

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

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September 5, 2025

Hebron Harvest Fair Returns with New Attractions

By Toriana Williams

The Hebron Harvest Fair is back this September, promising four days of delicious food, fun rides, live entertainment and community spirit.

The fair began yesterday and will run through Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85. For hours, ticket prices and more information, visit www.hebrontharvestfair.org.

Fair Superintendent John Johnson Jr., said this year's event is expected to draw around 120,000 visitors from across Connecticut and beyond.

Johnson has been involved with the fair for more than two decades, serving as superintendent for six years. He first became involved back in 2000, when the fairgrounds' computer systems needed to be updated for the Y2K changeover.

"They had a database program here that they needed help getting upgraded to work past the year 1999," he said. "That's how I got involved ... and then it graduated from there."

He became a Lions Club member after a major act of vandalism in 2005 damaged several fairground buildings. "We had some kids, local kids, hotwire one of our dump trucks and damaged several buildings, burnt one to the ground," Johnson recalled. "That's why I became an actual Lions member."

The Hebron Lions Club has operated the fair since 1971, transforming it from a small local event into one of the largest fairs in the region. According to Johnson, some of the club's founding members even took out personal mortgages on their own homes to purchase the fairgrounds, a sign of their deep investment in the



The Hebron Harvest Fair is making its triumphant return this weekend. The four-day event, which kicked off last night, promises lots of food, folks and fun. Pictured is a scene from last year's fair.

community.

A Festival With Purpose

Johnson expressed that the primary goal of the fair has never changed: to give back to the community.

"We're here to raise money for our community," he said. "All profits from our fair are donated

to our Hebron Lions Charities Corporation, and they are responsible for doling out all the money we raise every year."

Last year, the fair generated more than \$100,000 in donations to local nonprofits and Lions International causes, with an additional \$50,000 raised during the club's winter event.

What's New in 2025

This year's fair will feature several new attractions alongside returning favorites. Johnson is particularly excited about Sea Lion Splash, an interactive show featuring trained sea lions performing tricks.

"I'm excited to see the sea lions this year – something new, for sure," he said. Other additions include a wood carver who will create unique pieces on site, as well as the return of the roller coaster to the carnival midway. Johnson explained that the fair alternates each year between a giant Ferris wheel and the roller coaster because the rides are so large that the carnival company can only set up one at a time during the short week.

Popular staples such as Dock Dogs, Rosaire's Royal Racing Pigs and the Cortes Family high-wire act, and the crown-pleasing demolition derby and figure-eight racing are also on the schedule.

"We are definitely known for our food. We're known for our rides and we're known for our pull ring," Johnson stated.

Accessibility and Discount Night

Visitors should note a small change to parking prices this year. On-site parking will be \$10, but attendees can save money by purchasing in advance.

"If you buy it online, it's half price," Johnson explained. The fair will also continue its popular \$3 Thursday, offering admission, parking, rides and select food items at a deep discount.

"We wanted to give an opportunity for people
See Hebron Harvest Fair, page 22

In Belltown, Gustavson Siblings Blazing a Trail

By Josh Howard

This fall will mark the last dance for the Gustavson siblings in Belltown.

Jocelyn Gustavson, a senior at East Hampton High School, will be joined by her younger sister, Brianna Gustavson, and younger brother, Brett Gustavson — who are twins entering their sophomore year at the high school — as the siblings compete together one final time for the Bellringers on the cross-country trails.

It's a moment the three hope to make the most out of as both family and teammates.

"I think that running really brings everyone together and brings everyone closer," said Jocelyn, an all-state selection last fall.

A year ago, Jocelyn took her running to another level by winning the Class SS state championship and finishing as the runner-up at the Shoreline Conference (SLC) finals. Following her junior season, she was named All-SLC first-team for the third time in three years.

Like their older sister, the Gustavson twins hit the ground running as freshmen with Brianna placing 9th at both the conference and class championships — earning her a spot in the State Open — and Brett placing 23rd overall at both

conference and class finals. Each of their times at the SLC finals were the best overall out of all the first-year high school competitors in their respective fields.

Brett said he has a simple approach to competing, noting, "When I see a person in front of me, I want to stay with them and maybe pass them in the end to get a better time."

"I just try and tell myself that I can do it and push through it," Brianna said of her strategy during race day.

Running is also a family trait. Their parents, Jon and Christine Gustavson, are both avid runners and have seen their children embrace the sport from the very beginning, noting the energetic trio would run in circles around the house while growing up.

As a family, the Gustavsons would compete in local races together before the kids began to take their passion to another level.

"I enjoy running with them, but I don't run as much anymore because I can't keep up with them," joked Jon, who added that Brett started to post faster times than him once in the fourth grade.

Despite often competing for the same goals, Christine said her children have always been each other's biggest fans, adding, "They are encouraging and it's great to see that between your kids."

Along with their individual success, the team success has followed.

Jocelyn and Brianna's effort last fall helped the Bellringers girls team place as the runner-up at the Class SS championship and third overall at conference. Brett joined a blossoming boys squad that placed fourth overall at both the class and conference championships in 2024.

All three added that they use running for different reasons with Brett, also an ice hockey player, using it to stay in shape, while Brianna said she finds the sport "fun and calming."

"I like to go on runs when I just need a break," Jocelyn added. "I like the relationships I build from running. We're all going through the pain of running together -- it's a nice bonding experience."

Entering her final season at EHHS, Jocelyn hopes that the cross-country season and sub-

See Gustavson Siblings, page 27

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Those that are planning on attending are asked to RSVP to andoverac@hfpcommunity-funds.org.

Ticket prices are \$18 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for children 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased from any member, Wednesday evenings at the firehouse or by calling Deputy Chief Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074 or Chief Ron Mike at 860-335-0264. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.


Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for an application or more information.

RSVP is not required but is requested, by calling 860-742-7428.

For more information, call 860-742-7428.

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There is no entry fee to show your car. Barbecued chicken with all the fixin's is \$15. For more information, leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696.




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RE 8-29-25

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Some of you might have seen reporter Toriana Williams’ story last week on the start of the RHAM school year. If you did, you may recall a mention of the \$1.6 million track renovation project. The project is wrapping up, but it’s not quite completed yet, so the RHAM Board of Education has made an announcement.

The school board is asking the community to not use the RHAM track until the project is completed in late September or early October (weather permitting). The board cautioned that using the track prior to the work being completed could damage the track or slow progress.

Work commenced on this project immediately following the end of last school year, and the school board said the project has been progressing as expected. The asphalt base that has been laid down is curing – a process that takes nearly a month to complete, the board said. Once the asphalt base has cured, the rubber track surface will be laid down and the track will be lined. Using the track during any step in this process could damage the track or negatively affect the project’s timeline for completion, the board said.

So, in other words: stay off the track! It sounds like it’ll be a beauty when it’s completed, but it’s not quite done yet. Area runners/walkers will have this new and improved track for years and years to come, so let’s not rush things.

* * *

As my girl, and the newly-engaged (con-

gratulations!), Taylor Swift once sang, August slipped away into a moment in time. Yep, it’s September now; the new school year’s in full swing, Labor Day has come and gone, and a trip to the grocery store reveals that pumpkin can be infused in just about anything.

In fact, you may not be aware of it, but it’s already fall. Meteorologically speaking, anyway. The first day of meteorological autumn was Sept. 1. For the rest of us, though, the season begins Sept. 22.

And fall this year will bring, apparently, lots of high school reunions – especially if you live in Portland. As you might have seen, there are several opportunities coming up for once-and-forever PHS Highlanders to gather and reminisce.

The reunions start on Saturday, Sept. 27, when the Portland High School Class of 1963 will hold its gathering luncheon at 1 p.m. at Farrell’s Tavern, 245 Marlborough St., Portland. Attendees will order off a limited menu; pay as you go.

Farrell’s requires a headcount by Sept. 15. If interested in attending, call or text 508-274-3122 or email Bill at williamorgane@gmail.com as soon as possible.

The following Saturday, Oct. 4, will see the PHS Class of 1980’s 45th Class Reunion. This one will also be at Farrell’s. There will be food, live music and a cash bar. 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.

Editor’s Desk continued on page 27

Bulletin Board

Remember service?

Remember when you could order a cup of coffee without feeling like you were imposing on the server? Remember when phone solicitations were made not by glib robots, but in-person by real hucksters that you could tell to go suck eggs? Remember a time when the folks offering you a warm welcome and inviting you to join their extended family weren’t limited to personal injury attorneys?

I do.

If you’re wondering what brought this bit of yearning for the good old (and often not so good old) days, I’ll cut to the chase.

The other day I called my optometrist’s group office to ask for a copy of my prescription. Seems simple enough, right?

Think again.

After negotiating a convoluted “press 1 for this,” “press 2 for that,” “press 27 for this & that” or “28 for that & this”—a process I had to repeat twice because I kept losing track of what was what—I finally got connected.

By “connected” I mean I chose an option, pressed a number and a phone on the other end actually rang.

In fact, it rang twice.

And then it picked up and a polite automated voice informed me: “No one is available to take your call. Goodbye.”

And the damn thing disconnected me.

Are you kidding me?

No one is available to take your call? Goodbye?

Now I’m long past the point where I expect a real live genial person to pick up the phone and ask how they can help me—and then actually do it. I don’t even care if you’re as personable as a snapping turtle as long as somebody—almost anybody—answers.

Yes, I realize this process will probably take some time, but that’s one of the reasons I eat high blood pressure meds for breakfast. I’m prepared (not happy but prepared) to sit for up to an hour with the phone to my ear listening to somebody else’s idea of calming music, interrupted periodically by assurances that “Your call is important to us, please wait for the next available representative.”

I’m used to that. I am not used to being told (however politely) to buzz off and summarily hung up on. Not “Please call back later,” or “Please leave a number and we will get back to you shortly” or even “Your patronage is important to our bottom line, a representative should be available sometime between now and next Doomsday.”

No. What do I get? “No one is available to take your call. Goodbye.” Click. Not even a “We’re sorry, but...”

I guess it’s better than, “We don’t have time to bother with you right now, so go away,” but still it amounts to the same thing.

Brooding over this experience over the past couple of days (no, I actually do not have anything better to do, since I can’t see very well without my prescription), my legendary sunny outlook on life slowly began to assert itself. It occurred to me that perhaps this abrupt hang-up-on-the-customer business model is well-intended. Maybe I should be viewing it as the automated equivalent of a mercy killing.

No, seriously. Instead of forcing the customer to listen to hours of muzak while the people who are supposed to be answering the phone cavort around the office swilling champagne and stuffing themselves with chocolate-covered truffles, they just put you out of your misery before you even have a chance to be miserable. You’re going to be annoyed anyway. The quick “good-bye” approach saves you time when you could be doing something else (like walking into walls because you need your new prescription) and saves them the inconvenience of accommodating whatever it is you’re bothering them about.

Viewed from that perspective, getting kicked to the curb is almost like an act of charity. Still, I’d really like to get that prescription. Also, I don’t take rejection well. But that’s probably obvious by now.

Goodbye.

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.



Buddy Bench... Marlborough’s Girl Scout Troop 61097 recently purchased a buddy bench for the Marlborough Elementary playground as part of their Outdoor Journey Take Action Project. It took the girls a year to raise the funds needed to buy the bench.

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Seeks School Board Seat

To the Editor:

My name is Anne Whalen and I am running for Portland’s Board of Education. My husband and I moved to Portland in 2020 and I have been a member of Youth Services since moving here. We have two daughters who will enter the Portland school system in the coming years. I have just entered my 10th year as a middle school teacher, starting my career in Meriden and continuing to serve today in Middletown. I have always had a strong passion for education and learning. As a young teacher I joined the CT Council for the Social Studies to help enhance social studies education across the state. During my time in Meriden, I served as both a team and department leader.

As a Connecticut native, I take pride in the fact that all of my degrees are from Connecticut universities, including a bachelor’s in history and master’s in teaching from Quinnipiac University, as well as a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Bridgeport. I hope to bring my passion and knowledge for education to the Portland Board of Education.

My goal in running for the Board of Education is to be involved in creating a safe and positive learning environment for my children and the children of Portland. If elected, I intend to prioritize school safety, student attendance, as well as innovative and engaging curricula that is accessible for all students.

Anne Whalen – Portland

A Positive Path Forward

To the Editor:

As a mother of two children in Colchester Public Schools — one in 6th grade and one preparing to graduate high school — my decision to run for the Board of Education comes from firsthand experience. I’ve seen where our schools shine and where our students, especially those preparing for life after graduation, need more support. That perspective as a parent is what drives me to serve.

I want to be clear: I am not running to tear down the Board of Education or the people currently serving. My campaign, and the team of Republican candidates running alongside me, is about building up — bringing ideas, accountability, and a commitment to putting students and teachers first. We are not here to add to negativity or division.

What unites us is simple: we believe every tax dollar should go toward improving classrooms, supporting teachers, and preparing our kids for the real world — not toward waste at the top. That’s the vision we want to share with Colchester.

Our team is proud to be a group of parents and neighbors who care deeply about our town’s future. We’re choosing positivity over rhetoric and collaboration over conflict. At the end of the day, we all want the same thing — the very best education for our children.

Sincerely,

Olivia Duksa – Colchester Republican
Candidate for Board of Education

RIVEREAST

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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. 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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Town Management
To the Editor:
Our town has hired some great new staff (Planning, Library, Senior Center and others) and we need additional police employees. East Hampton has a remarkable town staff which helps us all. Our budget process is alive and well, with you participating in our referendums and elections and making your views known.
You can also be an active participant in town committees and boards. Your participation will help the town and give you a voice on our collective future. Volunteer now. For opportunities, visit www.easthamptonct.gov/home/pages/volunteers-needed.
Jack Solomon – East Hampton Candidate for Town Council

Sea Lion Splash
To the Editor:
I am writing to express my concern about an act that is set to debut at this weekend's Hebron Harvest Fair. Sea Lion Splash is making its way to the fair schedule and I must admit I am very disappointed in those organizing the fair for allowing it. When attempting to look up any information about the trainers or the sea lions themselves, very little comes up. There are a few news articles about a report being made against the company that raises concerns about the quality of life for the animals in their care.
I'd like to ask my fellow fairgoers to keep this in mind and consider skipping Sea Lion Splash. Without knowing that these animals are receiving adequate care or even being trained by someone with sea lion experience, I'd argue it is impossible to soundly enjoy their show. I urge everyone to do at least a basic search when planning to see any act involving animals to ensure their fair treatment. Sea lions deserve more than a life confined to a traveling fair show.
Kelly Kozikowski – Hebron

McFarland for Marlborough BOS
To the Editor:
My name is Susan McFarland and I am running for Marlborough Board of Selectmen on the Democratic ticket.
For those who remember my 12 years on the Zoning Commission, I trust you will recall me as a commissioner with common sense who listened to all perspectives and voted in Marlborough's best interests. I will bring the same sensibilities to our town operations through the Board of Selectman. Our town needs fiscal responsibility, strong schools, and services for seniors and families alike to remain a vibrant community. We also need to continue to support and attract businesses in our town center and business district. Working together, we can make Marlborough the best it can be while keeping our taxes down.
I am a lifelong Connecticut resident and my husband and I have lived here in Marlborough for the last 18 years. I recently retired from a career in regulatory compliance spanning more than three decades at four Connecticut companies: Pratt & Whitney, Sikorsky Aircraft, Carrier Corporation and the Barnes Group. Over the years, I led teams of compliance professionals, managed large programs and budgets, and advised senior operations leaders and boards of directors. Now I look forward to dedicating my management skills and energy to our town.
I am excited at the opportunity to help lead Marlborough, and ask for your vote this November.
**Sincerely,
Susan McFarland – Marlborough**

A New Voice for Marlborough
Dear Neighbors:
My name is Anthony Bratz, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for the Marlborough Board of Selectmen. As a 36-year-old mechanical engineer and a proud resident, I am running to bring a fresh perspective focused on transparency, accountability, and affordability to our town government.
For years, I've managed multi-million dollar projects and complex programs, where clear goals, rigorous budgeting, and fiscal responsibility are not just ideals, but mandatory. I will apply this same disciplined approach to our town's finances, ensuring your tax dollars are spent on the services that matter most to you.
An informed community is a strong community. I am committed to fostering greater transparency in our local government, making it easier for every resident to understand how decisions are made. I will work to ensure our government is fully accountable to you, the people it serves.
Most importantly, I will be a steadfast advocate for affordability, fighting to control costs so that Marlborough remains a place where families and seniors can thrive for generations to come.
I am eager to listen to your concerns and ideas. I would be honored to earn your vote.
**Sincerely,
Anthony Bratz, EIT
Candidate for Marlborough Board of Selectmen**

Colchester Deserves Much Better
To the Editor:
For years, Board of Education members Donna Antonacci and Margo Gignac have tried to parade themselves around as strong, thoughtful leaders. But here's the glaring problem: strong leaders have the courage to admit when they're wrong. And in all their years on the board, Donna and Margo have never once found it within themselves to say those simple, human words: "I was wrong."
Let's put this into perspective. Josh Gibson, arguably the greatest hitter in baseball history, had a career batting average of .371. That means he failed more than 62% of the time. Ted Williams, who turned in one of the most dominant hitting seasons in history in 1941, still failed nearly 59% of the time. Even the greats – the visionaries, the innovators, the giants – fail more often than they succeed. Steve Jobs stumbled constantly. Thomas Edison burned through thousands of failed prototypes.
And yet, Donna and Margo expect us to believe they've achieved the impossible. Unlike every great leader in history, they've never been wrong. Not once. Not even a little. The arrogance in that fantasy would almost be funny if it

weren't so insulting.
Take the magnet school fiasco. The community shouted in opposition – clear, unmistakable, and non-partisan. Members of both parties called it a parasite, a burden, and flat-out wrong for Colchester. The outcry was so overwhelming that every other member of the Board of Education voted to stop it. Every single one except Donna and Margo, with an assist by Margo's daughter, Rosemary.
And what do we hear from them now? Not accountability. Not humility. Not even the bare minimum of recognizing they misread the room. Instead, they sneer at the public. They smear valid concerns as "misinformation," "political attacks," and even "racism." They insist they were right and everyone else was wrong. It's insulting. It's delusional. And it's a slap in the face to every resident who dared to speak up.
Watching this charade has become exhausting. Real leaders stumble, admit it, and grow. Donna and Margo refuse. They'd rather wrap themselves in a fantasy of perfection, untouchable and above reproach. Their priority isn't our schools or our kids – it's image management, self-preservation, and chasing whatever applause they can wring out of the crowd.
Colchester deserves better. Much better.
Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

