound event than just another birthday party, and thought he would like to fundraise for cancer patients and survivors. Along with his longstanding friend George Gilbert, and friends Drew France and Brian Aida of Concentric, Middlesex Health was contacted

and a plan was created. Steve Liedlich, Sarah Moore and Sarah Coty of Middlesex Health helped formalize Duffy’s wishes.  
The event was complemented by a beautiful summer day with “Beth and the Boys” adding a festive atmosphere for the good cause. Concentric Brewery offered a free “Duff beer” and free hors d’oeuvres with an entrance ticket.  
Collectively, a total of \$12,295 was raised so far, with donations still coming in as of press time. These funds were raised for Middlesex Health to benefit cancer patients in the immediate area.

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## Local Architect, Cromwell Teacher Collaborate

Cromwell High School teacher Adriano Bor-

Matthew Pegolo, licensed architect and owner of PegArch, immediately said "Yes!" He not only donated blue prints, but also invited Borgia to come to his office in Portland on Aug. 6, where he volunteered his time showing Borgia different projects he could then use to educate his students so they can better understand what architecture is and how buildings come together.

Matthew Pegolo, licensed architect and owner of PegArch, immediately said “Yes!” He not only donated blue prints, but also invited Borgia to come to his office in Portland on Aug. 6, where he volunteered his time showing Borgia different projects he could then use to educate his students so they can better understand what architecture is and how buildings come together.

The course at Cromwell High will allow stu-

Youth & Family Services provides backpacks and school supplies to Portland families. Supplies are limited and families are asked to sign up using this link: [bit.ly/portland\\_backpack](https://bit.ly/portland_backpack).

YFS will hand out the backpacks at the Portland Food Bank on Aug. 18, 21, and 25 from 9 a.m.-noon. You must be registered in advance to receive a backpack. YFS will also take monetary donations, which help fund next year's backpack drive.

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.

Home energy assessments are available to Portland residents (homeowners or renters) through [HeatsmartCT.org/Portland](https://HeatsmartCT.org/Portland) or by calling 877 878-3006 and mentioning Heatsmart.

The usual co-pay of \$75 for this program will be waived for those who schedule a visit before Aug. 31 and have the visit completed by the end of October of this year. A team of weatherization specialists will visit and make an evaluation.

Heatsmart is sponsored by the Portland Clean Energy Task Force and administered by Connecticut's utilities.

The usual co-pay of \$75 for this program will be waived for those who schedule a visit before Aug. 31 and have the visit completed by the end

Heatsmart is sponsored by the Portland Clean Energy Task Force and administered by Connecticut's utilities.

dents to design sheds for local residents. The homeowners then purchase the materials and the students build the sheds for them. The entire process is designed to help students understand the differences in design, engineering, construction, and construction management. Borghia is shifting the curriculum to help students make career decisions to guide them in deciding their future goals and PegArch is happy to support this.

"I enjoy community work and love the thought of young minds appreciating buildings the way I did as a kid," Pegolo said. "Being part of inspiring a class to pursue architecture and design is very uplifting and important to me."

Planning is underway for the Portland High School Class of 1976 50th Reunion.

The reunion is planned for mid-June 2026; tentatively June 13 or 20. There is also an optional opportunity to walk with the graduating Class of 2026 to celebrate the 1976 alums' Bicentennial Class with the Class of 2026's Semiquincentennial ceremony. The date for this will be determined by the school district in early 2026.

Classmates can verify current contact information and obtain information through Mary Linda Eccles/Reitz at [mlreitzphs76@gmail.com](mailto:mlreitzphs76@gmail.com), or message her on Facebook; search for “Portland high class 76.”

The Marlborough registrars of voters will conduct a lottery to determine the order in which candidates' names will appear on the ballot for multiple-opening offices for the Nov. 4 election.

The lottery will be held in the large conference room at Town Hall, 26 North Main St., on Tuesday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m. This lottery is open to the public.

The Portland High School class of 1980 is organizing a 45th Class Reunion. It will be held Saturday, Oct. 4, at Farrell's Restaurant in Portland.

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.

## 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](http://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.

**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,

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.

graphic illustrator and educator, Jason Deeble. This program is funded in part by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and Connecticut Humanities. 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.

**Book Clubs: 1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m. *The Great Divide* by Cristina Henriquez will be discussed. **Talk About Books:** Tuesday, Sept. 9, 1 p.m. *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Sept. 16, 1 p.m. *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb will be discussed.



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Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover



**RHAM Excellence....** Amr Ahmed and Caitlin Rydel were selected and celebrated as RHAM High School’s CAS-CIAC Scholar Athletes for the 2024-25 school year. Ahmed played soccer and was part of the track and field teams, along with being the Class of 2025 salutatorian. He will attend the University of Connecticut. Rydel was a standout volleyball and lacrosse player for the Raptors, earning all-conference multiple times in both sports. She will attend the University of Rhode Island. The Scholar-Athlete Program annually recognizes two high school seniors from each member school whose academic and athletic careers have been exemplary, whose personal standards and achievements are a model to others, and who possess high levels of integrity, self-discipline and courage.

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](http://hebronct.recdesk.com/community).

50th Reunion  
Tickets Due

Tickets must be purchased by Aug. 15 for the RHAM Class of 1975’s 50th Reunion, which will be held Saturday, Oct. 4, from 5-10 p.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn in Glastonbury. The event will feature a DJ, raffles, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$95 per person and can be obtained by contacting Lynn Fogg at 860-416-1575 or Donna Pierce at 860-710-7973. For more information, look for “RHAM Class of 1975-2025 50th Reunion” on Facebook.

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.

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★ *Miss Connecticut, cont. from page 1*

asked for the microphone and shared that if any were interested, to stay behind and help her pray. Exactly 40 women and girls stayed.

“That was such a special moment for me, because it showed what the Lord was putting on my heart was true. ... A lot of girls came to me and said afterward that it was special to them,” she smiled.

On the second day of the event, the pajamas were packed up and the journey to the crown officially started. Optional competitions were held, such as Actress, Casual Wear Modeling, Photogenic, Spokesmodel, Talent, Top Model Search, Runway and Media Correspondent. Simmons placed first in Top Model Search and second runner up in Actress, as well as securing first place in Best Resume later in the competition.

The third day is when the contestants were scored for the entirety of the competition. There were four required competitions contestants participated in: Community Service Project, Formal Wear, Interview and Personal Introduction. The community service project asks entrants to donate children’s books, school supplies or their time. This portion makes up 10 percent of their overall score.

Formal Wear comprises 30 percent of a contestant’s overall score, and the scoring is based on the judges’ overall impression and the wearer’s ability to command attention with poise and personality on stage.

For the Interview, participants wore professional outfits and met with five to six judges individually. With the girl’s resume handed over, the judges asked open-ended questions which have no right or wrong answers. The questions are used to get to know each contestant, their personal experiences and to show if the interviewee is an enthusiastic and effective communicator. This section is 30 percent of their overall score as well.

Last, but certainly not least, was the Personal Introduction, also 30 percent of their entire score. Queen candidates walked out onto the stage and had 30 seconds to convey their unique personality by stating their name, their hometown and something interesting about themselves.

Personal Introduction was Simmons’ favorite competition in the pageant. “It’s such a great experience for girls to be able to feel comfortable in front of a crowd and talking about themselves in a positive manner,” she shared.

While on stage, Williams addressed the crowd before her: “Enjoy today. That simple yet powerful piece of advice from my mom has shaped my life. It’s part of the reason I started my platform The Golden Ticket, which helps families in Connecticut who are financially struggling experience the magic of childhood. Because I believe, no matter what may come tomorrow, every child deserves to enjoy today.”

The idea for The Golden Ticket was born when she was quite young. “I was going to make this when I was a Girl Scout for my gold award,” she said. However, she did not have the right resources to pursue the project at the time. When Simmons learned of the pageant, she knew it was finally the perfect opportunity to build her platform and dedicate her time volunteering and helping her community.

As a child, Simmons spent a lot of time at the park. While still grateful, she understood the desire to do something different, something more, and wanted to provide an experience for kids and their families to enjoy what their town had to offer. “I envisioned a limo would pick kids up and take them to the park,” Simmons laughed, recalling her child-made plans.

While there’s no limo involved, Simmons has provided families with free tickets to Mar-Lea’s Mini Golf, a renaissance fair and season passes to Lake Compounce. There is no cost to enter; families can simply fill out a form at [amanda-12simmons.wixsite.com/the-golden-ticket](http://amanda-12simmons.wixsite.com/the-golden-ticket).

“The Golden Ticket is designed to give deserving children access to unforgettable joy filled experiences regardless of their family’s financial situation,” she expressed.

Even through all the good, some may continue to misunderstand pageantry, Simmons said.

“Some people may not see the aspect of competitions in pageantry where it really helps girls grow,” Simmons said. “They don’t see the confidence that is shining through girls when they go up on stage and try something new for the first time.” Television has had an irreversible effect on this narrative, she added.

Yet, for Simmons, this is why National American Miss is so great. The organization’s motto, “Grow in Confidence,” portrays what the pageant values outside of the surface level. The program emphasizes inner beauty, personal development and self-expression.

“They do it in every way, through their competitions, through friendships the girls make. It’s really great for someone to go out and experience for themselves to really see what it does for someone,” said Simmons.

In the end, National American Miss was quite the experience for Simmons. The most valuable lesson she learned? “Patience is key,” she admitted. “Sometimes we want an answer immediately ... but through pageantry, I’ve learned that having patience does pay off and helps in the long run.”

As for what’s next, Simmons will attend nationals in November during the week of Thanksgiving to compete for the National American Miss title and continue to grow The Golden Ticket.

To young girls watching Simmons, her advice would be, “to enjoy today. Every moment is special. When things are hard, it’s important to recognize even the small things we can be grateful and thankful for. Each second is important, and it’s a blessing we have today.”

Simmons wanted to give a special thank you to her sponsors, Jim Celio from Century 21 All Points Realty, Peter Billard Photography and Hebron.

Follow Simmons’ reign on Instagram, [@thenamctmiss](https://www.instagram.com/thenamctmiss), and her platform, [@thegoldenticket](https://www.instagram.com/thegoldenticket).

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REF-15-25



Obituaries  
Portland

Joseph T. Walsh

It is with great sadness that Joseph T. Walsh (Joe) passed away at the age of 88 at home on Friday, Aug. 8. He was the husband of the late Helen (Bulak) Walsh (Pat).



Joe was born Sept. 28, 1936, in Middletown, to the late Cletus and Yolanda (LaRosa) Walsh. He was a lifelong resident of Portland, where he proudly served as a member of Company 2 fire department, serving as captain at one point. He looked forward to old timers' night, seeing old friends and reminiscing about the past.

Joe proudly served in United States Army from 1960-1962. Prior to his retirement in 1992, he worked for the State of Connecticut DOT out of Glastonbury for over 30 years. He spent many sleepless nights plowing roads and loading the trucks up with sand.