Building a Stronger Colchester
Dear Colchester Residents:
Many residents I speak with say they're very happy with our schools. When I ask why, the answer is almost always the same: our teachers. I couldn't agree more. Colchester has exceptional teachers, and we can never thank them enough.
But when I ask those same residents if they know what the Board of Education (BOE) is actually working on, the answer is often silence. If you don't know what's happening at the top, you're missing the full picture.
Take last week's claim from the incumbent BOE chair that Bacon Academy was ranked number one in Connecticut for college and career readiness. It sounds impressive – but it's misleading. Bacon Academy isn't "overall" the best; the ranking is based on a single measure: the percentage of students earning college credits in a non-charter high school.
The largest contributor? College credit for an automotive maintenance class. Learning to change oil is certainly a useful skill – and trades are a critical pathway to success – but that's not what most parents imagine when they hear "college readiness." This shows why we need honesty and transparency from BOE leaders, so families have the full picture.
The BOE sets the direction for our schools and oversees the largest share of our town budget. That's a responsibility that requires accuracy

and accountability. Yet under this leadership, residents have faced ever-larger budgets – often passed only under pressure, with teachers used as leverage. Afterward, administrators received raises that left many wondering about priorities.
Meanwhile, families are paying the price. In just three years, our taxes have risen sharply. Add in higher grocery bills and everyday expenses, and Colchester is becoming harder to afford. We need a BOE and town leadership that respects both students and taxpayers.
Republicans are ready to offer that. We want budgets that put classrooms and students first, honest communication with families, and leadership that makes Colchester more affordable for everyone.
We want strong schools that truly prepare our kids for success – whether that means excelling in college, serving our nation with pride in the armed forces, or building rewarding careers in high-paying trades.
We love this town, and we want to see our neighbors prosper. Let's make Colchester affordable, accountable, and strong again. On Nov. 4, please vote for Republican Party endorsed candidates.
Michael Dubreuil – Colchester Candidate for Board of Finance

Big Times for Hebron DPW
To the Editor:
August was an exciting time for Hebron's Department of Public Works project. On Monday, Aug. 18, the DPW Action Committee met to review their presentation on the status of the planning and design of a new facility at the current location, 550 Old Colchester Rd. This presentation was then brought before the Board of Selectmen on August 21st and a link can be found on the Town of Hebron website under the Board of Selectmen Agenda and <https://hebronct.com/uploads/agendas/68a87256660e4.pdf>
Working with information provided to the design team of Silver Petrucelli by the DPW Action Committee and Public Works leadership, the first conceptual plans were available for viewing. It was a thrilling moment to finally see progress being made after so many years of discussion. In fact, the need to address the situation at the DPW facility was stated in Hebron's 2004 Plan of Conservation and Development, a 2010 Town of Hebron Municipal Facilities Study by Town Staff and a 2013 DPW Facility Study by CME Associates.
I am grateful to the DPW Action Committee for moving past this exhaustive period of study and taking a bold step forward. One of the first actions taken by this Committee in 2023 was to organize the DPW Building Project Survey. The result of the Survey established a clear mandate
See Letter, page 6



CIT7-3-25

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REF-5-25

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

★ Letters, cont. from page 5

with 69% of respondents choosing the current site of 550 Old Colchester Road as the best option. This mandate was reiterated by DPW Action Committee member Richard Steiner, a long time Public Building Committee volunteer and construction specialist, when he stated at the August 18th meeting, “This Committee is laser focused on 550 Old Colchester Road. There will be bumps along the road, but the efforts of the design team show it is doable.” The commitment to moving forward with a new DPW at the current location was confirmed by Selectwoman Tiffany Thiele during her comment in respect to additional plans in town, “Those things shouldn’t be contingent on Public Works because now Public Works is staying where it is.”

I urge our town leaders and members of the public to support this project and continue the momentum gained by the DPW Action Committee. There will indeed “be bumps along the road,” but building a new facility at 550 Old Colchester Road is the only environmental, historical and economically responsible course of action. For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulumieri – Amston

Marlborough Charter Mess

To the Editor:

There was an article in last week’s *Rivereast* that focused on the process for the filling of vacancies. Changes made four years ago during the last charter revision left us with a butchered end product that failed to serve the best interests of the public.

Changes to the process of filling of vacancies has led to an increase in political manipulation. Per state statutes, vacancies must be filled by a person of the same party as the person vacating, but the charter now leaves that open to anyone. This sounds like a good idea, but it leads to manipulation by the party holding the majority on the Board of Selectmen.

Another issue is the matter of “Special Appropriations.” Previously, any special appropriation in excess of \$10,000 needed to go to a public hearing. The charter revision raised that threshold to over \$100,000. I protested this at the time, saying the new threshold was way too high.

Other changes have led to excessive control by the majority party on the Board of Selectmen, including selection of the Board of Selectmen chairman by a vote of only three members.

Therefore, the minority party has no say in the selection of the BOS chairman.

Furthermore, the Charter laughingly states that a 2/3 vote is required to pass a motion on the Board of Selectmen. Two-thirds of 5 members is 3-1/3 votes. This led to debate over whether 3 or 4 votes were needed to pass a motion, which ended up in the hands of the town attorney.

These are just a few examples of the mess we were handed when the charter was last revised. Unfortunately, we will have to live with this mess until the next revision.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

Row C for BOE

To the Editor:

Marguerite (Margo) Gignac, back again. As your incumbent Colchester BOE secretary, I want to share some purposes and responsibilities of the BOE. Boards of education in Connecticut are mandated by the state to do the following three things: hire and evaluate a qualified superintendent; collaborate with the superintendent to propose an annual budget; and create or edit policy for the district. Our BOE is composed of seven volunteer Colchester residents. The common misconception is that we work day-to-day operations when we are actually prohibited from working within the district. As Donna Antonacci (board chair) mentioned last week, the board works annually with the superintendent on district goals. Board members work closely with the superintendent to ensure that he is expressing our shared vision. We don’t micromanage our superintendent. We have hired a trusted servant to steer the district and answer the needs of the children and the community at large.

Everything the Board of Education does is done when the seven members are together. No decisions are made individually. We have several small committees that work with the administration including budget, policy, curriculum and facilities. These committees bring recommendations to the full board at the monthly board meeting for voting. No final decisions are made by a committee or individual board members. Our seven-member board has worked collaboratively with administration to bring our district together. We don’t consider politics when voting to do what is right and best for our district.

Donna and I look forward to representing our community for another four years with honesty

and integrity. Row C for BOE.

Marguerite Gignac – Colchester

Note: Gignac is a current member of the Colchester Board of Education, but said she is speaking as a school board candidate for the November elections.

Survey Support Wanted!

To the Residents of East Hampton:

We need you! The Senior Center and Services Task Force was established this past January by resolution of the Town Council. We are seeking your thoughts, your opinions, and your ideas on the current services for seniors. In addition, we are exploring the future needs of seniors, as well as the future needs of residents of all ages.

There are great changes coming to our country, to our state, and to our town. The U.S. population is growing older. According to the Census Bureau:

“The aging population is a significant demographic trend, with the U.S. population aged 65 and older projected to increase from 58 million in 2022 to 82 million by 2050, representing 23% of the total population.”

In East Hampton, adults over the age of 60 currently represent 26% of our town’s population.

The Task Force has created a survey to help us understand what our town residents want to see both now and in the future in support of not only seniors, but all residents. The link to the survey below is open to all East Hampton residents over the age of 18.

The survey takes just five minutes to complete. We thank you for your support! The survey is at: tinyurl.com/SCTFsurvey

Kim Crabbe, Vice Chair
Senior Center and Services Task Force

Touch-a-Truck Thanks

To the Editor:

The Exchange Club of Portland held its 15th annual Touch-a-Truck Event at the Portland Fairgrounds on Sunday, Aug. 24. Without the support of area businesses and individuals the success of this event would not have been possible.

The Exchange would like to thank our “18-Wheeler” sponsor: Casella Waste Systems; our “Monster Truck” sponsors: DRVN Enterprise, Law office of George Law, and Tehrani Law Group; our “4 x 4 Truck” sponsors: Daniels Energy, Petzold’s Marine Center; our “Pick-Up Truck” sponsors: Penny Beaudry, Portland

Automotive, Portland Fence, and Thompson Landscape.

The Exchange would also like to thank businesses, organizations and individuals who contributed vehicles to the event. Portland Police Department, Portland Public Works, Portland Fire Department, CWPM, DRVN, All Waste, Glastonbury Volunteer Ambulance, MurderCycles Motorcycle Club, Thompson Landscape, M & J Bus Service L.V. Fuel, Butler Construction, Army National Guard of Niantic, and Neal Ferwerda, Oscar Meyer, plus a couple of unknown contributors.

All proceeds from this event will be going towards the Portland VFW Post #6121 building upgrade project.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
Jamie Leonard, Secretary
Exchange Club of Portland

Thank You, Fire Department

To the Editor:

Thank you to our awesome Andover Fire Department. Their record time response to our alarm ringing was amazing. On a holiday no one could ask for better service. These young men were extremely professional, knowledgeable, and polite. My two apple pies were rescued and my family said they were “extra special” this holiday.

Kudos to Chief Ron Mike and Deputy Chief Mindy Hegener for their outstanding training of our Firemen.

Sincerely,
Cathy Palazzi – Andover

Running for Reelection

Dear Colchester Residents:

My name is Denise Turner, and I am running for reelection to the Colchester Board of Selectmen (BOS), on the Democratic ticket. It’s been a pleasure this term to be a member of a board that put partisanship aside, and worked together to make the best decisions for the town. I’ve been in public service in this town for about 13 years, serving three terms on the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA), and three and a half terms on the BOS.

It is my honor to serve in the government in the town in which I was born and raised. I am currently employed at a local nursing facility as the director of recreation. I also sit on the Board of Governors for the Colchester Historical Society. I was chair of the BAA for two terms, and have chaired various other committees during my time serving my community.

As a member of the BOS, I make fiscally responsible decisions that I feel are best for Colchester. I look forward to continuing my tenure on the BOS, and again ask for your support on Nov 4.

Sincerely,
Denise Turner – Colchester

Note: Turner is a member of a Colchester Board of Selectmen, but said she is speaking as an individual.

A New Fire Station

To the Editor:

Republican leaders Bridget McLennan (BOF chair), Alannah Coshow (BOF vice chair), Richard Brown (BOF member), and Ted Hintz Jr.(Town Council member) claim Democrats played politics with the proposed firehouse at 11 Skinner St. But the facts tell a different story.

Coshow asks, “What were the Democrats doing from March through July?” The answer: investigating. Democrats secured an agreement from the property owner that any contamination would be cleaned up. Yet Republicans ignore that their own majority in 2023 pushed 11 Skinner St. as the only site and tried to rush it through – even though then-chairman Mark Philhower had a conflict of interest through business dealings with the property’s owner, Wayne Rand.

The real issue isn’t contamination -- it’s cost. Republicans have always made taxes their bottom line. They needed to appear supportive of the firefighters while finding a way to cut costs and then blame Democrats when the deal slowed down. But East Hampton residents are smarter than that.

Hintz now demands “open dialogue.” Where was he two years ago? Democrats, working with the Fire Chief and Fire Commissioners, held three public meetings to discuss and move the project forward. That’s transparency.

Republicans signed their letter as “individuals.” I sign mine as chairman of the East Hampton Town Council, in accordance with our charter, and as its spokesperson

Dean Markham, Chairman
East Hampton Town Council

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Honored to Be Candidate
To the Editor:
I am honored to be a Democratic candidate for the Colchester Board of Education.

It is imperative that the Colchester Board of Education offer the best education possible for each individual child. The following are some priority areas that I will support when elected to the Colchester Board of Education.

- Students must always be the first priority.
- Early childhood education is critical to student success.
- The highest ability staff need to be hired, supported and maintained.
- The school environment must support students with programming that encourages physical, mental and emotional well-being.
- Financial responsibility and oversight will ensure that every dollar spent is in the best interest of students.
- Transparent communication and collaboration between the administration and Colchester taxpayers is essential to our community.
- Our facilities must be maintained properly and proactively, including the Bacon Academy fields.
- Curriculum should be updated as needed to meet the ever-changing needs of our society.

I ask for your support on Nov. 4th.

Nancy Nelson – Colchester Democratic Candidate for Board of Education

Morris for Board of Ed
To the Editor:

My name is Raymond Morris, although people around town know me by my nickname, Chip. In 2023, I was unanimously appointed by the Board of Selectmen to fill an open seat on the Marlborough Board of Education. This past June, I was unanimously elected to serve as its chairperson. I am an unaffiliated voter who has been endorsed by the Democratic Town Committee, and I am running for election to keep my seat on the board.

Our family moved into town primarily because of Marlborough Elementary School and the RHAM schools. Our girls are currently in kindergarten and 4th grade at MES, and we feel that MES is an outstanding school and a welcoming community! I will continue to do what I can to keep it this way. I believe in a quality education for all students that is affordable for all taxpayers. I strive to be as careful and sensible in the management of money and resources as possible. And I know that my fellow board members can attest to the fact that I am committed to listening to all sides of an issue before making a decision.

I work as an adult psychiatrist at a community health clinic in East Hartford. I feel very strongly about mental health wellness and support for people of all ages. In my role as a psychiatrist, every day I listen to my patients with an open mind and carefully consider their situations and the support that they need.

Between my roles on the board and at my job, I am a leader, listener, and someone who is very deliberate with every decision I make or vote that I cast. I have already begun my campaign by knocking on doors, and I will be knocking on many more in the upcoming weeks. I respectfully seek your vote no matter your party affiliation and would be honored to continue serving on the Marlborough BOE. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Raymond “Chip” Morris – Marlborough
Note: Morris is chairperson of the Marlborough Board of Education but said he is writing as an individual candidate.

Keep the Positive Momentum
To the Editor:

It is time to begin thinking about our municipal election on Nov. 4th. I have been endorsed by the Portland Democratic Town Committee as a candidate for the Portland Board of Selectmen. I am writing to provide information about my experience, as I seek the support of Portland residents on Election Day.

I am a graduate of UConn and spent my entire professional career in public service, for the State Department of Social Services and the UConn School of Social Work. I retired in 2020 after over 30 years of state service. I also have many years of service and volunteer work for the town of Portland. I was a member of the Portland Board of Education from 2008 to 2017. I served as vice chairwoman, and chaired the policy subcommittee. I continue in leadership roles as the current chair of the Democratic Town Committee, as well as the vice president of my homeowner’s association.

My husband and I have lived in Portland for nearly 30 years and our son attended Portland Public Schools. Portland is a great community

and I pride myself on supporting local businesses. I shop locally, utilize local services, frequent Portland restaurants and enjoy outdoor activities, such as the Air Line Trail and Riverfront Park.

I am running for the Board of Selectmen to continue my commitment to public service, and to keep Portland moving forward. There is much important activity happening in Portland including, critical decisions about the aging infrastructure of our school facilities, water independence efforts, riverfront and economic development projects.

I am excited for the opportunity to serve the Town of Portland and keep the positive momentum. In the coming weeks I hope to speak with many Portland residents and discuss the issues that are most important to you.

**Sincerely,
Andrea Alfano
Candidate for the Portland Board of Selectmen**

DPWAC Update
To the Editor:

Exciting news! At the last Board of Selectmen’s meeting, I gave a presentation with some very preliminary “DRAFT” ideas to show that everything that our town’s DPW facility and transfer station requires WILL fit on the current Old Colchester Road site. Any of the preliminary plans discussed were for space consideration only, not the actual locations. The actual locations of the new structures will be determined after all of the environmental borings and excavations have been completed. Also shared was something the DPWAC learned of at our 8/18/25 meeting. All structures that employees work out of must have their own septic systems. Therefore, most likely, the new office space and the new garage will be housed together. As of now, no actual design is available. The unheated building to house some lesser used trucks and equipment and the salt shed don’t require separate septic systems. The dog pound may need its own septic system.

The presentation to the BOS also included some key questions for the board to consider. The first being; for the time the Old Colchester Road site is vacated until the new transfer station is operational, how will household waste,

recyclables and bulky waste be handled. Per the construction schedule put forth by Silver, Petrucci & Associates, this will be 1-1/2 to 2 years. Not just the logistics but the cost too!

The other soft cost considerations at our 8/18/25 meeting were; complete demolition of all structures on the existing site, temporary office trailer at the Hebron Lions Fairground, temporary bathroom facilities, and running electrical power for the block heaters for the plow trucks parked at the Lions Fairgrounds. Selectman Dan Larson questioned if the design team is considering the amount of power required for the new facility that most likely will be mandated to have EV charging stations, as well as the additional trash compactors requested.

The Phase 1 environmental reports should be completed in the next couple of weeks. The design team can then move forward with more accurate placement of structures on the site.

As always, as new things develop and this project moves forward, I will keep submitting letters to the editor of the *Rivereast* to try to keep you as up to date as possible. I encourage residents to attend our meetings, ask questions, read the FAQs at www.hebronct.com regularly and email questions to me at thabicht@hebron.com.

**Sincerely,
Todd Habicht, Vice Chairman
Hebron DPWAC**

Running for Hebron BOS
To the Editor:

My name is Jan Lawrence, and I am honored to announce my candidacy for the Hebron Board of Selectmen.

As a longtime Hebron resident, parent, and community advocate, I am deeply invested in the future of our town. Over the years, I have proudly served as a youth baseball, basketball, and soccer coach, giving back to a community that has given so much to my family. My son attended Hebron’s schools and played on its fields, and I want every child here to have the same opportunities to grow and thrive.

Professionally, I bring both public- and private-sector experience to the table. For the past 13 years, I have served as an IT development supervisor at the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services, where I work to stream-

line systems that support some of our most vulnerable residents. Before that, I built and managed several successful retail toy businesses across Connecticut—experience that gave me a firsthand understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing small businesses and working families.

I am running for the Board of Selectmen to: Strengthen and modernize our schools and infrastructure; Develop a vibrant, accessible town center; Expand affordable housing options; Reduce the tax burden on residents; Champion first-class public education for all children.

With a practical mindset, collaborative spirit, and deep commitment to Hebron, I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant Hebron – one that serves the needs of today while planning responsibly for tomorrow.