He was an avid outdoors man spending many weekends up north hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. He loved to go on trucking trips with his friend Rooney.

Joe had a kind and loving spirit; never had a bad word to say about anyone. He was predeceased by his sister, Elizabeth Walsh. He leaves behind to mourn his passing his loving daughter, Sandy (Jeff) Brady; his sons, Joseph Walsh and Thomas (Marta) Walsh; his five grandchildren that he adored, Matthew and Stephen Brady, Morgan Walsh, Zachary and Alexis Walsh.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, Aug. 15, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Fire Company No. 2, 594 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., is in charge of arrangements.

Colchester

Thomas Jarboe Jr.

Thomas "Tom" Augustin Jarboe Jr., 79, of Colchester, passed away Sunday, Aug. 3, surrounded by loved ones. Born Sept. 9, 1945, in Meriden, Tom was the son of the late Thomas and Dorothy (Hoff) Jarboe.



Tom grew up in Meriden before moving to Southington, where he completed high school. While working at his father's Sunoco gas station on Queen Street, Tom developed a passion for collecting and working on cars, especially GMs, with his most recent pride and joy being a 1936 Buick Special Four Door.

Following high school, Tom served in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps (1967-1970). His service became a source of pride, though it left lasting effects that shaped many of his adult years. In retirement, Tom found camaraderie among fellow veterans at the VFW, and American Legion, where shared experiences became a source of comfort and kinship. After returning home, Tom attended Wilcox Technical School as a post-grad, earning a certificate in welding. He went on to enjoy a long and successful career as a construction worker.

Tom's second act found him working side by side with his father breeding and training trotter horses, beginning in Southington at Windy Acres Farm and continuing on the family farm in East Killingly. Tom even earned his jockey license by getting to race some of the horses he trained. Tom had a soft spot for animals, especially dogs. Whether boating with Troy, working the farm with Butch and Sundance, building with Bucky the inspector, or just hanging out with his last companion, Buddy. He also had a special place in his heart for his nieces and nephews.

From card games and sketching lessons, to car shows and letting them race his electric chairs around the house, Tom delighted in sharing joy, wisdom, and laughter with them. Known for his humor, generosity, and zest for life, Tom was truly the life of the party. Whether fooling around and pulling pranks with his siblings or cousins or adding laughter with a joke, he reminded everyone that life was meant to be lived fully.

Thomas will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his siblings, James Jarboe, Sr. (Barbara), Diane Kendrick (John), Gary Jarboe (Amy). He will also be remembered fondly by his nieces and nephews, Robert Bushnell (Lisa), Robin Gardner (Joseph), Meghan Gagnard (David), Erik Jarboe, James Jarboe Jr. (Christina), Justin Jarboe (Alicia), and Kevin Kendrick; along with his many great nieces and nephews and cousins, especially Judith Rudolph who helped care for him.

He was predeceased by his parents, Thomas and Dorothy Jarboe; his brother-in-law, John Kendrick; and his ex-wife, Barbara Chopus Jarboe.

Family and friends are welcome to gather Friday, Aug. 22, from 9:30-11 a.m., at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Services in celebration of Thomas' life will begin at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at the State Veterans Cemetery on Bow Lane, Middletown, with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Thomas'

memory may be made to Wounded Warriors or Vested Interest in K9s.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Thomas Jarboe, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

Marlborough

Glenna B. Lecomte

Glenna B. Lecomte, of Marlborough and formerly of Quaker Hill, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 5, at the Marlborough Health and Rehab Center where she was a resident. Many of the staff became her family and they cared for and treated her with dignity and respect for years.



Glenna celebrated 100 years of life in November and was born Nov. 19, 1924. She was born in Auburn, Maine, and was the daughter of the late Beede and Clara (Anderson) Verrill. She was proud to be the wife of Robert Lecomte who was also from Maine. He predeceased her in 2014.

Glenna was a homemaker, and she was particularly fond of the company of her dogs, Heidi and Cookie, as well as her cats. She adored her nieces and nephews. It gave her pleasure to find interesting gifts for those she loved.

Glenna and her spunk will be missed by all who knew and loved her. She leaves many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by brothers Albert and Alfred Verrill, Anna Patchell of Enfield, and Betty Griffin of Plainfield.

Calling hours will be held from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial will be private in Maine.

Donations in Glenna's memory may be made to the CT Humane Society, [www.cthumane.org](http://www.cthumane.org).

For online condolences or to share a memory of Glenna for her family, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

East Hampton

Elizabeth A. Schreindorfer

Elizabeth Anne (O'Rourke) Schreindorfer, 91 ½, of East Hampton, died peacefully with her daughter Kim by her side after a brief illness. She was born March 21, 1934 in Hartford, the fourth of 11 children to Thomas and Elizabeth (Whelan) O'Rourke, Irish immigrants from Moate, County West Meath and Balcadden, County Dublin in Ireland.

She was predeceased by her husband of 50 years, William Schreindorfer; sisters, Evie Rockett, Patty Jean O'Rourke, Terri O'Rourke; brothers, Tom, Denis and Jack; son-in-law, Shaun Fredrick.

She is survived by sisters, Eileen (Bill) Drolet, Sally Accatino, Janet Williams; brother, James (Maria) O'Rourke; and sisters-in-law, Marilyn O'Rourke and P.J. O'Rourke. She is survived by her children, Kim (Kevin) Kiely, Thomas (Lori) Schreindorfer, Beth (John Ruszala) Fredrick; seven grandchildren, Eileen (Dave) Erlandson, Sheila (Brian Robinson) Kiely, Patrick (Jamie) Kiely, Tom Schreindorfer, Taryn (Tom Peluse)

Schreindorfer, Shaun Fredrick, Shelby (Rob) Briggs; five great-grandchildren, Wade and Kiely Erlandson, Macklin and Maeve Kiely, Kinsley Briggs. She fondly called them "the little ones"; they brought smiles and laughter to her face every day. She truly loved them more than words can describe.

She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews, who visited and called often, and by her cousins in Dublin, Ireland. She had a full life with family as her constant companions. She was respected for her opinions and advice, admired for her fortitude and her incredibly accurate memory, and she was absolutely loved in the best sense of the word.

There will be a graveside service in St. Patrick Cemetery on Friday Aug. 15, at 11 a.m. To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Middlesex Hospice.

Colchester

Colleen Damron

Colleen (McGill) Damron passed away peacefully Friday, July 18, with family by her side, after a three-year valiant battle against colon cancer. She was 34.



Colleen was born Aug. 24, 1990, in Pittsburgh. She was a fighter from the beginning; she had several surgeries immediately after she was born, surviving and thriving and impressing the doctors and nurses who took care of her.

She spent much of her childhood in Colchester, graduating from Bacon Academy in 2009 and earning a degree in communications from Eastern Connecticut State University. She worked in a variety of roles from Washington, D.C., to Whidbey Island, Washington. Most of all, Colleen adored every minute of being a mom and loved her little girl beyond measure.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Blake Damron, and their 4-year-old daughter, Audrey, both of Gales Ferry. Colleen is also survived by her loving parents, Kevin and Jennifer (Welsh) McGill of Colchester, and siblings Kevin Jr. of Gales Ferry, Kimberly of New London, and Connor of Salem and his partner, Ariella Galitto. Colleen is also survived by her grandmother, Alice Welsh of Niantic, and many aunts, uncles and cousins locally and in Pittsburgh. She leaves behind a supportive and loving circle of dear friends from her years in Colchester, including Sabrina (Camboulives) Arnold, Mohini (Meh-ta) Ashley and Alyssa (DiRubbo) Waitt, for whom Colleen's loss is vast and profound.

Colleen was the rarest of people: a careful listener who truly was focused on what the other person was saying, and a young woman who would do anything for anyone. To honor her, Colleen's family and friends ask that people give their loved ones the most important gift of all: listen to them and be present. Colleen will be deeply missed.

The family would also like to thank Colleen's caregivers Sandra and Kayla and all the staff at Smilow Cancer Hospital in New Haven.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, July 23, at St. Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, in Groton.

Donations in Colleen's memory in lieu of flowers are suggested to be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

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Obituaries

Hebron

Betty J. Hills-Dove

Betty J. Hills-Dove passed away Monday, July 28, peacefully in her sleep in Advent Hospital in Port Charlotte, Fla. Betty was born March 10, 1944, the daughter of Jesse A. Hills and Gertrude S. (Anderson) Hills, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

Betty was an outstanding woman with lots of accomplishments. Betty retired in 2008 from her longtime job at Munson Chocolate Factory of Bolton, where she managed shipping and receiving. Betty was also well-known for her 37 years as a Hebron Lion where she started and ran the Antique Farm Display for many years, starting out of a tent working all the way up to a large building. Betty proudly was the second female Lions member to join the club in 1989. Betty was also a two-time past Lions president and won many awards from the club. Many will have fond memories of Betty planting mums for the fair, tending to the many flower beds, or ordering and counting ribbons. She called the fair her home for many years and was one of the first Lions on the grounds every day and the last to leave.

Betty also was known for her bloodhound “Clem,” who she raised and trained and went on to a proud career at Connecticut State Police. It was also common for Betty to be raising a family of orphan raccoons or other random wildlife. She enjoyed her retirement years with part of her time spent in Connecticut at the Fairgrounds, or with her children and grandchil-

dren. The rest of her time was spent in Florida with her longtime partner Don Dion, enjoying time on her porch and gardening.

Betty is survived by her son, Norman (Chip) Dove Jr. and his wife Carol (Celinski) Dove of Bolton, as well as their children and Betty’s great-grandchildren. She leaves behind the following grandchildren: Jesse Drown and son Aiden of Coventry, Zackery Drown of Tolland and daughter Lily, Steven Rochette and his wife Jamie, and their children Diane and Harvey of Hebron, Lucas Dove, wife Ashley and two sons Grady and Braxton of Norwich, and Cassandra (Dove) Sandberg, husband Joseph and daughter Paisley of Bolton.

Betty leaves her sister, Laura H. Scriven of Stafford, and brother, Oscar Hills of Hebron. Betty also leaves behind her loving partner, Donald Dion of Punta Gorda, Fla., where Betty resided, and lifetime best friend Diane Billie of Hebron.

Betty was predeceased by her sisters Helen Hodge of Hebron, Elaine Hale of Springfield, Mo., and sister-in-law Susanna Hills of Hebron; brothers, Jesse M. Hills of Florida and Harold G. Hills of Vermont; as well as three nephews, David M. Armstrong, David R. Hills and Edward J. Hodge, all of Connecticut.

Betty’s celebration of life will be held at Hebron Fairgrounds on Sunday, Aug. 24, at 2 p.m. Please come and share your memories. Private graveside services will be held in Gilead Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover



Seniors Riddick Burroughs will be entering his third year as the starting quarterback of a Bacon Academy/Lyman Memorial football team that is entering a new era under first-year head coach Sean Ladyga.