I look forward to earning your support.

**Sincerely,
Jan Lawrence
Candidate for Hebron Board of Selectmen**

Progress – on a Budget
Dear Colchester Neighbors:

One of my goals as first selectman has been to deliver progress while also maintaining an affordable town budget for residents and businesses. In two years, we have secured over \$5 million in grants to help do just that.

This week, I was excited to launch evening hours at the Colchester Senior Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 8 p.m. — at no cost to Colchester taxpayers. The new program, which we are calling Wellness Nights, will give more seniors age 55+ access to the new center. In addition to our fitness rooms, we will also have other programming aimed at improving health and wellness during these hours.

Towns are receiving new special revenue sources with restricted uses. These have to be used for specific purposes under state law. In this case, we are using funds from cannabis sales tax to fund the evening hours.

Since the new center opened, I heard from many seniors who are not yet retired that they wanted to see evening hours at the center. I thought this was a great opportunity to match

See Letter, page 13

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RE8-22-25

Andrew Macca of Amston made the spring 2025 President's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.

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Selectman Defends Vacancy-Filling Process

By Toriana Williams

Marlborough Board of Selectmen member Betty O’Brien, a Democrat, said recent disputes over board and commission appointments stem from misunderstandings of the town charter – particularly its emphasis on attendance – rather than partisan maneuvering.

In a story in last week’s *Rivereast*, local Republican leaders Judy Kelly and Zina Planeta alleged qualified volunteers are being denied opportunities to serve due to unclear rules and selective interpretations of the town charter. They added that appointments have become unnecessarily contentious, with candidates facing heavy scrutiny; Kelly specifically singled out Republican school board hopeful Jamie Smigel.

But in an interview this week with the *Rivereast*, O’Brien – one of the selectmen who had previously voted against Smigel’s and Senna’s appointments – said she takes her responsibility as a selectman seriously and prioritizes the town’s needs above political affiliations.

“My first responsibility is to my town. The second responsibility is to my political party,” she stated. “If [Smigel and Senna] had been Democrats, I would have done the same thing, because it was the right thing to do.”

Charter Requires Attendance Commitment

O’Brien explained that Marlborough’s charter, revised three years ago, places significant weight on whether prospective appointees can reliably attend meetings.

“What they said was very important was attendance at the meetings. If you read the charter, you would see it,” O’Brien said.

Following the charter revision, the Board of Selectmen implemented a Membership Expectations Agreement to ensure new appointees understood this requirement.

Selectman Louise Concodello, a Republican,

who served on the charter revision commission, said the emphasis on attendance was intended to ensure active participation, not to punish members.

“Attendance is something which is nice, but you can’t fire an elected official,” Concodello said. “I don’t think attendance is that important because things do happen in life.”

O’Brien said the charter commission made attendance a critical condition for board and commission members.

“The Charter Commission felt very strongly that this had to be taken care of,” she mentioned.

Attendance Review Began Last Year

O’Brien said that about a year ago, she personally reviewed attendance records for all boards and commissions to ensure compliance with the charter.

“I went through all the minutes for the last year and see on every board who is attending ... because this is an issue that the charter [talks] about,” she stated. If a member has poor attendance, O’Brien contacted the board chair to determine whether action was necessary.

“Once somebody is elected or appointed to a board, you can’t fire them,” O’Brien noted. “If they don’t attend and they refuse to resign, too bad.”

In some cases, members voluntarily stepped down when approached.

Specific Cases: Smigel and Senna

Addressing recent criticism, O’Brien cited two contested appointments involving Smigel and fellow Republican Sal Senna. Smigel, who sought appointment to the local Board of Education, was criticized for limited in-person attendance. O’Brien argued that some roles cannot be learned solely through virtual participation.

“To think that anybody could learn a job like

on the block of the month.

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

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

Sweet Picks – Free Bakery Items: Mondays and Tuesdays between 8:30 and 9 a.m., local grocery stores will donate bakery items, such as breads and desserts. Senior center members are invited to come take a look and take, in moderation, what they need. F

Tap: The center’s tap dance group is open for new, experienced members. The group meets every Wednesday from 5-6:30 p.m.

Social Services: Energy Assistance: Help is available to pay your home heating bills. The first fuel deliveries are Nov. 1. Call CRT at 860-560-5800 for assistance or to make an appointment. More information is available online at www.ct.gov/heatinghelp/applyonline. Application assistance is available to Marlborough residents over 55 at the senior center by appointment only.

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

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

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

Transportation: Available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Must reserve rides three business days in advance. Reservations taken Monday-Thursday. Call 860-295-6209 for more information.

the Board of Ed on Zoom is ludicrous,” she said. While she described Smigel as “a wonderful person,” O’Brien maintained that attendance is non-negotiable under the charter.

Concodello noted that younger volunteers – such as Smigel, a mother of three – often face time constraints and conflicts.

“Younger people have families,” she said. “Sometimes it’s hard to make evening meetings. That’s just part of life.”

After this interview was conducted, Smigel appeared before the selectmen at their Sept. 2 meeting and addressed her qualifications and reasons behind her absences. This seemingly quelled the debate and concerns raised by members of the BOS, as they unanimously voted for Smigel to fill the vacant Board of Education seat. Look for a full story on the appointment in next week’s *Rivereast*.

The case of Sal Senna, an alternate on the Board of Finance who sought a full seat on the Zoning Commission, also drew scrutiny. O’Brien reviewed meeting records and concluded Senna had not attended regularly. “According to the minutes, he wasn’t there. That’s the bottom line,” she said.

When a full seat opened, the Zoning Commission chair recommended Republican alternate Chris Wherry instead. “[Senna] didn’t attend as an alternate on the Board of Finance,” O’Brien said. “How could I, in good conscience, vote for somebody to be on Zoning?”

Senna disputed his attendance record, saying he had participated via Zoom, but O’Brien said she had no evidence to support the claim. “They’re saying he was, even though he wasn’t listed,” she said.

Process for Filling Seats

O’Brien clarified how the Board of Selectmen handles vacancies on elected boards. When a member resigns, the replacement is generally expected to come from the same political party.

However, she stressed that this does not mean automatic approval.

“Just because you present one to the Board of Selectmen doesn’t mean they’re going to get in,” O’Brien said. “Our responsibility is to vet them and say, ‘Are they a right fit?’”

She added that the board is particularly careful with high-responsibility boards such as the

boards of selectmen, finance and education, which have significant fiduciary duty.

“The boards are critical to the town,” she said.

Concodello emphasized that the charter revision process was thorough and community-focused.

“Back in 2019, nine of us started revising the charter,” which hadn’t been reviewed since 1985. “We had 66 meetings and three public hearings,” she said. “We interviewed six or seven towns to see what they were doing in the different areas.”

Not About Party Politics

O’Brien pushed back on claims that Republicans have been unfairly targeted. She pointed to her good working relationships with Republican colleagues. Joe Asklar, for example, is “wonderful; we’ve had a wonderful time,” she said.

“This has nothing to do with political affiliations,” she continued. “If there’s a resignation from one party ... we agreed [the vacancy would be filled to the same political party]. But we have a responsibility to scrutinize it.”

She also rejected suggestions that volunteers are being discouraged by political tensions, citing their careers and family as too much of a time commitment for volunteers to feel able to fill roles.

Civic Engagement Still Needed

Acknowledging that fewer residents are stepping forward to volunteer for local boards and commissions, O’Brien stated, “We need to engage people. Not as many people are volunteering ... because you are very busy with your lives.”

A longtime volunteer in Marlborough, Concodello said personal commitment is key to maintaining active boards.

“I’ve been volunteering in town for over 30 years ... I just want to do what I can,” she said. She added that you can’t expect perfect attendance; rather, it’s dedication to the community that truly matters.

Despite recent controversies, O’Brien said she remained committed to fairness and transparency in filling vacancies.

“I feel strongly about that,” she said. “We’re going to scrutinize it. We’re going to decide whether that is the right person because it’s the right thing to do.”

Tips to Optimize Brain Health

Dr. Wendy Hurwitz will present part one of Tips to Optimize Brain Health Friday, Sept. 12, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive.

In this free presentation, Hurwitz will present drug-free things people can do that may help prevent, reduce, or reverse cognitive decline. Hurwitz will also offer strategies to optimize brain health.

This is the first of two parts; the second part will be held Friday, Oct. 10, also at 11 a.m. at the senior center. While attendance at both events is

recommended, it is not required. Handouts will be provided to all attendees.

A graduate of Yale University School of Medicine, Hurwitz is a nationally recognized expert on stress. A former medical researcher for ABC News, she is an expert in two fields: mind/body medicine and energy medicine. She has a forthcoming book on stress.

This event is open to people from all towns. For more information or to register, call the center at 860-295-6209.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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 the 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. 18, at Blackledge Golf Course. Come enjoy a day of golf, prizes, games, raffles, lunch and dinner while supporting the community service efforts of the church’s Knights of Columbus Council. For more information, email KofCdriveForTHEFish@outlook.com or call Jim Castellani at 860-295-9904.

Ministry, Social and Parish Community

Events: An adult choir practices weekly (though is on break in the summer months); men’s and women’s prayer groups, Knights of Columbus, Christian Outreach and Prayer Shawl ministry meet monthly; and an active book club meets quarterly. Social activities are planned throughout the year to provide additional parish fellowship.

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

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

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Vacancy on Commission

The town is seeking residents to fill vacancies on the Planning Commission. All residents of Marlborough who are registered to vote are eligible. Interested candidates should go to the town website, www.marlbroughct.gov, and type in "Application for Board or Commissions" in the search bar for the application. 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 date is today, Sept. 5.

Applications can be dropped off at 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. Registration is on 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.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship at Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., is held at 10 a.m. The service is also broadcast live every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. Activity bags are available in the narthex for children to borrow during worship. After worship all are invited for snacks and refreshments in the Thienes Lounge. Sunday school will resume on Rally Day, Sept. 14. **Sunday, Sept. 7** is a Communion Sunday. At Marlborough Congregational Church, Holy Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. The bread used is gluten free. The service will be led by Seaver. Her sermon title is "You Know Me!" based on Jeremiah 18:1-4 and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18. **Second Blessings Thrift Shop** will have its grand fall reopening Friday, Sept. 12, from noon-3 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The eBay store is open year-round at bit.ly/MCCebay. **Outreach:** The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for donations. September mission-giving is for Community Partners in Action, Resettlement Program, which provides comprehensive services, from basic needs to medical care, for women who are re-entering society from York Correctional. The church-sponsored Drive

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. Exclusive sponsorships are available from \$50 to \$1,500. For more information or a registration flyer, contact the church at office@marlconchurch.org.

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. Registration deadline is Oct. 1; no exceptions. For more information, call 860-295-6203.

Dean's List

Sarah West of Marlborough made the spring 2025 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.



The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps will host its annual Fife and Drum Muster at Blish Park on Sept. 13. Pictured is a scene from last year's muster.

Fife and Drum Muster at Blish Park

The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps will host its 47th annual Fife and Drum Muster at Blish Park on Saturday, Sept. 13. The main event kicks off at 11 a.m. with a parade on North Main Street, starting at Pettengill Road and ending at the park. Following the parade, there will be opening ceremonies, then the muster performances at the park. For a preview, there may be a few twilight performances on Friday evening, Sept. 12, beginning at 6:30 p.m. This year the Marlborough Jr. Ancients expect about 15 corps to join them for the muster. Groups such as the Kentish Guards of East Greenwich RI, the Adamsville Ancients from Delmar, N.Y., and the Ancient Mariners of Guilford have registered to attend. Some local favor-

ites such as the Connecticut Valley Field Music and the Colchester Continental Fife & Drum Corps will also be performing. A "muster" is a gathering of Fife & Drum Corps who perform for each other for perpetuation of traditional/historical field music. The public is encouraged to attend to enjoy the music and marching of historical units from throughout New England. The young marchers of the Marlborough Jr. Ancients have been working hard to prepare for this hometown event. More information about the Marlborough Jr. Ancients and the muster can be found at www.MarlbroughJrAncients.com.

Parks and Rec. Programs

Marlborough Parks & Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit www.marlbroughct.gov. 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. **Music/Dance:** All classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee is \$140. Schedule: Little Limelights Musical Theatre (ages 5-7) – Wednesdays, 6:30-7 p.m., Sept. 10-Nov. 12; Tiny Twirlers (ages 2-3) – Saturdays, 9:30-10 a.m., Sept. 13-Nov. 14; Kids Klub (ages 4-7) – Saturdays, 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Sept. 13-Nov. 13; Sparkling Spinners (ages 3-5) – Thursdays, 4:30-5 p.m., Sept. 11-Nov. 15; Tiny Twirlers (ages 2-3) – Tuesdays, 5-5:30 p.m., Sept. 9-Nov. 11. **Tennis Lessons:** Mondays, Sept. 8-22, at Blish Park. Ages 5-7 are 3:45-4:30 p.m. and ages 8-12 are 4:30-5:30 p.m. Fee: \$70/resident, \$75/non-resident. **Soccer Shots:** Saturdays, Sept. 13-Nov. 11, at the West Road upper field. Mini, or age 2, is 3-3:30 p.m. and fee is \$105/resident, \$110/non-resident. Classic, for age 3-5, is 3:40-4:25 p.m. and fee is \$110/resident, \$115/non-resident. **Lego – Wildlife Wonders:** Wednesdays, Sept. 24-Oct. 29, 3:15-4:15 p.m., in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria. Fee is \$126/resident and \$131/non-resident. **Kids Fall Yoga:** For ages 4-10. Tuesdays, Oct. 7-28, 5:15-6 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Each week, embark on a fall-themed "yoga adventure" where kids will learn a variety of yoga poses, practice breathing, explore mindful activities/crafts, then calm the body & mind with a relaxing savasana. Fee: \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident, with a \$17 drop-in fee. **Crayola Imagine Arts Academy – Stinky, Shrinky, Shiny Artventures!:** For grades K-6. Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oct. 21-Dec. 9. The 2-

and 3-dimensional projects in this program will inspire children's creativity as they experiment with a variety of unique art forms, tools, and techniques. Art-venturers bring home awesome works of art each week. Fee is \$144/residents, \$149/non-residents. No class on Nov. 4 and 11. **Mad Science – Secret Agent Lab:** Thursdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oct. 16-Dec. 4, at MES. Sharpen your secret agent skills and discover how chemistry and the science of forensics can come to the aid of a secret agent. Identify and collect evidence – from fingerprints to tracks to trash. No class Nov. 13 and 27. Fee: \$144/resident, \$149/non-resident. **Adult Programs: Adult Ballet:** Ages 18 and over, Tuesdays, Sept. 9-Nov. 11, 7:15-8 p.m., at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Registration fee is \$190. **Beginner Adult Tap:** Ages 18 and over. Tuesdays, Sept. 9-Nov. 11, 6:30-7:15 p.m., at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Registration fee is \$190. **Adult Tap:** Ages 18 and over. Thursdays, Sept. 11-Nov. 13, 8-8:45 p.m., at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Registration fee is \$190. **Dog Obedience – Polite Dog Manners:** – Fridays, Sept. 19-Oct. 24, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Beginner level classes for dogs 5 months and older. Registration fee is \$115/resident and \$120/non-resident. **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. **Driveway Reflective Number Signs Available:** The cost of the sign is \$50. Help emergency services personnel find your home without delay. Vertical sign is double sided 8" x 24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

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152 Hebron Rd.
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Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

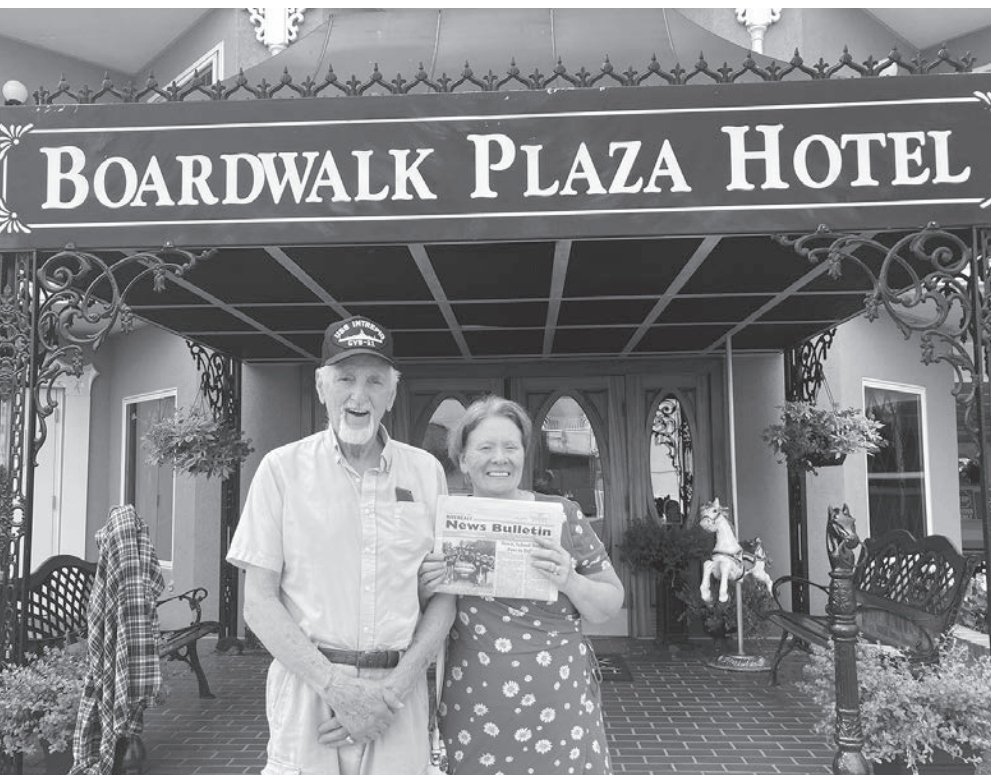
Taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Or simply going out to dinner? Bring the *Rivereast* with you! Whether it's across the globe or across town, we want to see where you've been! Simply snap a photo with the *Rivereast*, send it to bulletin@glcitizen.com and, if printed, you'll receive a gift card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



A Jamaican Jaunt... Sarah Canfield recently went to Jamaica for her honeymoon and brought along the *Rivereast*!



The *Bulletin* in Baghdad... Andrew Donahue of Portland recently concluded a nine-month deployment to Baghdad, Iraq. While there, he'd receive copies of the latest *Rivereast* from family and friends!