★ Bacon Football, cont. from page 1

we are returning and putting my stamp on the program.”

During his stint with the Bobcats two years ago, Ladyga led a defensive unit that pitched a pair of shutouts and held another opponent to a single score.

The sophomores that played under Ladyga in 2023 are now seniors and the assistant-turned-head coach said there is a comfort level with the Class of 2026 players.

“I’ve known most of kids a long time, even before coaching football at Bacon,” expressed Ladyga, whose son is entering his senior year at Bacon Academy. “I’ve been around Colchester most of my life.”

Returning to help Ladyga will be a group of seniors led by Burroughs, Julian Dean, Lucian Dean, and Skip Coogan — who each made impacts on the field over the last couple of seasons.

Julian Dean will highlight a deep unit in the trenches that should be a strength of Ladyga’s first year.

“That experience on the offensive and defensive line should help us meld together pretty quickly,” expressed Ladyga. “When you can start a football season as a head coach, especially a first-year head coach in the program, having that experience on the line is really important.”

A year ago, Bacon Academy football became a co-op with Lyman Memorial and thankfully for Ladyga, he has a comfortability with co-ops from his last head coaching stop.

He said the blending of multiple towns into an athletic program has its benefits and “breeds competition.”

“They get to compete with kids they don’t get

to compete with on a daily basis,” he added. “It forced them to be uncomfortable, because once you’re out of high school life will be uncomfortable, so if I can teach kids to rely back on an experience that will help them later in life, that is what this is all about.”

To bridge the gap between competition and chemistry, Ladyga has created practice pods this offseason during the team’s voluntary offseason and summer program that has been spilt between the weight room and on-field work. The pods, which feature smaller groups of players interacting, allow Ladyga to create closer bonds between the players that he hopes translate to production on the field.

“It’s a competition all year long,” added Ladyga. “In co-op situations, you’re bringing people together and putting them in situations where they have to figure their way out of it, and hopefully they make friendships and make relationships that are going to last.”

Ladyga and the Bobcats entered training camp with 46 players and will have four weeks from tomorrow to get ready for the team’s season opener when they welcome Oxford to Bacon Academy on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 11 a.m.

The hope is that a new era of tough, disciplined football will be on full display for the opening Saturday.

“We want to make sure our fundamentals are sound that we are tackling the right way, and executing our core offense,” noted Ladyga. “If we can do that and take advantage of our opportunities, that’ll mean we’re taking the right step forward.”

Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional

From the State Senator’s Desk...

With the start of the new school year just weeks away, parents are likely looking to prepare early, with back-to-school shopping on the to-do list. This year, from Aug. 17-23, they’ll get some extra help thanks to a tradition the state started in 2000.

Tax Free Week provides families with savings on most items of clothing and shoes valued at under \$100 per item. This week is designed and scheduled to support back-to-school efforts, timed as teachers and students prepare for a new year, and it has a number of advantages for shoppers.

For one, while the week is largely applied to sales happening in-person, it also applies to purchases made online during the week. Additionally, the deal itself – the exemption of the state’s 6.35% sales tax on individual items – stacks with retailers’ existing sales, delivering deeper savings that can help out budgets and provide relief to wallets.

If you don’t have kids, or they’re too young or too old to go back to school, you can still benefit from this week. As businesses often see increased in-office activity after Labor Day, new shirts, blouses, shoes, dresses and pants valued under \$100 are just as eligible for the discount. The sales tax exemption also applies to items like diapers, employee uniforms, jackets and other purchases that can come in handy when planning for Connecticut’s colder months.

Savings on diapers can be especially beneficial for young families, and items like bibs are also on sale, further emphasizing the usefulness of the week.

Tax Free Week does not apply to everything, however. Accessories, sport-specific shoes and uniforms, gloves that have specific functions, jewelry and wet suits, as well as safety apparel, are all still taxable even if sold for less than \$100 for the week.

There is no limit on the number of items an individual can purchase at one time, meaning shopping sprees are covered under the week. One point of clarification: items of clothing valued over \$100 are only eligible for the sale if they’re marked down to a point under that level. That means an item costing \$120 marked down to \$90 would be eligible, but one costing \$101 would be fully taxed. That means buy-one, get-one sales largely will not incorporate the tax event into pricing.

During a time when families are likely looking to make their money last longer, Tax Free Week is a valuable occasion, one that will deliver savings to start the school year off on the right foot. I’d like to wish everyone in the community, students, parents, teachers and school staff alike, a wonderful 2025-26 academic year.

State Sen. Norm Needleman, D-33rd District

*Note: The 12-town 33rd State Senate District includes the Rivereast towns of Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.*



Needleman

From the Sports Editor’s Desk

By Josh Howard

With a new school year starting in less than a month, it is time to prepare for the frenzy of fall sports.

In addition to our already in-depth high school coverage, we are hoping to expand our coverage to include more youth sports and a wider variety of athletic accomplishments in our valued communities.

Whether it is a standout performance on the local trails, fields, arenas, or any other venue — we want to hear about it.

To submit, email [joshhowardsports@gmail.com](mailto:joshhowardsports@gmail.com) with the names or teams involved. Please include as much detail as possible and photos are always welcomed.

Additionally, the Rivereast Standout Athletes of Week will be back in full force starting in September and nominations/submissions are encouraged. Youth, high school, college and adult athletes from Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland are all eligible. Each week, four athletes will be selected and recognized with a small bio and details of their standout performance or athletic achievement.