Under the Boardwalk... Richard and Ann Burgess of Portland recently celebrated their 8th wedding anniversary. The picture was taken in front of the Boardwalk Plaza Hotel in Rehoboth Beach, Del.



Magi in the Making... Savannah Seymour and Lily Rouse are shown here – with the *Rivereast*, of course – at Great Wolf Lodge in Mashantucket. They are training to become Magi in the lodge's interactive MagiQuest game.

Where in the World?

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

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

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

a real community need with a funding source that wouldn't impact property owners. The same funds are also helping to support Youth Services programming and reducing the cost to taxpayers.

We have also made strategic use of funds from the state's nip bottle deposit program. When I took office, the town was receiving these payments with no plan to use them. I put together a program to use the funds to get litter off our streets, sidewalks, and parks.

Since last year, these have funded litter pick-up hours from Public Works at no cost to taxpayers. Huge truckloads of litter have been taken off the streets of Colchester thanks to this program. We have also used this to enhance roadside mowing by performing this work while clearing litter. The program also funded litter-reducing park trash cans at the Town Green and Cohen Meadows. These replaced the ugly blue open-top barrels that once dotted the Town Green. It's made the Green and Cohen Meadows more attractive and cleaner.

These are just some of the ways I am working to deliver progress for Colchester while looking out for our wallets. I hope to have your support to continue serving our community this November.

Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler
Colchester First Selectman

Transparency, Collaboration, and Compassion

To the Editor:

Our schools are strongest when we build them together through open communication, shared responsibility, and genuine care for one another.

Transparency is the foundation of trust. As your representative on the Colchester Board of Education, I will prioritize making the school budget clear and accessible to every community member. That means providing simple, easy-to-understand budget summaries and hosting public Q&A sessions. I will encourage our Board to offer regular updates so that families, educators, and taxpayers can see exactly how resources are being used to benefit our students.

Collaboration is how we turn good schools into great ones. I will advocate for more community forums where parents, teachers, and local leaders can come together to solve challenges collectively. I also believe we can expand partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide students with real-world experiences like internships, mentoring, and other hands-on learning opportunities.

Additionally, I want to create intergenerational programs that invite retirees and older community members to engage and share their valuable experiences directly with our students - whether through reading, or classroom volunteering. These connections enrich learning and ensure our older neighbors remain vital, valued participants in our community. In safeguarding the future, we must never forget the contributions of past generations.

When we lead with transparency, collaboration, and compassion, we strengthen not only our schools but our entire community. This is the kind of leadership that I am committed to bringing to the Colchester Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Cody McNeely – Colchester
Candidate for Colchester Board of Education

Experience and Bipartisanship

To the Editor:

Bipartisan and experienced describes all the current members of Colchester's Board of Selectmen (BOS). First Selectman Bernie Dennler brought years of municipal experience solving problems and demonstrated this by moving Colchester forward. Denise was raised in Colchester and brings that perspective to her years of experience on the BOS. When Art was first

selectman, I served as his vice chair. Cliff is a businessman who brings that knowledge to our board. We meet twice a month to discuss, question, and make the best decisions possible for the town. We listen, respect, and consider each other's opinions and views – no politics and no noise, just good decision-making.

When I attend a meeting, I'm focused, prepared, and dedicated to the work of the town. I share with you some of my experience and accomplishments.

I served on the Board of Education for eight years. As a retired teacher, education is a priority for me as I see it as our future. But I also recognize the need to be cognizant of the fiscal impact on our taxpayers in the decision-making.

Chairing the Senior Center Subcommittee that purchased the land the new senior center resides on was a comprehensive and formative process. We established goals, reviewed 13 possible sites and made a recommendation to the BOS that was accepted. The result was the building of the new senior center that opened in December 2024.

In 2016, I was part of the Field Sustainability Task Force that established the field sustainability fund, the town's first attempt to address the fields issue. The Task Force recommendations included improved maintenance through staff education and procedures, budget/bonding funding, and irrigation. But no money was allocated in the budget and the only recommendation that moved forward was the field sustainability fund. Since that time, I have supported field needs using ARPA funds for irrigation, advocating for a water source or wells for the field irrigation, moving the Bacon Academy/Rec Plex project forward by establishing a building committee and supporting hiring of an engineer to design the project. The next step is that voters will ultimately decide if this project reaches completion at referendum.

Using my experience and knowledge, working in a bipartisan manner, asking tough questions and making informed decisions are the skills I use to represent you. Once again, I'm asking for your vote on Nov. 4th.

Thank you,
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

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

Struggling with Life and the World Around You?

To the Editor:

I became a grandfather for the first time last year and have some concerns and trepidations as I contemplate some of the challenges my granddaughter will face as she grows up in our current world.

Do you feel stressed and overwhelmed sometimes too? Do you feel frustrated and challenged sometimes by all that life throws at you? Tired of what may seem like constant negative news cycles? Worried about raising kids in today's crazy world?

If you are wondering how to handle it all and want to be able to always find peace and joy in everyday life (and want your kids to be able to also) then I invite you to join me for free weekly classes that can help you better handle all that life throws at you and find peace and satisfaction regardless of the challenges and hurdles you may face. Free introductory one-hour weekly classes on the Christian Faith will begin on Sept. 7th and will be held each Sunday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall at Christ Lutheran Church, 330 Church Street, Hebron.

You do not need to be Lutheran, or even Christian, to attend; all are welcome. Classes will discuss and present the basics of the Christian faith in a straight-forward and relaxed environment that comes straight from the Bible. If you are curious about what some of the differences are between the different organized Christian churches and who Jesus is and what He teaches then these classes are for you and

can provide a pathway for you to find peace and strength you may want/need.

As a father of three grown children and a husband married 35 years, I have faced many, many extremely difficult, sometimes frightening and/or painful and challenging times, but regardless of how difficult or dark the hour may have seemed at times I was always able to find some level peace, confidence and strength to make it through based on my Faith and I wish all people to have that same opportunity.

Fellowship, coffee and snacks will be provided before each class starting 10 a.m.

Patrick Rubega – East Hampton

Dementia Talks No. 29

To the Editor:

I drove right by. I didn't exit for Route 83. I kept going, and I feel so damn guilty!

Taking a deep breath, I know it was the right decision because I wasn't in the right frame of mind.

When visiting a loved one with dementia, your own frame of mind can make or break the visit. I've visited Mom when my heart wasn't into going and my mind was preoccupied with something outside of visiting her. At times a Mom-hug isn't enough to ground me. I wish it was, but it isn't.

Sometimes we need to acknowledge the edginess we might have. Acknowledge that the undercurrent can pull a visit to the depths of the ocean and lead nowhere but to darkness. Things in life happen; we can't always be there for our loved one. If they are in a safe place, being cared for – even if not by you – at times it is just OK to not visit.

I know personally when I get to that place, and I don't visit, then I give myself the gults. This is not helpful behavior – period!! I need to give myself grace. Tell myself it is OK. Tell myself that it 'just is.' There is no moving on, just acknowledgement and learning to be OK with the decision to drive by Route 83.

A dutiful daughter, I am. And at times, I need to put myself out front so that I can be there for mom – for the long haul; because that is what it will take to see this Alzheimer's journey through to the end.

For those out there that are caring for a loved one at home, please let others help and provide you some relief. Even if for an hour. And give yourself grace too.

Know that you are not alone.

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Kind of rock or rain

5 Annapolis academy

10 Butcher's offering

14 Famous Ranger

15 Wax eloquent

16 Up to the challenge

17 Kitchenware

18 Zion of the NBA

20 Gradual

22 Pass, as time

23 Traditional Sunday fare

24 Studio activities

26 Beer drinker's gadget

29 "It's ____!" ("Don't miss it!")

30 Spoke just like, maybe

34 Rat's place

35 Left one's seat

36 Kayaker's need

37 Lacking polish

40 Linney of "Ozark"

42 Making worse

44 Courage

47 Em and Bee

48 Marathon entrant

49 Spy's getup

52 Cheap additive

55 Indian flat bread

56 Bad thing to blow

57 Spur wheel

58 Writer Bagnold

59 Warty hopper

60 Romance, e.g.

61 June honorees

6 Rule of the few

7 Lowland, poetically

8 Georgia airport code

9 Luau offering

10 "Twilight" character

11 Jed Clampett portrayal

12 Word with tag or string

13 Advances

19 Colorado ski town

21 Mickey's maker

24 Oolong-brewing gadget

25 Hollywood's Hathaway

26 Exotic vacation spot

27 Middle Eastern gulf

28 Conversation piece?

31 Bayou State

32 Make, as money

33 Downer

35 Petri dish filler

38 Brought down effort

40 Singer k.d.

41 Adjusted (to)

43 Flurry of activity

44 Benjamin of "Law & Order"

45 Dashboard feature

46 Legend creator

49 First light

50 Gave voice to

51 Comes to a close

53 Unit of energy

54 Caviar source

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

M	E	S	A		M	A	I	N		C	R	U	S	H
O	R	I	N		E	N	C	E		H	E	L	L	O
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T	R	E	S	S		M	A	G	S		S	L	A	T

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Historic Bacon Wins \$10,000 Preservation Grant

A Colchester landmark, Historic Bacon Academy is one step closer to a new chapter in its long history. This week, Jane Montanaro, president of Preservation Connecticut, presented the Trustees of Bacon Academy with a \$10,000 grant from The 1772 Foundation.

The grant will fund repairs to the 1803 building's roof, chimneys, and cupola, which shelters the original bell tower. For a structure that has stood at the heart of Colchester for more than two centuries, these repairs are vital to keeping it secure for generations to come, the Trustees stated.

“The community made this possible,” said Andrew Norton, chair of the Bacon Academy Trustees. “Both this grant and the State Historic Preservation Office grant are matching grants. We only qualified because Colchester residents stepped forward and contributed more than \$60,000. That support shows just how much this landmark means to our town.”

The 1772 Foundation, established in 1984 by Stewart Barney Kean, funds what it calls “dynamic preservation.” This approach goes beyond safeguarding buildings as relics of the past; instead, it aims to keep them active, useful, and meaningful within modern communities. That philosophy is at the heart of the Trustees’ vision of community engagement.

Preservation Connecticut manages these funds for the state, and this year selected Historic Bacon Academy for the award.

“We are so appreciative to Preservation CT for their support of this effort,” said Tom Desseault, project lead and Trustees secretary. “They saw what we see – that this building is important not only to Colchester but throughout the region as a beacon of education and a symbol of keeping our history alive.”

With roof repairs set to begin in the coming weeks, attention is already turning to Phase 2: creating an ADA-compliant entrance and restroom on the first floor.

“That step will allow us to welcome the public back into the building,” said Dusseault. “Our goal is to make Bacon Academy not just a historic treasure, but a living space for education, culture, and community life.”

The Trustees emphasized that the work ahead will only be possible with local support.

"We will not rest until this building is fully restored and ready to continue service," Norton added.

For more information about the project, or to contribute, email info@baconacademytrustees.org, visit www.baconacademytrustees.org, or call 860-964-3483.

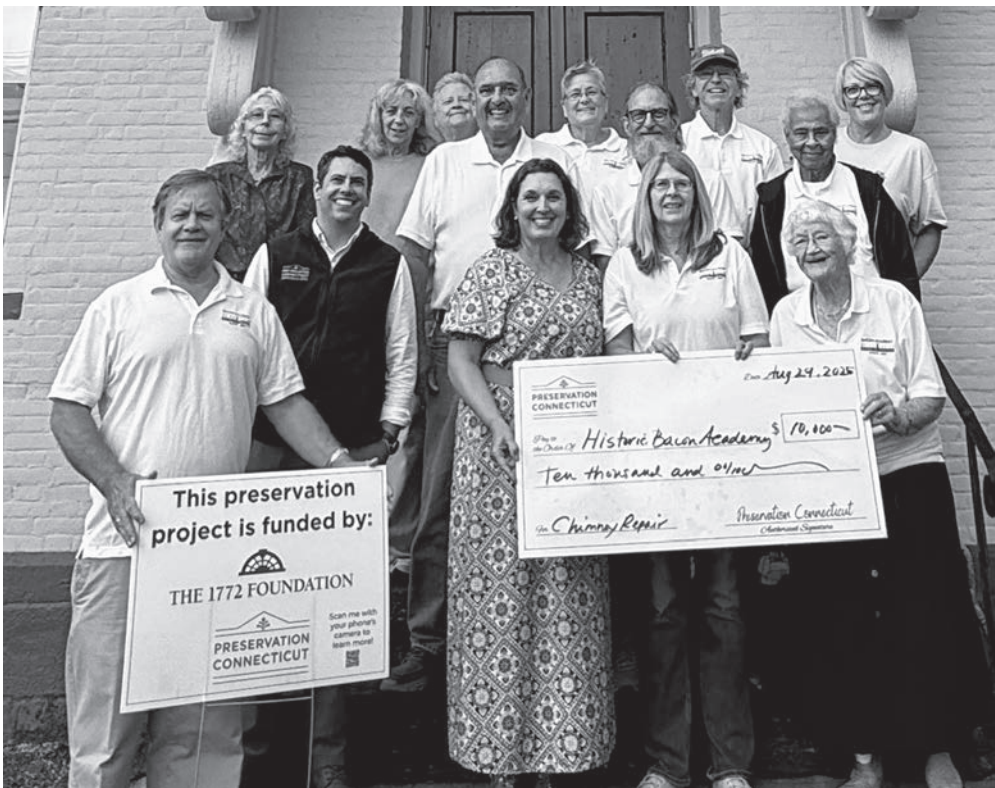
Gala to Support Restoration Efforts

A "Decades of Impact" Gala, to support restoration efforts, will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m., at St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 S. Main St.

All are invited to join the Trustees of Historic Bacon Academy and title sponsors Gano's Power Equipment and Inishmor for a night of music, dancing, and community celebration – all to benefit the restoration of the 1803 building.

Attendees are invited to come dressed in the style of the decade that defines you and enjoy an evening of dancing to hits across the decades. Hors d'oeuvres and food stations will be available, along with silent auction baskets and a reverse raffle.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$85 for two people, and include two drink tickets per person, food, and dancing. Email: sandy.bacon-academy@gmail.com or call 860-964-3486 to reserve your spot. This event will sell out quickly, the Trustees said.



Preservation Connecticut recently presented the Historic Bacon Academy Trustees with a grant of \$10,000 from the 1772 Foundation to repair and restore the roof and cupola on the building. Pictured from left are, front row, Andrew Norton, chair of the Trustees; Mike Farino, Preservation CT; Jane Montenaro, president of Preservation CT; Cathy Marvin and Dolores Sawchuk, Trustees; second row, Jean Smith and Ellen Sharron Pincus, Colchester Historic District Commission members; Tom Desserault, Stan Soby and Odessa Turner, Trustees; back row: Phyllis Moroch, Cathy Blaisdell-Johnson, and Brian Smith, Trustees; and Sandy Cameron-Adams, fundraiser for the Trustees.

Youth Football Recap

The Colchester Cougars youth football squads opened their season against Waterford last weekend. Here is how they fared:

Seniors: Won, 18-6. PJ Brodeur led the offense as quarterback and played one of his best games yet, scoring two touchdowns with his feet and the third coming from Josue Reyes. The defense held the Lancers to only 6 points with key plays from Jack Wissler, Garrett Berg-Johnson, and Mason France.

Juniors: Fell, 25-13. Turnovers and a few tough calls at key moments were the difference in the game. The team said it will focus on offensive and defensive play execution, game day strategy, and players/coaches locking in, with the goal of having another productive season centered on building upon the foundations of all 31 players.

Micros: Lost, 20-12. Predominantly playing defense in the first half, Silas Constant was able to find the end zone with a perfectly read

interception scoring the first 6 points of the game. Later in the first half Greyson Taradejna delivered a big sac leading to a turnover on downs. After battling into the second half Ryker Mathews was able to find success with the Micros' first offensive touchdown of the season.

PeeWee: A young squad, in the developmental league, showed their youth in a competitive game despite the score. Despite the outcome, several players showed they will be a force as they develop as football players. The standout performer was William Martin who was a menace on defense, drawing double teams throughout the game yet still finding his way into the back field. The team looks to bounce back against a talented Tolland squad this weekend.



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Vendors Sought for Fall Market

Colchester Federated Church's annual Fall Market is coming up on Nov. 1, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This fair showcases local crafters, vendors, farmers and more.

If you would like a table at the fair to sell your goods, reach out to Renee Misbach at rouillette01@snet.net for more information. Spaces are filling up quickly.



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Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Twelve-Step Meetings: AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.

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

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Programs at Library

Cragin Memorial Library, located at 8 Lin-wood Ave., has announced the following pro-grams. For full descriptions, call 860-537-5752 (Adult Department), 860-537-7201 (Children's Department), or visit www.craginlibrary.org. Registration is required for all programs unless noted. All programs are free and sponsored by Friends of Cragin Memorial Library.

Fall Storytime Session: Runs Sept. 29-Nov. 20; sign-ups begin Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 10 a.m. Mondays: Mother Goose Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Ages 2 – 5; Tuesdays: Play With Me, 10:30 a.m. (5 Sessions run 10/21-11/18, no program 11/11), Ages 12 – 36 months; Lego/Duplo Chal-lenges, 6 p.m., family program – no registration required; Wednesdays: Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Ages up to 12 months; Thursdays: Tod-der Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Ages 3 – 5; Story & a Craft, 5 p.m., for children and their caregiv-ers -- no registration required; Fridays: Sensory Table (Runs year-round regardless of storytime sessions), 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Teen Subscription Book Boxes: First Mon-day of the month. Registration is required. For those going into grades 6-12. Stop by the Adult Circulation Desk or call 860-537-5752 to regis-ter.

Super Saturday Sensory: Music: Saturday, Sept. 6, 10:30 a.m. Best for ages 2 and up.

A Court of Fantasy Readers: Monday, Sept. 8, 5:30 p.m. New members welcome. For this month, read *Quicksilver* by Callie Hart.

PJ Storytime: Thursday, Sept. 11, 6 p.m., for children and their caregivers. This is a drop-in program.

Free Paint: Saturday, Sept. 13, 10:30 a.m., for children and their caregivers. This is a drop-in program.

Paint with Dotters: Monday, Sept. 15, 10:30 a.m., for children and their caregivers. This is a drop-in program.

The Business of Fighting: Monday, Sept., 15, 6 p.m. Storyteller Arnie Pritchard has created a story based on his father's letters home from the front lines of World War II. Stop by the Adult Circulation Desk or call 860-537-5752 to regis-ter.

Baby Free Play: Thursday, Sept. 18, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Best for ages up to 24 months. Drop-in program.

Half-Day Gaming: Friday, Sept. 19, 1-2 p.m. Drop-in program.

Super Saturday Storytime: Birds: Saturday, Sept. 20, 10:30 a.m., for children and their care-givers.

Birding by Ear with the Connecticut Audu-bon Society: Saturday, Sept. 20, 1 p.m. Learn how to identify birds by song and call, and which resources are most useful. Stop by the Adult Circulation Desk or call 860-537-5752 to register.

Early Learning Week: Monday, Sept. 22-Sat-urday, Sept. 27. All ages invited to this drop-in program.

Cookie Party: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 3-3:30 p.m. Drop-in program.

Chatham Health Jeopardy!: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m. Questions will revolve around differ-ent vaccinations such as RSV, COVID and flu. Stop by the Adult Circulation Desk or call 860-537-5752 to register.

Family Craft Night: Paint with Shaving Cream: Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m., for chil-dren and their caregivers. Drop-in program.

Books For All: A Conversation About the History of Censorship: Thursday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Stop by the Adult Circulation Desk or call 860-537-5752 to register.

Foodie Fun: Saturday, Sept. 27. Kids and teens will pick up a fall-themed food bag.

Writing Club: Saturday, Sept. 27, 2-3 p.m. Drop-in program.

Cragin Book Club: Monday, Sept. 29, 6 p.m. New members welcome. For this month, read *How to Age Disgracefully* by Clare Pooley.

Free Play: Tuesday, Sept. 30, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Drop-in program.



Cadets Recruiting... The Connecticut State Police Troop K Cadet program is looking for new members between the ages of 13 and 20. The program offers lead-ership experience, physical fitness, law enforcement exposure and team-building. There will be an Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m., at Troop K, 15A Old Hartford Road, Colchester. Parents are welcome, but not required to attend. For more information, contact Cadet Advisor Mindy Johnston at 860-465-5468, email TroopKCadets028@gmail.com, or search on Facebook for “Troop K Cadets.”

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 ex-ploration hike. Magnifying glasses, bug catch-ers, and critter nets are encouraged to enhance your experience. The CLT will also look to bring some of the materials to provide to the partici-pants as well.

Trails are not groomed and have rocks and roots and wet areas. The trail is not stroller-friendly. Wear appropriate footwear and cloth-ing for the weather and terrain (Wet ground, streams). Bug and tick protection is strongly suggested.

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

C3 Fall Programs

The Collaborative for Colchester's Chil-dren (C3) has free fall programs for families with young children. Play & Learn groups and parent/caregiver educational work-shops are now open for registration.

To learn more and to register, go to Col-chesterC3.org.

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RTC Members Raise Concerns Over BOE Priorities, Projects

By Toriana Williams

Three members of the Republican Town Committee – Chair John Thomas and members Michael Dubreuil and Tim Vaillancourt – met with the *Rivereast* on Aug. 27 to voice concerns about how the Board of Education has handled school spending, administration salaries and major capital projects.

The discussion touched on superintendent raises, tax burdens on residents and what they describe as a lack of transparency and collaboration between town boards.

Raises and Spending Priorities

Thomas, Dubreuil and Vaillancourt are all seeking political office this fall. Thomas is the Republican candidate for first selectman, Dubreuil is running for the Board of Finance and Vaillancourt is also running for the Board of Selectmen; Vaillancourt is currently on the Board of Finance.

The three criticized Superintendent of Schools Dan Sullivan’s contract and the structure of school administrative pay. Former interim superintendent Thomas McDowell made a salary of \$178,000 compared to Sullivan who currently makes \$230,076, and the assistant superintendent’s salary, \$199,718, according to special meeting minutes and the superintendent’s contract. “Essentially, those two staff members make about half a million dollars a year,” said Dubreuil. “That sets the mindset: maybe the administration is the priority.”

And these administrative costs, the three said, affect families directly. According to a written statement provided by the three members, “Residents have made it clear that reducing administrative costs should be a priority. Instead of listening, the BOE has gone in the opposite direction—granting administrators lavish raises while families across Colchester are struggling financially.”

According to Dubreuil, 74 cents of every dollar paid by the town in taxes is for the school budget. As a result, if taxes increase, “that could make quite a difference for a family,” said Dubreuil. Vaillancourt noted that his own property taxes have risen sharply: “I believe that my tax on my three-bedroom one-acre house ... is up \$750 in the last two years.”

All three said residents had made their priorities clear. Dubreuil said a community budget survey is conducted every year, and “this year,

it could not have been more clear.” He said residents indicated they want their costs reduced to the point where they’d accept a reduction in service – and he felt that the Board of Education ignored this point.

Budget Process and Public Messaging

According to the written statement, the RTC claims, “Year after year, the BOE submits budgets to the Board of Finance and the public that are padded in order to hide where the money will really be spent. This lack of transparency undermines public trust and makes it impossible for taxpayers to hold the BOE accountable.”

As an example of this alleged lack of transparency, Dubreuil pointed to the Board of Education, shortly after this year’s school budget was approved, voting to provide raises to Sullivan, his executive assistant, and the assistant schools superintendent.

“They can’t change the total budget. ... That means in order to increase the pay to these employees, it needs to come from somewhere,” said Dubreuil. “That means other numbers were purposely padded to allow for these pay increases to be budget neutral.”

He said the Board of Education “doesn’t want to explain it,” but “common sense tells you, the numbers were padded.”

Board of Education Chair Donna Antonacci, however, called the claims “completely false.” She said the increases to administrative salaries, including the superintendent and assistant superintendent, are based on year-end reconciliations, not the submission of a manipulated budget.

“Once the budget has passed, it is in the hands of the Board of Ed to ... figure out how the money is spent,” Antonacci said. She added that salary adjustments happen every year and that the increased attention placed on them is largely due to it being an election year.

Antonacci also noted that the board provided the Board of Finance with a detailed report explaining how the increases were calculated. In a June 25 letter to the finance board, Antonacci addressed concerns regarding recent administrative salary adjustments. She explained that salary changes, including adjustments for the superintendent, assistant superintendent and executive assistant, are market-based and aligned with comparable districts.

The Color House Kicks Off After-School Art Program

The Color House in Colchester announces the return of its After-School Art Program, welcoming kids ages 8–18 for another season of creativity and exploration. The program will resume on Friday, Sept. 12, and will meet weekly from 4-5 p.m.

Each week, participants will create new projects while experimenting with a variety of art forms and mediums, from painting and drawing to sculpture and mixed media.

Spaces are limited, and registration is required. For more information, including class fees, visit www.cohoct.com.

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 school scholarship fund, recruitment, retention, and to maintain our Schuster Park training facility and event venue.

If you are interested in being a sponsor or player, call 860-537-2512, email CHFD28golf-tournament@gmail.com, or visit www.facebook.com/ColchesterFD for a QR code.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

“**Changing the Way People Study God’s Word**”: This six-week Bible study will start Tuesday, Sept. 2, from 10 a.m.-noon. Instructor is Kevin Baldwin, and the study will deal with 2 Timothy.

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

Donuts with Don: Fridays at 10 a.m.

Antonacci said she feels all staffing changes are carefully tracked within the existing budgets and that the process is transparent, routine and consistent with the district’s philosophy of competitive compensation.

“Concerns about fiscal management or perceived ‘gamesmanship’ are unfounded,” she wrote in the June letter to the board, noting that the district’s budget is developed publicly each year to reflect available information and planned staffing adjustments.

Antonacci added this week that Dubreuil “doesn’t have any evidence [of his claims]. ... That’s just his slant,” Antonacci said.

Also in regards to the school budget, Thomas, Dubreuil and Vaillancourt also criticized the claim that cutting increases would force teacher layoffs.

“When we say to them, ‘We want you to cut this ask down by \$1.5 million, ‘ they immediately go, ‘We have to fire some teachers [or] we have to cut band.’ No, they don’t, because it’s already paid for,” said Thomas.

What people are actually asking, explained Thomas, is for the board to reduce their increased ask, which is an additional amount of money added to the budget.

As per state law, “you can’t cut the budget,” he said. “You have to essentially spend at the same rate you did last year, or you can increase it.”

Capital Project Delays and Contract Disputes

The conversation with the three Republicans also covered major facility issues, including supposed delayed air-conditioning upgrades at Bacon Academy and disputes over field and roof projects. Dubreuil questioned the superintendent’s priorities, “What’s happening with the HVAC system? Why isn’t a construction company getting in there and doing that design?”

According to the written statement, “Despite having a state grant in place to support improvements, the BOE mismanaged the process so badly that, two years later, no work has even begun. As a result, Bacon Academy will open once again without a fully functioning air conditioning system. Additionally, the leaking roof at Bacon Academy continues to go unresolved, with no plan in sight to address it.”

In response, Sullivan said, “We’re in the midst of an HVAC project. ... The project is going on

Scouting Options Available

Scouts BSA is the new name for the traditional Boy Scouting program for boys and now girls aged 11-17 years old – and there are several local opportunities available.

Scouts BSA is one of the oldest youth organizations in the United States, where young people can participate in various outdoor activities like camping, hiking, kayaking, mountain biking, and more.

Scouts BSA aims to teach young people: Character development, citizenship training, leadership and mental and physical fitness; as well as camping, hiking, backpacking, canoeing, mountain biking, kayaking and rank advancement. Scouts in the scouting program also

Singers Sought for Christmas Concert

Guardian Angel Parish/St. Andrew Church is looking for singers for its upcoming Christmas Concert.

This year’s concert, “Who Would Send a Baby?,” features uplifting readings and music that celebrates the wonder and joy of the Christmas story.

The concert will be held Sunday, Dec. 14, and rehearsals will be held every Thursday evening beginning Sept. 18, in the choir loft of the church.

All are welcome – whether an experienced singer, new to a choir, or just love to sing. For more information, contact Terry Phillips at 860-608-0130 or mephillips@snet.net.

CLT ‘Trail Crew’ Volunteer Event

The Colchester Land Trust (CLT) is organizing a new Trail Crew monthly volunteer event.

The group will perform stewardship activities on the land trust’s properties each month. The work will vary from simple monitoring to tree-cutting activities.

An organizational meeting will be held at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 6 p.m. You may also email the land trust at Info@ColchesterLandTrust.org.

The Trail Crew will begin work in October. Participants under 16 years of age should have an adult accompany them.

schedule.” He explained that administration and board members have not hidden from the fact that it’s a lengthy process.

“When we first went out to bid and awarded it ... there were changes in refrigerant requirements,” he said. “As a result, we were advised to go back out to bid by our attorneys because the scope of the project changed.”

“All equipment submittals have been approved,” he added, “...so the HVAC project is proceeding as it should.”

Sullivan also addressed the condition of the school’s roof, emphasizing that it has been monitored and maintained, even as a long-term solution remains necessary.

“It’s on our capital improvements list,” Sullivan stated. “If it wasn’t as costly of a project ... it’s something we would have taken care of a while ago.”

Sooner or later, he clarified, the school system will have to do something more significant with Bacon’s roof.

The RTC members argued that the lack of open collaboration between boards has hurt. He noted that the BOE agreed to have a tri-board meeting. However, when the [video] cameras went off, the three said, “the cooperation stopped.”

Call for Transparency and Fairness

The three emphasized that their criticism comes from a desire to represent taxpayers, not partisan politics. “We’re speaking for Colchester,” said Thomas. “We love our town [but] it’s going to tax itself right out of existence.”

According to the written statement, “Parents and residents have repeatedly voiced concerns, only to be dismissed or ignored. A clear example is the BOE’s push for a magnet school despite widespread community opposition.”

They urged more openness in communication between school officials, town leaders and residents.

“From my experience, parents always want to support school projects,” said Dubreuil. “Nobody wants to vote against something they think is going to benefit their kids.”

With this in mind, when local parents spoke out against the budget, claiming it was too high, “That’s a clear message,” explained Dubreuil. “And [the BOE] is not hearing it.”

participate in organized events like attending summer camp, community service projects, camporees and the National Scout Jamborees.

There are three Scouts BSA units in Colchester: Troop 72, Troop 13 and Troop 109. The sponsor organization and the meeting nights are as follows:

Troop 72 meets at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., on Mondays at 7 p.m.; contact Al Letendre at letendrej@sbcglobal.net or 860-917-8391 for more information. Troop 13 meets at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., on Mondays at 7 p.m.; contact Brian Marburger brian.marburger@comcast.net or 860-917-5896 for more information. Troop 109 meets at Westchester Congregational Church, 95 Cemetery Rd., on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; contact Jessica Cusano at jessicacusano@gmail.com for more information.

Free Jazzercise Classes

Jazzercise Colchester is offering free 6 p.m. classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the month of September with the donation of a non-perishable food item.

Jazzercise combines elements of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, kick-boxing, and more, to create programs for people of all ages and every fitness level.

Jazzercise Colchester is located at 188 Norwich Ave., Entrance C. Visit its Facebook page or jazzercise.com for more details.

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.



Birth Announced... Anthony and Alyson (Backus) Sylvester of Bozrah have announced the birth of a son, Connor Daniel. Connor was born Aug. 21 at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital in New London. Maternal grandparents are Susan and Daniel Backus of Colchester, and maternal great-grandmother is Janet Gallagher of Meriden. Paternal grandparents are Anthony and Linda Sylvester of Lebanon, and paternal great-grandmother is Muriel Caron of Hebron.

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Undefeated Season!... The Colchester Women’s Softball League ended its season on Aug. 28, and the St. Joseph Polish Club went undefeated, winning both the regular season and the playoffs. Pictured, back row, are players Caroline Kozlowski, Sarabeth Amenta, Shae Crosby, Alyssa Howard, Aly Mason, Shalan Paul, Becky Engleman, Cecilia Davis, Sarah Dell and Coach Terry Kowalski; front row, Coach Jessica Ringsted, Holly Tirrell, Michelle Burnham, Amy Palazzola, Tara Kowalski, Lisa Cohen and Stephanie Smith. Missing from the picture is Andrea Gayeski and Erin McKenna.

Celebrate Colchester is Sept. 20

All are invited to attend the annual Celebrate Colchester event Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1-5 p.m., on the Town Green.

There are many activities planned – and over 30 local vendors, businesses, and organizations. There will be a bounce house, face-painting, food trucks, a silent auction, DJ Montez, performances on the center stage, and Volunteer Appreciation awards.

The Colchester Recreation Commission is selling tickets for a handmade quilt “The Spirit of Colchester,” made by Colchester resident, Nola Weston. Tickets are \$5 each and will be sold up until the drawing at 4:30 p.m. at Celebrate Colchester.

For details about vendors and schedules, visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

Outdoor Reception for Democratic Candidates

The Coyle family will host an outdoor reception to benefit the Colchester Democratic Town Committee and the Democratic candidates running for office in November on Sunday, Sept. 14, from 2-4 p.m., at 23 Deer Run Drive. All are welcome to attend.

This is a time to meet the candidates running for office or become more involved in the upcoming campaign season while enjoying delicious food and drink. Special elected guests will attend.

The suggested contribution is \$35-\$100, but all contributions are gratefully accepted. For planning purposes, advanced ticket purchase at secure.anedot.com/colchesterdemocrats/donate is preferred, but same day arrivals are also welcome (please RSVP to ro.coyle@gmail.com).

For more information, call 860-465-7909.

Setback League to Start

St. Joseph’s Polish Club will start up its Setback League on Thursday, Sept. 4, at 6:45 p.m.

The league runs for 28 weeks. For more information or to sign up, call Cindy Hardy at 860-823-9278 or Deb Crider at 860-204-1555.

Resident to Exhibit at Glastonbury Art Show

Colchester artist Sylvina Rollins will exhibit at the 63rd On the Green Fine Art & Craft Show next month in Glastonbury.

The juried art show will run Sept. 6 and 7, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days, on the Hubbard Green, located on the corner of Hubbard and Main streets.

Rollins loves to paint farm animals, landscapes and nature. All are invited to visit Rollins on the east end of the Hubbard Green near the sidewalk, to see her newest paintings. Rollins said she looks forward to returning to see followers, collectors and colleagues that she has come to know and see over the years.

Visit www.sylvinarollinsart.com if you are not able to attend in person.

Bacon Grad on Navy Warship

By Alvin Plexico,
Navy Office of Community Outreach

Seaman Reese Gregoire, a native of Colchester, currently serves aboard USS Billings, a U.S. Navy warship operating out of Mayport, Florida.



Colchester native Reese Gregoire is serving on the Navy warship USS Billings. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrew Hanchar.

Gregoire graduated from Bacon Academy in 2023.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Colchester.

“I learned the importance of taking responsibility for your own future,” Gregoire said. “It’s your career, so you have to build it yourself, with the help of others, of course.”

Gregoire joined the Navy two years ago. Today, Gregoire serves as a gunner’s mate.

“I didn’t want to go the college route, so the Navy seemed like a better option,” Gregoire said. “Also, my great-grandfather and uncle served in the Marines, so this gave me an opportunity to follow in their footsteps.”

A Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), USS Billings is a fast and agile warship designed to operate in near-shore environments to counter 21st-century threats. Crews aboard the ship can operate unmanned aerial systems and unmanned underwater vehicles. These ships can operate independently or in high-threat scenarios as part of a networked battle force that includes larger, multi-mission surface combatants such as cruisers and destroyers.

Gregoire has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

“I’m proud to be training to serve as a search and rescue volunteer,” Gregoire said.

“Serving my country gives me the chance to better myself as a person and make my family

proud,” Gregoire added.

Gregoire is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

“I want to thank my parents, Victoria and Shawn, for their support and love,” Gregoire said. “I also want to send a shoutout to my little brothers back home, Ben, Cody, Max, Travis and Jase.”

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www.GlastonburyArts.org

Art, top left, clockwise: Julianna Cameron, Jeanne DeCoste, Lori Warner, Matt Becker, Tom Dugdale, Laura Cox Schrieber, Judith Secco.

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Epoch Arts Six-Day Tag Sale

Epoch Arts is holding its annual six-day, two-weekend, gigantic, indoor, rain or shine, the next two weekends.

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.