My hope is that we can recognize as many athletes, coaches, and teams throughout the towns that we serve.

Let the Games Begin...

The high school sports season officially kicked off this week with golf starting practice on Monday, Aug. 11, and football OTAs beginning yesterday, Thursday, Aug. 14. The rest of the fall sports teams will begin practicing this upcoming Monday, Aug. 18. Games and meets will start in early September and run throughout the fall, concluding with conference and state tournaments.

For a complete list of team schedules, visit [ciac.fpsports.org](http://ciac.fpsports.org) and please note that weather could impact dates, times, and venues that have been originally scheduled.

So, without further ado, let the 2025-26 sports season begin. Best of luck to all the teams and athletes in our local communities and hopefully this year is filled with individual recognitions and championship banners.

Stream Assessment Volunteers Wanted

The Salmon and Eightmile River Watershed Organizations are hosting a training program next month, to teach volunteers to assist with biological stream assessments.

Aquatic benthic macroinvertebrates (water bugs) are good indicators of water quality and stream health, the organizations said. Volunteers will learn how to collect and identify stream macroinvertebrates in this training program which will include an indoor workshop followed by field training at selected sites.

The training program will be held Saturday, Sept. 6, from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., including field time. The indoor workshop will be held at Burnham Brook Preserve, 2 Dolbia Hill Road-East,

East Haddam, starting at 9 a.m. After the classroom portion, will head to Salmon River Picnic Area, East Hampton, for fieldwork.

Registration is limited to 20 participants. This program is appropriate for high school age and above; however, a parent/guardian must accompany a minor. To register or for any questions, contact Pat Young at [salmonriverct@att.net](mailto:salmonriverct@att.net) or [info@eightmileriver.org](mailto:info@eightmileriver.org).

Collectively, the Salmon and Eightmile River Watersheds cover over 200 square miles and include the towns of Bolton, Colchester, Columbia, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Lyme, Glastonbury, Haddam, Hebron, Lebanon, Lyme, Marlborough and Salem.

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- East Hartford facility — Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams



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Belltown 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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★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

and says it's more likely only six million! Only six million! If these illegal aliens are "undocumented" then how does anyone truly know how many of them are here? He astonishingly claims that no illegals are obtaining benefits from Medicaid because illegals are not allowed to participate in the program! They weren't allowed to cross our borders either and yet that didn't stop any of them!

Democrats have just unwittingly revealed what their true support for illegal aliens is about and why they seem to care more about them than actual Americans. Trump is ordering a new census be conducted that only counts those who are American citizens. These counts serve the apportionment purposes for representation and financial appropriations and as such should only include actual citizens.

Democratic-controlled states are bleeding registered voters as Americans increasingly tire of woke policies and blatant racial discrimination. Democrats' use of illegal alien headcounts to replace those lost to other states will be thwarted if they're excluded from the census.

I understand now why Governor Lamont has publicly welcomed illegal aliens to Connecticut and vows to protect them!

Democrats try to run away from their racist past with the hysterically-absurd claim that Democrats and Republicans inexplicably switched ideological positions in the mid-1960s. To follow their ridiculous logic we must believe that despite voting for the 1964 Civil Rights Act in higher proportions than the Democrats, Republicans became demoralized upon its passage and adopted the racist attitudes of the southern Democrats. Conversely, Democrats all experienced epiphanies and became the moral saviors for Blacks who they believe can't succeed when left to their own devices. It's not clear how Nixon's Southern Strategy entered into this transmogrification since it didn't happen until four years later in 1968?

The top one percent of taxpayers earn 22% of AGI income but pay 42% of all taxes. The top 50% of taxpayers pay 97% of all taxes while the lower 50% pay only 3%. It's very dishonest to say this system only benefits the wealthy!

Sam Prentice – Andover

**August Energy Saving Special**

To the Editor:

The East Hampton and Portland Clean Energy Task Forces are gearing up for energy saving Heatsmart campaigns; however, we wanted to give all *Rivereast* readers a heads-up on a pretty good August deal.

The Home Energy Solutions program (HES) program is worth it at \$75, but for a limited time that co-pay is being waived if a visit is scheduled before 8/31/25 and completed by 10/31/25. A four-hour HES visit will help your home become more weathertight, and that saves money. This definitely was the case at our homes!

Residents from our two towns can sign up at our dedicated heatsmartct.org websites, whereas anyone in Eversource territory can enroll at EnergizeCT.com.

Andy Bauer – Portland Clean Energy  
Russ Kaplan – East Hampton Clean Energy

**Chicken Barbecue Saturday**

To the Editor:

Please come join the crowd, for American Legion Post 95's annual Chicken Barbecue. This barbecued chicken is almost as famous as our Famous Legion Burgers.

When: Tomorrow, Saturday, Aug. 16. Where: 18 Main St., Hebron, between Douglas Library and the Flour Girl Bakery. What times? Noon-3 p.m. or until all are gone. Call to secure your meals. Donation: \$15. Please have exact change if possible. Meals include half a barbecued chicken, cornbread, pasta salad, coleslaw. Contact: Joe at 203-848-5913 for dinner reservation and/or Legion building rental, or email Ron at park1969@comcast.net.

Tickets will be available at the door, but you're encouraged to reserve so the cooks have an estimate of the number of meals to be barbecued.

Directions: For outside pickup, drive to back of Douglas Library/Post 95 back lot; there will be ample parking available. Additionally, picnic tables are available for premises dining.