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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Parks and Rec News & Notes

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

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

American Red Cross Babysitting Course: At Sears Park Pavilion Saturday, Sept. 13, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. This training program is designed for youths ages 11 to 15 to provide youth who are planning to babysit with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for children and infants. Cost is \$125/resident, \$135/non-resident.

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: Wednesdays, Oct. 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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Dean's List

East Hampton residents Brennan Johnson and Benjamin Maynard made the spring 2025 Dean's List at Western New England University in Springfield, Mass.



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Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a collection for household hazardous waste on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at CT State Community College – Middlesex, 100 Training Hill Rd., Middletown.

This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton and Portland. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

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.

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Chicken Marsala Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce
Balkan Meatballs Beef meatballs sautéed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

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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.

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.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

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

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

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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 or look for Friends of Lake Pocotopaug on Facebook.

Scholarships Available

Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Post 5095 & Auxiliary are now accepting entries for their annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions.

This year's theme gives both America's high school students and middle school students the opportunity to contemplate, "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support For Our Country?"

Established in 1947, the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competitions help encourage a better understanding and appreciation for America and work to foster patriotism among today's youth. The programs also offer friendly competition as well as reward success in the form of individual scholarships and awards totaling nearly \$2.4 million at the national, state and local levels.

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition is open to high school students in ninth to

twelfth grades, with the national first place prize scholarship totaling \$35,000. The first place Department (state) winners receive an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a 'Founding Forward Spirit of America Youth Leadership' program at Valley Forge, Pa., where they compete for more than \$170,000 in national scholarship awards. Nearly 26,000 high school students worldwide compete in the competition each year.

Open to middle school students in sixth through eighth grade, more than 60,600 students participate annually in the Patriot's Pen essay competition. The national first place winner receives a \$5,000 award.

Entry forms and additional information may be found at www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships or the Post Home. Student entries may be submitted (along with a completed entry form) to VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

The deadline for both contests is Oct. 31.

Historical House Tour Coming

The Chatham Historical Society's biannual Historical House Tour will be Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featured will be six homes dating from 1748 to 1817, plus the museum complex consisting of two buildings and a one-room schoolhouse.


Tickets are now on sale at the library and town clerk's office at Town Hall, and will be sold at the museum on the day of the tour.

For further information, call 860-705-0959.

Sunday School Kicking Off

East Hampton Congregational Church at 59 Main St. is kicking off Sunday School starting Sept. 7. Children will experience part of worship service then go to classroom with dedicated experienced teachers waiting to share their faith, crafts, snacks and more. All families are invited to this friendly church.


Who Let the Ducks Out!: This month, the church will have rubber ducks around East Hampton with attached notes to them for others to enjoy. The church will then post a photo of their location as a hint for anyone to find. The ducks come in various colors and designs. Take pictures and share where and when you found a duck and your plans for that duck.



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Diecast Collectors Unite At VFW Post 5095

Diecast enthusiasts across the region are invited to gather at VFW Post 5095, located at 20 N. Maple St., for an exciting day of collecting, trading, buying, and browsing. The event will be Sunday, Sept. 7, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Vendor set-up begins at 7 a.m., with tables available at just \$20 per spot. Spectators can attend after 9 a.m., for a \$2 entry fee.

The kitchen will be open, serving breakfast

sandwiches and a selection of lunch items to keep visitors fueled throughout the day. Meanwhile, the Post Canteen will be serving drinks from 9 a.m. until close.

Proceeds from the show will benefit local veterans and VFW Post 5095.

For additional information, vendor reservations, or general inquiries, contact Tommy Cruz at 203-600-9635.

St. Patrick Church News & Notes

St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., is a member of St. John Paul II Parish, along with St. Bridget Church in Moodus.

Masses are celebrated Saturdays at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick and 5:30 p.m. at St. Bridget, and on Sundays at 7 and 11:30 a.m. at St. Bridget and 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at St. Patrick.

During the week, Masses are celebrated at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Patrick, and on Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Bridget.

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

‘Driving for Drafts’ to Return


The 11th annual “Driving for Drafts” Duke Memorial Charity Golf Tournament, to benefit the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue, will take place Saturday, Sept. 13, at Portland Golf Course, 169 Bartlett St., Portland.

Shotgun start is at 1 p.m., with check-in beginning at noon. Enjoy a grilled lunch and a buffet dinner along with raffles and prizes. Cost is \$150 per person. Sponsorships are also available, including an “In Memoriam” sponsorship to honor a loved one or a pet.

Registration closes Sept. 6. To sign up as a participant or become a sponsor, forms are available at www.ctdraftrescue.org/2025-golf-registration-and-sponsorship, or send an email to cdhr.golf@gmail.com.

This event is named after Duke, a neglected and emaciated Clydesdale that the CDHR rescued in 2015. After his rescue, it was discovered that Duke was a former Budweiser Clydesdale, and became a local celebrity making appearances at events, including the golf tournament. Sadly, Duke passed away about a year after his rescue.

The CDHR is a nonprofit organization located in East Hampton, dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter. For more information, volunteer opportunities, or to donate, please visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue.



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Quilt Project to Benefit the Food Bank

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

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

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

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

Middle Haddam Public Library News

The Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Road, Middle Haddam has announced the following. To register or for more information on any program, email middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com, visit middlehaddamlibrary.com or call 860-267-9093. Mailing address: P.O. Box 123, Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

Library Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 3–6 p.m.

Featured Artist: The artwork of Megan Desrosiers, who recently published a book of poetry based on poisonous plants titled *Gardens of the Underworld*, is being exhibited at the library. The exhibit will run through mid-September.

Wild Foods Picnic with Erin Day: Monday, Sept. 8, at 4 p.m. Call the library to sign up.

Mushroom Hike at Machimoodus State Park: With naturalist Judy Buonocore. Saturday, Sept. 6 from 1-3 p.m. Call the library to sign up.

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.

Mahjong: Mondays, 10:30 a.m. All levels of experience welcome.

Fiber Arts Group: Thursdays from 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, weaving, embroidery, etc. All are welcome.

Yoga with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga: Mondays and Saturdays at 9 a.m., and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost is a \$15 drop-in fee. Register at tensummitst@gmail.com.

Saturday Family Yoga with Kathleen: Will continue on the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. Cost is \$12 to drop in for two people and \$3 for each additional person. Register by emailing zenlotus860@yahoo.com

Chair Yoga with Kathleen: This new 'gentle yoga' program is held Fridays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$15 per class. Registration in advance is requested, by emailing Zenlotus860@yahoo.com or calling 860-638-9097.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Trailblazers Walking Group: Monday, Sept. 8, at 9 a.m., at Air Line State Park Trail, 69 Smith St. All abilities welcome; walk at your own pace.

Card Creations: Monday, Sept. 8, 1 p.m. Design unique, themed cards. This session will be an autumn theme. Cost is \$3.

Cooking with Mary Brody: Thursday, Sept. 11, 1:30 p.m. All are invited to this live cooking demonstration featuring apple desserts. Cost is \$5. Register and pay in person at the senior center.

The Art of Zentangle: Thursday, Sept. 11, at 5:30 p.m. Zentangle is a simple way to create designs using structured patterns. The first session will be held at the senior center with Zentangle

artist Laura Marks; future classes will continue on Zoom, so you can participate from home. Cost is \$10; register and pay in person at the senior center.

Bike Rides for Seniors with Kim Clouser of AirLine Cycles: Friday, Sept. 12 at 10 a.m., Harlem Valley Rail Trail in New York - Wassaic MTA Station - Paved Trail. 25 to 30 miles with a food stop. Bring your bike, helmet and water to the ride.

Trip: Picnic on Laurel Island: Wednesday, Sept. 10, leaving the senior center at 11 a.m. for a boat ride to the island with Jack Solomon – the owner. Enjoy a day on Laurel Island on Lake Pocotopaug. Bring your own lunch; dessert provided. Bus donation is \$4. Please register in advance at the senior center.

Mystery Trip: Thursday, Sept. 25. Enjoy some flora, fauna and sweet treats on the next mystery trip. A \$4 donation for bus ride is suggested. Bring your own lunch and spending money for dessert. Leave the center at 10:15 a.m. for an 11 a.m. start to this secret event. Sign up in person at the senior center.

Volunteer Opportunity: Music Director Needed: The senior center is seeking a volunteer music director to lead the center's choral group. Contact Holly at the senior center for more information.

Troop 57 Bottle Drive

Troop 57 is having its next bottle drive Saturday, Sept. 20. Bring clean cans, plastics and glass to the American Distilling Parking lot (31 East High St., Route 66), from 9 a.m. to noon.

All redeemable containers are accepted; the only exception being milk containers. If you have any questions, contact Annette Kowalczyk at 860-267-2962.

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.

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 fifth 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 a.m. to 4 p.m. The church website is www.hn-covenantchurch.org.

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 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.

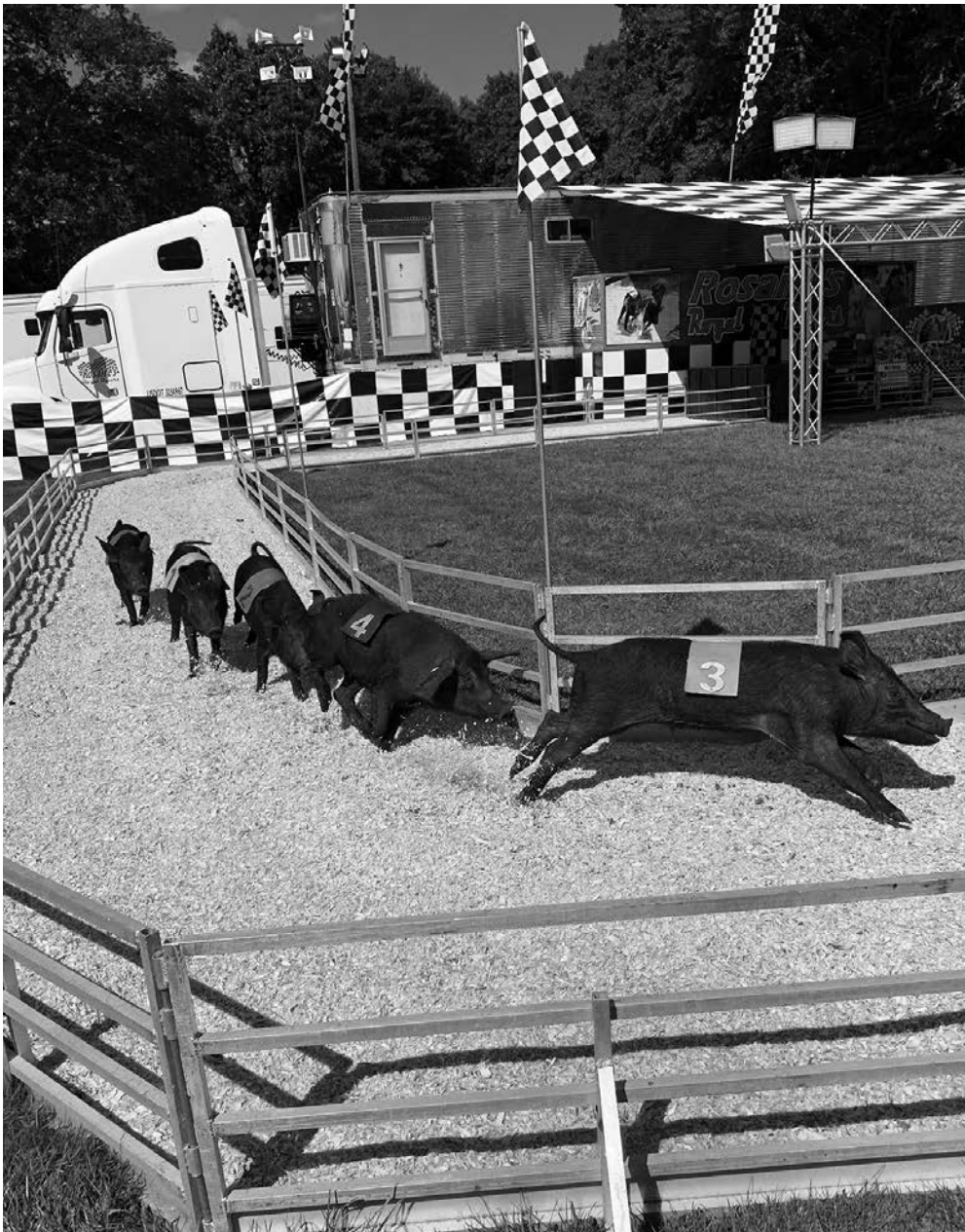
Choir: The choir will resume Sept. 7. Practice is at 8:30 a.m. Sunday. Email Linda Napolitano at lindanapolitano@me.com for more information.

Sunday School: Sunday School starts Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. The Rev. Joanne Neel-Richards will provide information about the program if you are interested in enrolling a new student. She can be reached at jneelrichard16@gmail.com.

Sept. 7th Coffee Hour: A special Ice Cream Sundae coffee hour will be held after the service to start off the new session of Sunday School.

Information/Assistance: Contact Senior Warden Donna Hryb at 860-633-0472 or donnadubehryb@gmail.com for more information.

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



The racing pigs will also be back this year! Shown here making their 2024 jaunt, the pigs are always a big hit among fairgoers.

★ *Hebron Harvest Fair, cont. from page 1*

to come to the fair multiple times," Johnson said. "It's also our Hebron Night, so we're kind of giving back to the town of Hebron as well."

Challenges and Community Support

Organizing an event of this scale is no small feat, and Johnson says the biggest challenge is finding enough volunteers.

"Getting people to volunteer for things is getting much more challenging ... All civic organizations are noticing the same thing," he said. "Obviously, we just need a ton [of volunteers] in a very specific amount of time to make it happen."

Still, Johnson remains confident the Lions Club will meet the challenge and deliver another successful fair.

Why You Should Go

For first-time visitors, Johnson sums it up simply: "We are definitely known for our food, our rides and our entertainment acts."

Whether you're looking to watch sea lions up close, cheer on racing pigs or sample everything from fried dough to farm-fresh specialties, the Hebron Harvest Fair has something for everyone. With its combination of thrilling entertainment and a mission rooted in giving back, the fair is more than just a good time -- it's an event that benefits the entire community.

The Hebron Harvest Fair will run from Sept. 4-7, at the fairgrounds on Route 85. For tickets, parking information and a full schedule of events, visit HebronHarvestFair.org.

Volunteer. The Benefits Are *Extraordinary!*

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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.

Hours: Saturday hours will resume this Saturday, Sept. 6, so the schedule will now be: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Adult Programs: LibrarYoga: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m. Yoga 200 Certified instructor Amie Meacham leads an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the library community room. All levels welcome; there is a modification for every ability. Bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

Book Club: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m. Book Club is on a new night. Come together to read and discuss the monthly selection. Copies of the month's book are available for checkout at the circulation desk.

Teen Programs: Crochet with Keri: Grades 5-12: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 6 p.m. Gather together in the Teen Space each month to create a tiny crochet project. All supplies and basic instruction included.

Teen Advisory Board: Grades 8-12: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 6 p.m. Take a leadership role in shaping how the library serves teens like you. Bring your ideas, take initiative, make decisions, and get creative as part of a team.

Magic: The Gathering (Grades 7-12): Saturday, Sept. 20, 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 ours.

Children's Programs: Cartooning Workshops with Jason Deeble: Tuesdays, Sept. 9, 16, 23, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Author, educator and graphic

Free Paper Shredding

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main St., Middlefield.

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

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

Congregational Church News & Notes

East Hampton Congregational Church is located at 59 Main St. Sunday services are at 10 a.m. The Rev. Robin Blundon is the interim minister. Sunday School is provided for children and coffee hour is directly after service for fellowship.

For more information about the church and its activities, visit cc-eh.org or call the church office at 860-267-4959. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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. If you would like to display your work, contact ehaact@gmail.com for the details and registration form (which must be mailed back along with the entry fee and received by the extended registration deadline of Sept. 5).

For more information, find the association on Facebook and at easthamptonctartsassociation.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 for a nomination packet or go to the Hall of Fame website, ehahof.wixsite.com/bellringer for more information.

The induction ceremony will be Friday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club.

Also, the EHAHOFA's membership and committee are very small, and new members are sought, preferably those that have a knowledge of history of sports in East Hampton. Email seidlt@sbcglobal.net if interested.

artist Jason Deeble will help kids level up their drawing skills, build unforgettable characters, and create dynamic plots. Kids are encouraged to attend all three sessions to get the most out of the program, but it's okay if they can't make it to every session. Sponsored by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and Connecticut Humanities.

A Super Mario Party: Grades 3-5: Saturday, Sept. 13, 2-3:30 p.m. Kids in grades 3-5 are invited to come for an action-packed Super Mario themed party. There will be crafts and snacks, as well as *Mario Kart* to play on the Nintendo Switch.

Symbolic Monarch Migration for Grades PreK-3: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Kids will learn about the journey monarch butterflies make each year to Mexico. The library will share a story about this migration, then kids will design and decorate their own paper monarchs to send on the trip. In the spring, the library will receive butterflies and letters from students in Mexico to share with the community. Register or drop in.

Halloween Costume Swap Drop-Off: Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m. Drop off costumes for all ages any time during normal library hours from Sept. 20-Oct. 3. Only bring in items that are in good condition, or that you would want to bring home.

Book Fair for Adults

All adults are invited to join the Friends of East Hampton Public Library at Rule of 3 Brewing on Sunday, Sept. 14, from 2-5 p.m., to celebrate National Library Card Sign-Up Month at a special event featuring card sign-up with the EHPL librarians and a small, curated used book fair for adults.

Food and beverage will be available for purchase at Rule of 3 at 201 West High St.

Youth Bowling Registration Open

Ray's Rebels Youth Bowling League invites kids from East Hampton and all *Rivereast* towns to join the league.

Sign up before the league fills up. Registration forms can be found at Kickback 'N Bowl or email RaysRebelsBowling@yahoo.com for a form to be sent to you.

Another Successful Haddam Neck Fair

By Margaret O'Callaghan

The Haddam Neck Fair took place this past Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, and by all accounts, a good time was had by all.

This was the 113th annual fair, or as the website's Fairbook puts it, the 13th fair of the second century. The Haddam Neck Fair prides itself in creating a space for the community's local agriculture to thrive and be shared with those in attendance. Harry W. Nilson was a resident of Haddam Neck who had been participating in the fair for nearly a century, but passed away in April just before he turned 98. The fair association dedicated a section of its fair book to his efforts in promoting and serving the fair's community.

One fairgoer said the fair is "truly something to look forward to every year." The community takes great pride in an event that runs efficiently, ethically, and promotes a tight-knit community.

This year, four bands performed throughout the duration of the fair: the Balkun Brothers, The Central City Stompers, Jelly, and Max Creek. There were a variety of different contests for the attendees to participate in, like the hay bale toss, skillet throwing, special sunflower contest, baby contest, and more. The baby contest gave awards for the prettiest baby, the most charming baby, and the chubby

biest baby alongside awards for the babies best dressed for a fair.

The Haddam Neck Fair also promoted annual scholarships, awarded to students who "have actively volunteered for the Haddam Neck Fair including the summer of the year of the application, are residents of Connecticut and are enrolled at an accredited institution of higher education." The applicants will be observed based on fair participation, community involvement, and school activities.

A variety of classes are also offered each year at the fair, such as goat classes, horticultural classes, and garden bouquet class.

Some popular spots from this year's event were the beer tent, which seemed to always be full, the goats and sheep area, as well as the vendors section.

The rides were provided by Marenna Amusements of Orange, a family-owned amusement company, that prides themselves in providing "safe, modern, colorful adult rides, kiddie rides, state of the art midway games, and a wide array of refreshments."

Volunteers for the fair are also always welcome. If you want to help plan the 2026 installment of the Haddam Neck Fair, email info@haddamneckfair.com.

Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

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Class of '10 Reunion

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

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School Consolidation Project Back on the Map

By Margaret O’Callaghan

After voters soundly rejected the proposed school consolidation plan last fall, town officials immediately went to work on devising a new plan – one that hopefully residents would support.

Last week, the Board of Education held a meeting to discuss the latest proposal to consolidate and renovate the town’s schools.

At the Election Day polls last November, residents voted 3,363-2,236 against a \$68 million plan to renovate and expand Valley View Elementary School into a Pre-K through Grade 5 school – and subsequently shutter the Gildersleeve Elementary and Brownstone Intermediate schools. Sixth grade would’ve been relocated to Portland Middle School.

Following the defeat, the town formed a Strategic Capital Improvements Committee to look at different options, and last Tuesday the Board of Education shared the committee voted 7-2 in favor of a plan that would decommission Brownstone Intermediate School, convert Valley View into a PreK–Grade 2 facility, and convert Gildersleeve into a Grades 3–5 facility. Grade 6 would be moved to Portland Middle School.

The project would carry a significantly higher price tag than what was voted down last fall – with a total estimated cost of between \$79 million and \$89 million, before any possible state reimbursement and other savings.

To upgrade and renovate Valley View

(deemed the ideal PreK – Grade 2 facility), the bonding cost is approximately \$47 million. To “reconfigure” Gildersleeve Elementary to serve grades 3-5, the approximated bonding cost is \$27 million.

With this proposal, the 6th grade would be moving into Portland Middle School with the 7th and 8th grade students. Since the facility would hold more students, improvements to the space would need to be made, the committee said. Bonding of \$8 million was recommended for “critical systems” upgrades at the Portland middle and high school complex, including roof replacement and HVAC improvements.

Another component of the plan would be decommissioning Brownstone and repurposing it to serve as town offices for Parks and Recreation and Youth Services; this part of the project would be about \$2 million.

But, while pricey, Portland Public School says on its website “this plan offers a pivotal oppor-

tunity to modernize Portland’s schools, create high-quality learning environments, and plan responsibly for the town’s future.”

The proposal highlights some serious problems with the older facilities. Each of the three elementary schools, Valley View, Gildersleeve, and Brownstone, haven’t had any serious renovations in years. While the superintendent said each school is absolutely in safe condition, he still believes it’s important to prioritize the best environment.

The school system also pointed out state reimbursement may wind up being anywhere between 20-80% of the project cost – which would significantly lessen the burden on taxpayers.

In any case, Portland is still thriving and ready to take on the new school year. If you’d like to learn more about this proposal, a Power-Point presentation and additional documentation is located at portlandctschools.org.

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Coming

On Sept. 17 at 10 a.m. at the Air Line Trail intersection at Breezy Corners Road, a celebration will be held to officially open the newly constructed parking area.

Thanks to a \$4,000 Community Livability Grant from AARP Connecticut, the Portland Air Line Trail is more accessible for walkers, joggers, cross country skiers and bicyclists of all ages.

The ribbon-cutting will be preceded at 9 a.m. by the regular monthly walk, which is open to people of all ages. Walkers will return to the new Breezy Corners parking area be-

fore 10 a.m. for the celebration.

Riz Rizzo and Lou Pear, co-chairs of the Air Line Trail Steering Committee, will recognize the individuals and organizations that helped to make this enhancement possible. Joining this event will be Kelli Lefler, associate state director – community outreach, representing AARP Connecticut. State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32), state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) and Kim Bradley, CT Trails coordinator, have been invited, and First Selectman Mike Pelton will provide welcoming remarks.

GOP Candidate Meet-and-Greet

All are invited to join the Portland Republican Town Committee on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 1-4 p.m., at Terrazza Restaurant, 9 Rose Hill Rd., as the committee launches the campaign season.

All are invited to come meet the endorsed slate of Republican candidates, hear their vision for continuing to move Portland forward, and connect with friends and neighbors.

Republican candidates include: Michael Pelton for first selectman; Robert “Bobby” Hetrick, Timothy Lavoy, Vincent “Vinnie” Pitruzzello and Joe Spada for Board of Selectmen; Dave Murphy, Karen Renner and Anne Whalen for Board of Education; Jennifer Tellone and Lillian Whalen for Zoning Board of Appeals; Bill Donahue and Peggy Kesser for Board of Assessment Appeals.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. **Holiday Closing: The center will be closed Monday, Oct. 13, for Columbus Day.**

Library Card Sign-Up Month: National Library Card Sign-Up Month is September, so residents are invited to visit the library any time in September to sign up for a library card or swap your old card for one with the new library card design. All Portland cardholders will receive a library logo sticker. The library will also have a selection of Advance Reader’s Copy adult books that it is giving away, one per adult patron while supplies last.

Youth Programs: Fall Storytimes: Start the week of Sept. 8; registration is open now. 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.

Scavenger Hunt: Find the Book Buddies! Stop by the children’s department to complete this month’s hunt. This month’s theme is “I Love My Library” for National Library Card Sign up Month in September. Search for hidden pictures of different book buddies throughout the library. When you find all 12 hand in your completed form to a staff member and get a special sticker.

Hispanic Heritage Month: Sept. 15-Oct. 15. Check out the display of children’s books by and about Hispanic and Latinx people and grab a coloring page to complete.

Buzzing About Bees: Thursdays, Sept. 18-Oct. 2, at 3:30 p.m., for grades K-5. September is National Honey Month, a time to honor and celebrate bees, beekeeping and the natural goodness of honey. Kids in grades K-5 are invit-

ed to come learn about some of the things that make honeybees so cool through a variety of crafts, activities, and of course some local honey taste-testing. Space is limited.

Pumpkin Painting on the Town Green: Monday, Sept. 29, 5-7 p.m.; rain date: Tuesday, Sept. 30. In conjunction with the Department of Youth and Family Services. Pumpkins and paint will be supplied. A parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Space is limited. Registered participants can arrive anytime between the hours of 5 and 7 p.m. on the night of the program.

Teen Program: Acorn Clay Pot Craft and Fall Snacks: Monday, Sept. 22, 3:30 p.m. Students in grades 6 and up are invited to come make terracotta pot acorns while enjoying some fall-themed snacks.

Adult Programs: Adult Craft Night: Pinecone Flower Art: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m. All are invited to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece using materials found in nature. Participants will be given precut pinecone flowers, a canvas, paints, nature materials, instruction and inspiration. Registration is required. Space is limited.

Weekly Knifty Knitters Group: Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults of all experience levels are welcome. No registration required; simply drop in.

Book Clubs: 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. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m. *Home Before Dark* by Riley Sager will be discussed.

Movie: Wednesday, Sept. 10, 1 p.m. *The Ballad of Wallis Island* (2025; rated PG-13) will be shown. The movie runs 99 minutes.

Mental Health First Aid Certification Training: Thursday, Sept. 25, and Friday, Sept. 26, from 12:30-4:30 p.m. This free two-part MHFA training is provided by Gilead Community Services. Registration is required by 9/12 in order to participate.

Free Paper Shredding

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a residential paper shredding event on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main St., Middlefield.

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

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

Fall Craft and Vendor Fair

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

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

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

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Portland Fire Department members recently participated in an emergency preparedness drill on the grounds of the new Brainerd Place.

Emergency Preparedness Drill at Brainerd Place

On Tuesday, Aug. 26, members of the Portland Fire Department participated in an emergency preparedness drill on the grounds of the new Brainerd Place at 75 Marlborough St. Crews simulated management of scenarios involving both fire and EMS personnel within the newly opened Hassan North apartments as well as the underground parking area. With construction quickly progressing on the adjacent Hassan South apartment complex, the department has prioritized orientation of its members to building layouts, so that its personnel are able to quickly and efficiently manage fire and medical emergencies within this ever-growing complex.

In conjunction with Hartford Healthcare

St. Mary Church News & Notes

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., invites all to attend its services and events. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org.

Worship: Weekday Masses are Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m. Weekend Masses are Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturdays between 4 and 4:45 p.m. Call 860-342-2308 to make arrangements.

Bereavement Support Group: All are invited to attend. The group meets each month on the second Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall and every fourth Tuesday in the church library at 2 p.m. Call Susan Bongiorno at 860-685-1966 for additional information.

Baptism: Call Sue Ferraiolo at 860-342-2308 to make arrangements.

Marriages: Contact the office at 860-342-2328 to make an appointment with the Rev. John Antonelle.

EMS and Middlesex Health EMS, crews simulated removal of an incapacitated patient without the use of elevators from a third-floor apartment, in addition to a separate scenario involving traumatic injuries sustained within its parking garage.

With over 40 members in attendance, crews from each of Portland's three firehouses were able to complete the training.

The Portland Fire Department extends an invitation to members of the general public interested in joining its ranks at any of its three firehouses on drill nights, held every Tuesday beginning at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.portlandct.org/fire-department.

Bake, Bling & Bag Sale

The St. Mary Ladies Guild will host a Bake, Bling & Bag Sale Saturday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Parish Hall at 45 Freestone Ave. Baked goods, gently used jewelry and pocket-books will be available for sale.

If inventory allows, the sale may also be held after the 5 p.m. Mass on Sept. 27, as well as after the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday, Sept. 28.

Anyone interested in donating can drop items off at the church office, or contact Rhea at 860-571-1508 for pick-up.

Portland Fair Returns in October

The Portland Fair will be held on Oct. 3, 4 and 5 at the new fairgrounds at Chris Cote's Driving Range, 1401 Main St.

The grounds crew has been hard at work making improvements. Entertainers on the grounds and in the entertainment tent are being finalized. The Craft & Community Tent will host many traditional displays and also bring in new and exciting events. Organizers will also be adding the Trashion Show and the Triple Crown of Baking. The Pull ring area is getting dressed

up and ready to host a full weekend of activities.

Also, Portland Fair introduces its new mascot: the Highland Cow. While it's not the traditional oxen that appears in the town logo, fair organizers said they think of it as the younger sibling. The cow needs a name, and organizers are leaving that up to the public. To enter the name the cow contest, go to www.portlandfair.com. Also on the website, see all the latest information, exhibitor entry forms, contest entries, and advance online ticket sales.

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, UCC, located at 554 Main St., holds worship Sundays. All are welcome. Worship hours will change to 10 a.m. starting this Sunday, Sept. 7.

This Sunday is also Celebration Sunday. During the service, children will enjoy their newly renovated Sunday School area. Celebration Sunday will begin with a puppet conversation, followed by the presentation of Bibles and spe-

cial music. The fun continues with lawn games, a bounce house, and a create your own "boulder" station (baked potato with fixings). All are invited.

The Senior High Youth Group will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the youth room.

For more information, go to firstchurchportlandct.org or call 860-342-3244.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Portland Parks and Recreation offers a variety of programs for adults and children. For a complete list of programs, full course descriptions and costs, or to register, visit portland.recdesk.com or call 860-342-6757. Advanced registration is required.

Kids' Blast: This is an afterschool (3-6 p.m.) child care program available to students enrolled in grades K-6 in the Portland Public School system. Membership registration is now open for the 2025-26 school year.

Bench and Tree Donation Program: Parks and Recreation is now accepting donations for benches and trees at the Portland Recreational Complex. If interested in dedicating a bench or tree, call Andy for more information at 860-342-6757.

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

Come On Over 5K: Saturday, Sept. 27, at Riverfront Park at 10 a.m. Runners and walkers are welcome. Medals will be awarded to the top 3 finishers in each age category. Early bird pricing is \$27.50 for runners and \$22.20 for walkers. All who register by September 1 will get a free T-shirt.

Basketball Training & Conditioning Program: Mondays, Oct. 6-Nov. 17, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at Portland Middle School. Open to boys and girls ages 11-16. Contact Parks and Rec. for fee.

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

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. For more information or to register, call 860-342-6761.

Food Share Mobile Pantry comes to the Food Bank every other Monday; the next pantry visit will be Sept. 8.

Weekly Programs: Unless noted, all programs are free. **Monday, 9/8: Light Aerobics,** 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 9/9: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – Help make fleece teddy bears for cancer patients. Bears on a journey are seeking donations of light fleece (one yard or more) for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. If you would like to donate, contact 860-342-0809; **Watercolor Class, 9:30 a.m.** – for more info, contact Bivenne at bivenne@yahoo.com; **Congregate Meal,** noon. Cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). **Menu:** sliced roasted turkey, gravy, green beans, stuffing, cranberry sauce, milk; **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize,** 5-6 p.m.; fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 9/10: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30-11:15 a.m., \$5 – donation to instructor.

Thursday, 9/11: Tone & Stretch, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). **Menu:** beef stroganoff, egg noodles, mixed veggies, cheddar biscuit and butter, string cheese, apple and peanut butter; **Mah-jongg (FULL),** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 9/12: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Mah Jongg,** 10 a.m.

Upcoming Events: Unless noted, all events are free. **SyncoCize Update!** Class is now held on Tuesdays only from 5-6 p.m.

Sweet Treats and Conversation with Community Leaders: Thursday, Sept. 11, 1 p.m. First

Selectman Michael Pelton will speak.

Family History FUN with Ken Doney: Friday, Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m. This is a free event.

Berlin Turnpike Shopping Trip: Tuesday, Sept. 16, leaving center at 10 a.m. Go to Stew Leonard's, Walmart and CVS. Leave center at 10 a.m. There is a \$5 ride fee.

Walking Club: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m. Meet at the trail crossing by Breezy Corners Road. The walk is about a mile and a half and there is parking adjacent to the trail. Free event.

15th Annual Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Awards Dinner: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m., at the senior center. This is an award ceremony and celebration for the recipients of the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award. This event requires pre-registration by Sept. 10 to attend.

Live Well, Age Well – A Free Diabetes Support Group: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 1 p.m. Retired physician Dr. Elsamma Chacko will focus on living well with diabetes and aging in place by bringing expert guidance and lived experience together in a supportive setting. Free event.

Medical Rides: The center offers ADA-accessible transportation for seniors to medical rides. The fee is \$5/person round-trip. Give a two-week notice.

Foot Care: The senior center is taking appointments for the Foot Clinic with Stacey Cormier, RN. She will offer many services starting at \$35. Call to register and for more information.

Food Bank: The senior center asks that residents not leave Food Bank donations at the senior center unless the Food Bank is open. The Food Bank is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Also, donations should be of food only; call the senior center to inquire if staff is seeking medical equipment donations at this time. Due to limited space, staff cannot accept donations at the senior center without prior approval by the director.

Planning Underway for Class of '76 Reunion

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, or message her on Facebook; search for "Portland high class 76."

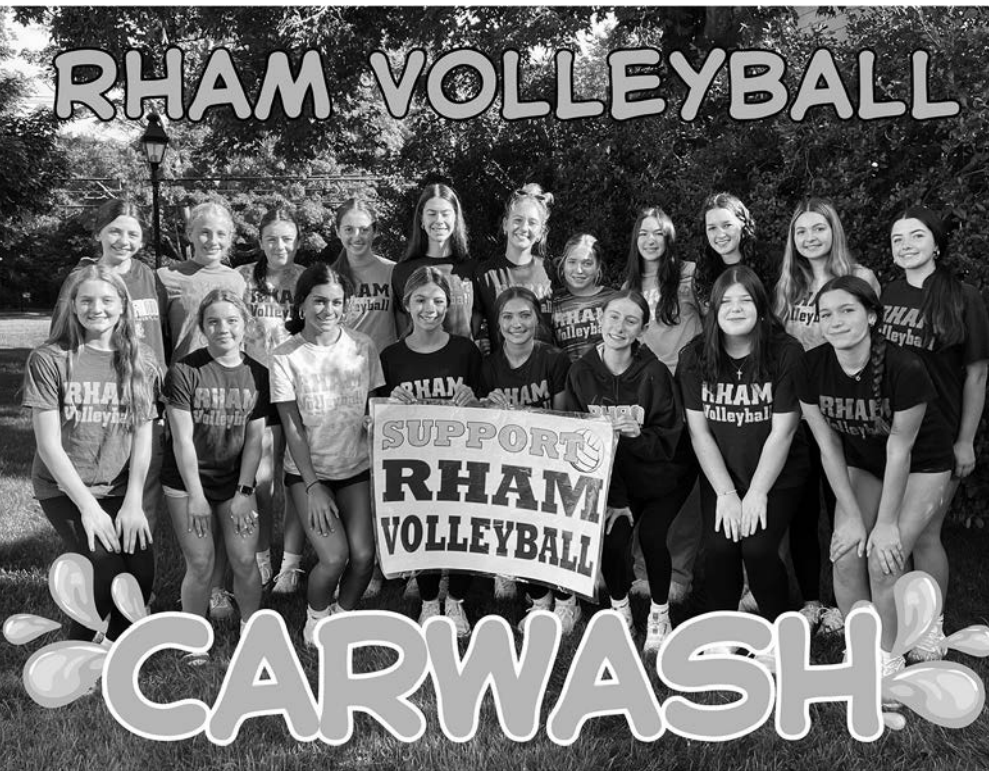
PHS Class of '75 Reunion

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

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

RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM

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Car Wash This Sunday... RHAM Volleyball will hold a car wash Sunday, Sept. 7, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at 10 Main St., Hebron. All proceeds benefit The Friends of RHAM Volleyball. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 14.