Thank you all for your patronage; greatly appreciated. Note: Donations are accepted all year for our use to assist others; send to Hebron American Legion Post 95, P.O. Box 95, Hebron, CT 06248-0095.

To all: Be well, stay safe. For God and Country (U.S.A.).

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

**The Facts vs. The Spin**

To the Editor:

Justin Bransfield's recent letter on the One Big Beautiful Bill leaves out key facts. Emotional language and selective statistics don't tell the full story.

While undocumented immigrants can't enroll in full Medicaid, taxpayers still cover billions in emergency Medicaid, uncompensated hospital care, and other federally and state-funded health services. These are real costs that reduce resources for citizens and legal residents.

The "\$1 trillion cut" to Medicaid is a 10-year projection, not an immediate slash. Much of it comes from slowing unsustainable growth, reducing fraud, and shifting oversight to states where local control can improve efficiency. SNAP changes reinforce work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents – a policy shown to boost workforce participation and reduce dependency.

The U.S. tax code is already highly progressive: the top 1% pay over 45% of all federal income taxes. Wealth concentration is driven more by markets, innovation, and investment returns than by tax policy. Raising taxes on job creators has historically slowed growth, not spurred it.

Immigration figures are uncertain. While some estimate 11 million undocumented immigrants, DHS officials and non-partisan research suggest the number may be higher given record border encounters, "got-aways," and enforcement strains. Communities experiencing these impacts deserve to have their concerns heard, not dismissed.

Finally, tying today's Republican Party to pre-Civil War Democrats is historical revisionism. Party platforms have shifted dramatically over 160 years. Today's GOP stands for limited government, individual liberty, and constitutional freedoms – far from the 19th-century Democratic platform.

The One Big Beautiful Bill aims to restore fiscal discipline, reduce waste, and direct aid to those truly in need while fostering economic growth. Debate is welcome, but it should be based on full context and facts – not selective outrage.

Sincerely,  
John Hassett – Marlborough

**Endless Drama in Colchester**

To the Editor:

This is a follow-up to my earlier letter about the so-called "transparency" in Colchester. For years, the same people have kept the town stuck in a loop of FOIA requests, accusations, and personal attacks. They call it transparency. I call it noise.

Colchester residents want to solve problems and make progress, not relive the same drama again and again. But this group will not let go. When their accusations fall flat, they start yelling about transparency again. And while they complain about costs, their constant demands waste tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars every year.

You've probably read hundreds of words here in the *Rivereast* and on social media about all this drama. I believe in real transparency that helps move the town forward. I don't believe in transparency being used to harass an elected official or town employee. But what we've been getting from this trio is about stirring the pot, not serving the town.

Colchester voters chose to move on from this style of politics, but the "transparency bunch" won't move on. Now that election season is here, their voices are getting louder, but still saying nothing of value.

John Farrell – Colchester

**The Heart Behind Portland's Food Bank**

To the Editor:

As the director of our senior center and a proud member of the Portland community, I want to take a moment to shine a light on one of the quiet but powerful lifelines in our town, our food bank and the incredible volunteers who make it possible.

Access to healthy food is not just about satisfying hunger it's a cornerstone of healthy aging and overall wellness. Good nutrition helps older adults maintain strength, independence, and quality of life, and it supports healthy growth and vitality for families of all ages. That's why I am so grateful for our Food Share program, which comes every other Monday, bringing fresh, wholesome foods like fruits, vegetables, yogurt, bread, and more. These healthy options give our neighbors the nourishment they need to thrive, no matter their stage in life.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated volunteers. They work tirelessly — rain, shine, or snow — to make sure food gets to those who need it. They never ask for anything in return. Their selflessness, kindness, and willingness to serve is the heartbeat of this effort, and it inspires me every day. If you see one of our amazing volunteers Iris Anderson, Peggy Arico, Gail Bogdon, Anita Carpenne, Kim Franklin, Carol Revicki, Pete Revicki, Connie Sullivan, Deb Sullivan, Larry Geist and Jim Tripp around town, please take a moment to thank them, they truly are everyday heroes.

Whether you are someone who could use a little extra help right now, or you are able to donate to the food bank, please know that your participation matters. It strengthens our community, supports healthy living, and ensures no one has to go without.

I am incredibly proud and deeply lucky to live in a community where neighbors care for one another so genuinely. Together, we are not just feeding people, we are nourishing lives.

With gratitude,  
Sarah Elliott-Caratasios  
Director, Portland Senior Center  
and Municipal Agent for the Elderly

Make the forest part of your story.

Remember the last time your family visited the forest? It's a place of wonder and imagination for the whole family—where stories come to life. And it's closer than you think. Sounds like it's time to plan your next visit. Make the forest part of your story today at a local park near you or find one at DiscoverTheForest.org.