Here 4 You Little Libraries

AHM Youth & Family Services has announced their “Here 4 You Little Libraries” have been restocked with a new supply of mental health resources. Books include topics on social and emotional learning for children, coping with anxiety, getting control over anger, controlling impulsive behavior, building self-esteem, and how to speak with a child or teen about depression, anxiety, and self-harm. Since their installation, AHM has supplied its

community with hundreds of books on a “read, share, return” basis. In Andover, the Here 4 You Library is near the senior/community center. Columbia’s Here 4 You library is at the Murphy House, located at the town beach by the Recreation and Social Services offices. In Hebron, the Here 4 You library is located near the entrance of the Douglas Library. In Marlborough, the Here 4 You library is located on the grounds of the Richmond Library.

Free QPR & Narcan Training

September is Suicide Prevention Month, and 9-8-8 is the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. On Monday, Sept. 8 – 9/8 – AHM Youth and Family Services will offer a free QPR & Narcan lifesaving training course from 6-7:15 p.m., at AHM, 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron. All participants will receive a free QPR training booklet and a 2-dose supply of Narcan. Piz-za will be served! Register at ow.ly/fuTX50T8VcM.

National Take-Back Day

AHM Youth and Family Services’ Coalition for a Healthy and Empowered Community (CHEC), in partnership with the Connecticut State Police, will host a free Take-Back Event Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m.-noon, at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron. CHEC and the state police host free Take-Back Events in spring and fall for community members to properly dispose of old and unneeded prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and vitamins anonymously.

AHM Fall Programs

Registration is now open for AHM Youth and Family Services’ fall programs. There are activities lined up for all ages, including theater, kids’ yoga, self-defense, messy hands, and more. Visit ahmyouth.org to view the program listings and sign up.

Gilbert & Sullivan Showcase

AHM Youth & Family Services will host a Gilbert & Sullivan Showcase Sunday, Sept. 21, at 3 p.m., at AHM Youth & Family Services, 25 Pendleton Drive Hebron. All are invited to enjoy the comic lyrics of dramatist W.S. Gilbert set to the music of composer Arthur Sullivan. Excerpts from Gilbert & Sullivan operettas will be performed by the CT Gilbert & Sullivan Society actors and singers, with a narrator. Tickets are \$20, and all proceeds will benefit AHM’s programs and services. To purchase tickets, visit ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/special-events-and-fundraisers.

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.

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

Farrell’s will also be the site for the Class of 1965’s 60th Class Reunion, on Saturday, Oct. 11, from noon to 3 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person, and includes a banquet buffet with dessert. For more information, email sueander-son06480@aol.com. The PHS Class of 1975 is having its milestone 50th Class Reunion next month. The weekend will begin with a picnic on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 1-5 p.m., at Riverfront Park, 284 Brownstone Ave. On Sunday, Oct. 19, from 2-6 p.m., all are invited for a luncheon at Terrazza at Quarry Ridge Golf Course, 9 Rose Hill Rd., Portland. For more information, contact Sue Hale Colby at mrstrucking@aol.com or Jane Kl-embajane at klemabajane@comcast.net. The Portland High School Class of 1967 will also make a whole weekend out of its 58th reunion, the weekend of Oct. 3-5. As it has in the past, the class is inviting

other PHS graduates to come any time after 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 3, to Farrell’s, for a Meet-and-Greet. This is a casual get-together where people can catch up and share memories of their time at PHS. For the 1967 classmates, there will be a social hour and dinner at Campagna on Saturday, Oct. 4, beginning at 5 p.m.; and on Sunday, Oct. 5, the class will meet for breakfast any time after 10 a.m. at Sarah’s on Main. For more information or questions, contact Karen at kayo4321@hotmail.com or Bev at 949-697-1253. So, there you have it. If you went to Portland High in the ‘60s or ‘70s, or know of anyone who did, you might have some fun times with former classmates coming up in the near future. * * *

See you next week.

Standout Athletes of the Week (College Edition)

By Josh Howard

With high school sports kicking off this week, here is a look at the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week from the start of the college sports season. The four athletes listed below competed in high school locally and are now making waves at the collegiate level. **Kaylee Gravel – East Hampton (Cross-Country):** Gravel started her senior collegiate season on the cross-country trails by placing fourth overall at the Father Bede Invitational in Tyrone, Pa. on Aug. 30. Gravel, who competes for the Blue Devils at Central Connecticut State University, ran a time of 15:01.50 at the multi-school invite. She is coming off a season last fall where she placed 18th at the Northeast Conference (NEC) Championships and also earned NEC Academic Honor Roll after posting a GPA of 3.2. Prior to CCSU, the three-season runner earned multiple all-conference honors in cross-country and during indoor and outdoor track seasons before graduating East Hampton High School in 2022. **Caiden Hettrick-Rivera – Portland (Soc- cer):** Hettrick-Rivera earned the Little East Conference (LEC) Defensive Player of the Week on Aug. 31. The senior defender, who plays for Eastern Connecticut State University, played all 90 minutes and led a stout Warriors defense that allowed only five shots as ECSU opened their season with a 3-1 home victory over Farmingdale State College. A year ago, Hettrick-Rivera started 14 of 16 games, averaging 77 minutes per game for the Warriors. Prior to Eastern, Hettrick-Rivera was a four-year starter for the Portland High School soccer team where he was a two-time all-conference selection and, as a senior, he captained the Highlanders and was selected all-state. **Ally Hadley – Hebron (Volleyball):** Hadley opened her junior collegiate season with a team-high 16 kills and added 16 digs as Maine Maritime Academy beat University of New England

in four sets on Aug. 29. Hadley is coming off a sophomore season in which she earned North Atlantic Conference (NAC) All-Conference second team after leading the team in service aces and tallying the second most kills on the team as the Mariners won a NAC championship. Prior to playing in Maine, the 2023 RHAM High School graduate was a two-time all-state selection as the Raptors won back-to-back state volleyball titles in her final two years at the high school. **Jordan Malloy – Colchester (Cross-Coun- try):** Malloy, a senior at Stonehill College, finished fourth overall at the 2025 Ken O’Brien Invitational on Aug. 30. Running a 4k, Malloy averaged a 5:39 mile during the meet to post a team-best 14:04 as the Seahawks finished second overall as a team. Prior to Stonehill, Malloy was a three-time all-state cross-country selection at Bacon Academy, along with winning multiple conference championships in track and field. *To nominate an athlete as a Standout of the Week or to offer sports-related comments, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com.*

Want to Be a Police Cadet?

The Connecticut State Police Troop K Cadet program is looking for new members between the ages of 13 and 20. The program offers leadership experience, physical fitness, law enforcement exposure and team-building. There will be an Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m., at Troop K, 15A Old Hartford Road, Colchester. Parents are welcome, but not required, to attend. For more information, contact Cadet Advisor Mindy Johnston at 860-465-5468, email Troop-KCadets028@gmail.com, or search on Facebook for “Troop K Cadets.”

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



East Hampton High School has a trio of siblings running one more time together on the cross-country trails this fall. Pictured, from left, are Jocelyn Gustavson, Brianna Gustavson and Brett Gustavson.

★ *Gustavson Siblings, cont. from page 1*

sequent indoor and outdoor track seasons once again yield positive results as she finalizes her next goal of running in college. “I want to make it to New England and improve my times more than I did last year,” she added. “I tried to run more and do more miles this summer.” Following Jocelyn’s departure, the Gustavsons twins noted they want to follow in their sister’s footsteps.

“It’s something to look up to, and hopefully get there one day,” expressed Brianna. Brett added, “It gives us a goal to reach.” Both the boys and girls Bellringers cross-country programs have a full slate of meets this season, including a home meet scheduled for Monday, Sept. 22 when they welcome a handful of SLC opponents to East Hampton High School at 3 p.m.

Obituaries

Portland

Dwight Lander

Dwight Lander, 60, of Portland, formerly of Marlborough, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Aug. 23. Born Dec. 2, 1964, Dwight was the son of Bettie Lander and the late Warren Lander Sr. He grew up in Marlborough, where he loved riding motorcycles and tinkering with cars. Everyone knew him as the go-to mechanic. He was always helping others; was a “would give you the shirt off his back” kind of guy.



Survivors include two children, his sons Christopher Lander of Miami, Fla., and Nicholas Lander of Amston. He leaves behind his mother, Bettie Lander of Lebanon; his brothers, Leonard Lander and wife Michelle Lander of Lebanon, Warren Lander Jr. of Florida; and his sister, Caroline Kerr and husband David Kerr of Virginia; as well as his ex-wife, Julie Uricchio of Amston, and three nieces, Alyssa, Jolene, and Melissa.

Calling hours will be held Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, from 6-8 p.m.

Hebron

Lois Jane Burdette

Lois Jane Burdette, of Hebron, passed away peacefully Sunday, Aug. 30, at her home, with her beloved family attentively by her side, at the accomplishment of 96 years of life. Lois was born Jan. 3, 1929, in Irvona, Pa. She was the daughter of the late John and Ruth (Pusey) Beers.



Lois married James Alfred Burdette in 1948 and together they raised five children. Her husband James predeceased her in 2007. After a long fulfilling career, Lois retired from the U.S. government as a contract specialist. Lois was proud of her career travels and accomplishments. Although recently moving to Connecticut to be with her son Paul, she lived for long periods of time in both Alexandria, Va., and Peachtree City, Ga.

When Lois was not spending time with her family or enjoying a nice retail shopping excursion, she could often be found caring for her loved plants, flowers or feeding the wild birds and butterflies. She was a well-dressed, classy lady always up for a cup of tea and a chat.

Lois was a woman of strong faith and devotion and a steadfast member of the Lutheran Church. Lois will be remembered fondly for her helpful, loving and generous nature but mostly for her strong devotion given to family. She was always there in anyone’s time of need.

She leaves behind her children and their spouses, Cheryl (Kevin) McCabe of Rehoboth Beach, Del.; James Burdette of King George, Va.; Dale (Kimberly) Burdette of Newnan, Ga.; Paul (Jennifer) Burdette of Andover; her grandchildren, Korey and Colleen, James Jr. and Nicole, Betsy, Jacob and Rachel; as well as many great-

grandchildren; and extended family members and friends.

Lois was sadly predeceased by her beloved son, Lawrence Burdette, in the year 2015.

Funeral services will be held from the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd, Colchester, on Saturday, Sept. 6, beginning with calling hours from 1-2:30 p.m., followed by a memorial celebration of life service at the funeral home at 2:30 p.m. Burial will be in Arlington Cemetery at a later date to be announced.

For online condolences and to share a story of Lois for her family, visit www.auroramccarthy-funeralhome.com.

Colchester

Chester Anderson Jr.

Chester McKinley Anderson Jr., 87, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Saturday, Aug. 30, surrounded by his beloved family. Born April 13, 1938, in New Britain, he was the son of the late Chester M. and Olive (Hubbard) Anderson.



Chester proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during peacetime before settling in Colchester, where he built a home and raised his family with love, strength and unwavering dedication. A longtime member of the Colchester Federated Church, Chester was a man of quiet faith and deep values. In his younger years, he found joy in the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. He married Alberta Mader in 1995, and they shared many happy years together until her passing in 2020.

Chester worked tirelessly throughout his life to provide for his family, retiring after a long career as a professional truck driver transporting poultry. He was known for his strong work ethic, quick wit, one-of-a-kind sense of humor, and natural gift for storytelling.

To his children, he was a steadfast and loving father who always put their needs first. To his grandchildren, he was Papa, a grandfather who was always there supporting them in any way he could. He loved them deeply and took immense pride in every moment spent with them – the sun rose and set on those boys.

Chester will be deeply missed and forever remembered with love by his children and their spouses: Chester III (Rachel) Anderson of Windsor, Mary (John) McGuire of Colchester, the Rev. Dr. Cheryl (Jim) Caronna of Colchester, and Nicole (Richard) Hosford of Colchester; a stepdaughter, Margaret Mader of Rocky Hill; and his cherished grandsons, Jacob and Aaron Hosford; grandchildren, Matthew (Anna) Monroe, Laura Caronna, Jane McGuire; great-grandchildren Emma and Ethan Monroe, and many extended family members, and friends. He is also survived by siblings Harry Anderson of Massachusetts, Roy Anderson, Terry Anderson and Edith Cornish, all of Norwich.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was predeceased by siblings Lester, William, Thomas, Ronald, Dickie, and Ralph Anderson, and Olive Davis.

Chester’s legacy of love, hard work and humor will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Calling hours were held Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral service was held Thursday, Sept. 4, at 10:30 a.m., directly at the Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., Colchester. The burial was in Maplewood Cemetery.

Donations in Chester’s memory may be made to Colchester Federated Church.

East Hampton

Robert J. Spack

Robert J. Spack, 82, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Cheryl (Knaus) Spack, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, Aug. 24. Born Jan. 15, 1943, in Middletown, he was the son of the late Bruce and Helen (Gatzen) Spack.



Bob proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. Bob worked most of his life as a salesman in the paint and hardware business and was an active member of the Paint Salesman Association. Bob finished his career, doing what he loved. Working at Paul’s and Sandy’s Too and Ace Hardware was more than just a job to him; it was an opportunity for him to meet and make longlasting friendships with so many wonderful people from his local little town of East Hampton.

Besides his wife Cheryl of 55 years, he is survived by his daughter, Heather (Suarez) Spack

LEGALS

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on September 17, 2025, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s):
PZC2025-012 Wizard of Paws, 155 Westchester Rd – Application to modify existing Special Permit to allow grooming services for animal rehabilitation patients. Zoning District: Rural Use (RU).
At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of these applications is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk’s Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday). Application materials are also available on the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission webpage at <https://www.colchesterct.gov/planning-zoning-commission>.
Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1 TB 9/5

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER
ZONING BOARD of APPEALS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 -
7:00PM TO 9:00PM**

The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on the evening of September 17, 2025 to allow the public the opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the following application:
ZBA APPLICATION OF HEATHER BERRY AND ERIC BERRY SEEKING A VARIANCE
Applicants are seeking relief from Sections 4.1.4, 7.0.5 and Section 11.2, of the Andover Zoning regulations to demolish an existing 12’ x 20’ non-conforming garage and replace it with a new 14’ x 24’ prefabricated one-car garage with loft, at 16 West Street Extension, Andover CT.
Interested parties may ask questions and/or offer comment, either verbally or in writing.
Please contact the Building and Land Use Office a minimum of 24 hours prior to the hearing date @860.742.7305, X - 4220.
William Desrosiers
Zoning Board of Appeals - Chairperson

2 TB 9/5, 9/12

**Town of Portland
Board of Assessment Appeals
Legal Notice and Agenda**

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet on **September 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Town Hall, 33 East Main St., room G3, for the sole purpose of hearing and acting on appeals for motor vehicles on the Grand List of October 1, 2024.
Applicants are encouraged to submit an Appeal Application (1 per vehicle) to the Assessor’s Office by 4:30 p.m. of the posted date of the scheduled hearing. Appeal applications and information is accessible at: <https://www.portlandct.org/assessment-appeals>
William Donahue, Chairman

1 TB 9/5

**Public Notice
Town of East Hampton, Connecticut Inland
Wetlands & Watercourses Agency
Wetlands Agent Approval**

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a (c) (2) Application URA-IW-25-027 Pergola on concrete piers with solar panels on roof in Upland Review Area on property located at 33 Knowles Road, East Hampton, CT has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the East Hampton CT Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency.
Josh Wilson
Duly Authorized Agent
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

1 TB 9/5

**Public Notice
Town of East Hampton, Connecticut Inland
Wetlands & Watercourses Agency
Wetlands Agent Approval**

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a (c) (2) Application URA-IW-25-024 to Construct a Detached Garage with Lean-to in Upland Review Area Map on property located at 16 Daly Road, East Hampton, CT has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the East Hampton CT Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency.
Josh Wilson
Duly Authorized Agent
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

1 TB 9/5

**COLCHESTER HISTORIC
DISTRICT COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7:00 P.M., in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petition:
Certificate of Appropriateness- COA 2025-001 Future Assets LLC, 11 Hayward Ave – application for exterior work to include railings, decking, window replacements and concrete access ramp.
At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection in the Planning and Zoning Department at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT 06415 and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday)
Historic District Commission
Ellen Sharon, Chair

1 TB 9/5

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REB-29-25

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REB-9-25

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Riverast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for “blind” box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. *The Citizen* will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone’s requests. *The Citizen* cannot guarantee specific placement.

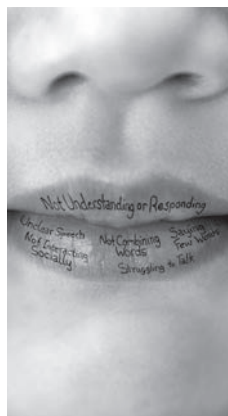
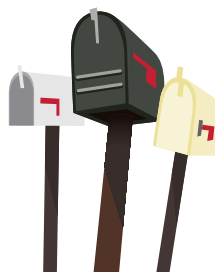
**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
IWWA ACTIONS**

At the Regular Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency Meeting held on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM, and the following actions were taken:
IW-25-018: Max Lapinski, 47 Walnut Avenue, Place 26CY of fill to cover 700SF area and remove small amount of fill in Upland Review Area. Map 06A/ Block 58/ Lot W-2 – Approved with conditions
IW-25-020: Russell Leake, Bobby’s Road, Construction of a Single-Family Home in Upland Review Area. Map 04A/ Block 45/ Lot 11B - Approved
IW-25-021: Lawrence Marsiglio, Moodus Road and Wilkes Road, 5 Lot Residential Subdivision. Map 08/ Block 31A/ Lot 2 – Approved
Chairman Joshua Wilson

1 TB 9/5

A black and white photograph of a kitten sitting on a carpeted floor. The kitten is looking up at a large, textured, cylindrical object, possibly a scratching post or a piece of wood, with its paws raised. The kitten has a light-colored body with darker patches on its face and ears. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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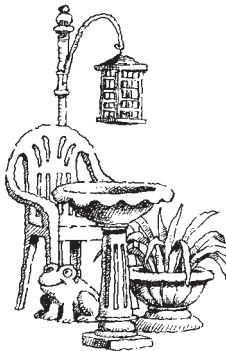
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