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 It may be blind or bright

5 Soak in a tub

10 "Mighty" partner

14 \_\_\_\_ mater

15 One way to read

16 China setting

17 Does a 10K

18 Word thief

20 Did impressions of

22 Dynamite sounds

23 Iberian and Yucatan

25 Tops a cake

27 Keep going

31 Auction unit

32 Backpack part

35 \_\_\_\_ Park: Meta site

36 Maintain

38 Skin lesions

40 Peruse

41 "Judy" portrayer

43 Pompous walk

45 Adam's mate

46 Posh properties

48 Attached to a taskbar, say

50 Named, as a ship

53 Perfume sampler

56 Choice of words

59 Socialism and others

61 Lobster serving

62 Road sign silhouette

63 Dishwasher cycle

64 Coastal flier

65 Partner of odds

66 Winter weather

67 Gosling of "The Fall Guy"

DOWN

1 Draped dress

2 Shade of purple

3 All-powerful

4 Samples a bit of

5 St. John et al.

6 Type of wrench

7 Marsh croakers

8 Affectionate greeting

9 Safe to swallow

10 Pesters

11 Egyptian fertility goddess

12 General meaning

13 Bowlers and berets

19 Wake-up call?

21 Picnic pests

24 Shoe top

25 Emergency signal

26 Wanders

28 Combustible

29 Toil away

30 In shape

33 Martini's partner

34 Gallery piece

37 Meltdown sites

39 Exercises without rest in between

42 Lucy's best friend

44 Fey of film

47 Proofer's finds

49 Aerie builder

51 Place for a book title

52 This one and this one

53 Ocean motion

54 Genesis locale

55 Farmer's purchase

57 One of three in 1492

58 "Twisters" actor

60 "CSI" character

Answers to Previous Crossword:

H	O	S	T	S		B	A	B	A		P	E	A	L
I	B	E	R	O		A	S	E	A		A	R	C	O
N	E	P	A	L		L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G
G	L	A	D	I	O	L	A		E	R	A	S	E	S
E	I	R	E		P	O	T	S	D	A	M			
		A	S	C	E	T	I	C		M	A	R	I	E
A	C	T	I	O	N		C	A	M	P		E	R	A
T	H	I	N	N	E	R		D	E	L	E	T	E	S
T	A	N		T	R	I	G		S	E	X	I	S	T
A	N	G	L	E		C	L	A	S	S	I	C		
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L	E	A	N	T	O		C	O	S	T	E	L	L	O
A	D	M	I	S	S	I	O	N		O	N	A	I	R
V	I	E	T		E	L	S	E		A	C	T	E	D
E	T	S	Y		S	L	E	D		D	Y	E	R	S







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EDUCATION: PARAEDUCATOR

Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for a full-time Paraeducator position for the 2025-2026 school year. The position is scheduled to begin at the end of August and will follow the school calendar, with a work schedule of Monday through Friday, 6.5 hours per day. Interested candidates may apply online by visiting the district website at: [www.marblorough.k12.ct.us](http://www.marblorough.k12.ct.us) and selecting "District," then "Employment Opportunities" and "Employment Vacancies." For more information, please call 860-295-6236. EOE.

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The Town of Hebron is seeking candidates to fill the position of Revenue Collector. This full-time appointed position reports to the Finance Director and is responsible for the billing and collection of current and delinquent taxes including real estate, motor vehicle and personal property taxes as well as sewer use and assessment, and revenues from all other departments. The successful candidate should be very familiar with the operation of a Tax Collector's Office, have strong knowledge of office management procedures, strong computer skills and must be able to work with the public. Preference will be given to those individuals who have had experience in the position and are CCMC certified. Familiarity with Quality Data software is also preferred. Salary range is \$67,673 to \$79,616 plus an excellent benefit package. This is a union position. There is no residency requirement. Please send cover letter, resume and Town of Hebron employment application to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248 by September 5, 2025. For more details visit <https://hebronct.com/contact-us/employment/>. The Town of Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

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Town of Portland, CT (EOE) Wage Range: \$32.65 - \$37.89 Deadline: August 28, 2025 Submit Town CDL application to: First Selectman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071 Email: [mceppaglia@portlandct.org](mailto:mceppaglia@portlandct.org) Town is accepting applications for full-time Water Utility Person/Truck Driver/Equipment Operator in DPW Water Division; 40 hours weekly (M-F); starting \$32.65; AFSCME union; fringe benefits. Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol test; Clearinghouse & DMV background check. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Qualifications: High School diploma or GED +3 years experience in construction & maintenance of water systems & operation of heavy equipment, or equivalent comb. education & experience. Must have a valid Connecticut CDL.

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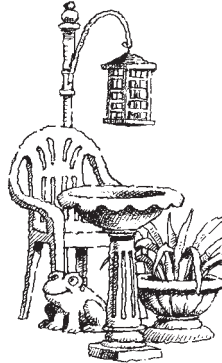
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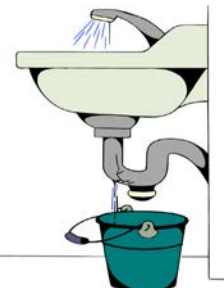
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**FCNS:** 554 Main St., Portland, Downsizing Nursery School inventory. Many books, puzzles, bulletin borders, preschool resources, much more! 8/15 4-6 pm, 8/16 9am-noon.  
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A graphic with the text "BACK TO SCHOOL" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The words "BACK TO" are on the top line, and "SCHOOL" is on the bottom line, which is set against a red ribbon banner. Behind the text are several school supplies: a green pencil, a yellow ruler, a blue paperclip, a red pencil, and a teal pencil. The background is a light blue gradient.

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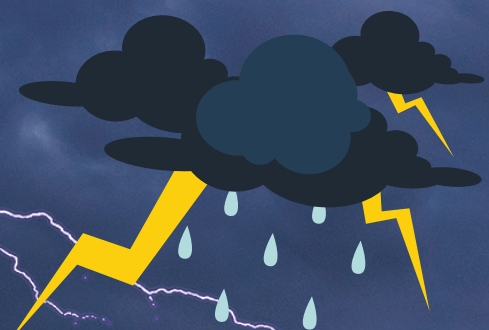


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