

Hebron Harvest Fair Delivers Four Days of Family Fun

By Toriana Williams

The Hebron Harvest Fair once again transformed the quiet hills of eastern Connecticut into a bustling hub of sights, sounds and flavors this past weekend.

From the crash of the demolition derby to the splash of performing sea lions, families from across the state gathered at the Hebron Lions' fairgrounds for four days of unforgettable fun. Despite bouts of rain, fairgoers embraced the weather, proving that a little drizzle will not dampen community spirit

No fair experience is complete without food, and Hebron delivered in abundance. Vendors offered loaded curly fries, pickle pizza and even salchipapas – a South American dish of French fries or tater tots topped with sliced sausage and flavorful sauces. Traditionalists flocked to fried dough stands and candy apple stalls, where the scent of cinnamon and sugar hung in the air.

"Food is an obvious main attraction," said Autumn St. Germain, a resident of Lebanon who attended with her family. Nearby, rows of artisans displayed handmade jewelry, soaps, and even vintage board games. For many families, the fair wasn't just about eating and rides – it was about discovering little treasures tucked away in vendor tents.

One of this year's newest and most talked-about attractions was the Sea Lion Splash show. The charismatic California and South American sea lions drew big crowds with tricks that included ring tosses, booping sports balls, dancing and even performing headstands. The fair promoted the show as "the splashiest show at the fair ... not just fun, it's educational too!"



Crowds at the Hebron Harvest Fair last weekend marveled at the Oxen Pulls, where animals standing up to seven feet tall and weighing over 2,500 pounds pulled staggering weights.

That rang true for children who laughed as much as they learned about ocean conservation. Stryder, who attended with Autumn, said meeting the sea lions was his highlight. "It was actually really cool to watch, even in the rain," he said.

For returning visitors, the Dock Dogs competition once again made a splash – literally. The

event invited both professional and amateur dogs to leap into a pool after their favorite toys. The result is equal parts competition and comedy, with tails wagging and crowds cheering.

As a dog groomer on the side, Madeline Keain from Glastonbury admitted she was biased: "My favorite attraction was the Dock Dogs," she said, since she loves dogs in general.

The Kohn family of Andover agreed. Daughter Paige named Dock Dogs as her favorite event, while her father Bryce explained that the sheer amount of activities for children is a large reason for their continued support. Even young son Brian said his favorite was the diving pups.

For participants like Shelly Plue of Harwinton, Dock Dogs is more than a show – it's a tradition, both for her and her dogs.

"They enjoy it, so I enjoy it," Plue said. "They get to chase things, they get to swim, they get to be there with all of their friends and relatives."

Laughing, she added, "We had probably a dozen golden retrievers that are all related in one way or another."

Beyond dogs and sea lions, animal lovers flocked to Rosaire's Royal Racers, a pig-racing spectacle held throughout the day. The event featured three breeds of pigs sprinting and trudging around the track, while fair organizers highlighted their commitment to animal comfort with private exercise areas, misting systems and even air conditioning.

For adrenaline seekers, Thursday night's Demolition Derby shook the fairgrounds with the sounds of clashing metal. "As the horn sounds, the cars begin crashing into each other... the last driver whose car is still operational wins, but the excitement and thrill of the event is the bigger prize," the fair program read. Even days later, visitors could see the debris of totaled cars lined along the outskirts of the fairgrounds.

On Sunday, tradition took center stage with the Garden Tractor Pulls, where competi-

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Marlborough Honors 9/11 Victims, First Responders

By Toriana Williams

On the Marlborough town green, a stretch of land where North Main Street and Route 66 meet, hundreds of American flags ripple in the September breeze. Each one represents a life lost on Sept. 11, 2001 – an individual whose absence still echoes through families, communities and across the nation.

"This is our second year," selectman Louise Concodello explained. "Not all of the towns are doing it; we were lucky enough."

The display features 436 flags, carefully arranged in rows that transform the green into a field of remembrance. The effort put in place was by community leaders and members. Last Monday, Town Manager David Porter, selectman Betty O'Brien and husband George, selectman Joe Asklar, Concodello and Jim and Dylan from Public Works stood in the middle of town for an hour and a half measuring, drilling and placing flags.

"It was a beautiful day," shared Concodello.

For Asklar, who has dedicated 40 years of service to the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, this display carries a deeply personal

meaning.

"The flags were originally purchased by a very nice gal who was a member of the American Legion here in town. Her name is Ann Kilby," Asklar said. "She was the one that really got it going. ... She needed help to put them all up and the fire department and other residents stepped up to the plate, and we made that sea."

Each flag marks not just a number, but a story as well.

"Each flag indicates one fatality of a first responder or other person who had passed away in the 9/11 attack," Asklar explained. "Every one of those flags represents a family who was affected by that horrible day, and we don't want to forget."

Concodello echoed the importance of remembrance, noting Marlborough's direct connection to the tragedy.

"It was a very tragic [thing] that happened. We lost two people from our town," she said quietly.

One of them, she said, was James Hobin, 47, who was "a very involved member of our com-

munity," Concodello said. "It hit everyone in town."

For Asklar, the memory is inseparable from his own service.

"What a crazy business," Asklar said. "When there's a disaster and people are running out, we as first responders have a job to run in. What's wrong with that idea? But we do it, and we can't forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice. It's very simple, and that's why we put the flags up."

The question of why communities continue to mark the anniversary resonates strongly for both selectmen.

"It's important because ... they gave the ultimate sacrifice," Asklar said. "Us in the fire service business can't forget that. The people who were employed in the building and who were killed otherwise. ... They also gave the ultimate sacrifice to their families. It was awful, and it's important that we don't forget."

Concodello still remembers where she was on Sept. 11. "I was doing home daycare, and I had the TV on because I wanted to hear the

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Wreaths Across America Meeting

All are invited to the next Wreaths Across America planning meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 16, from 7-8 p.m., at the Andover Community and Senior Center.

Held every December, Wreaths Across America is worldwide event honoring veterans with the laying of a wreath at their headstone or marker. All three of our local cemeteries - Olde Andover Burial Ground, the First Congregational Church Cemetery, and the Townsend Cemetery, have agreed to participate. The 2025 theme of Wreaths Across America is "Keep Moving Forward."

For more information, contact Susan Camoroda at 703- 472-3209 or via email at veterans@andoverct.org. If you want to know more about Wreaths Across America, please visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

Food Explorers at Library

On Tuesday, Sept. 30, from 3:15-4:15 p.m., the Andover Friends of the Library will sponsor an afterschool program for children in grades 3-6 called Food Explorers. During this program, children will prepare Apple Crumbles.

Library staff will walk children over to the Andover Community Senior Center after school, or caregivers can walk their children over. Pickup will be at the ACSC at 4:15 p.m. The Food Explorers recommend this program for children who are able to work independently.

Registration and permission slip (provided after registration) are required. Deadline for registration is Sept. 22. There are 15 spaces available; first-come, first-served. To register or for more information, contact Andover Public Library at 860-742-7428 or andoverctpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Bingo & Basket Raffle

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Basket Raffle night on Friday, Sept. 19, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$12, and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required.

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

Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all to worship, held Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andoverctchurch.org.

Children's Church: Is provided. **Choir:** At 9 a.m. Sundays in the sanctuary.

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 8:30-10 a.m.; **Senior Pantry** is on the opposite Wednesdays.

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.

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

BBQ and Car Show Tonight

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a BBQ and Car Show on Friday, Sept. 12, from 4-7 p.m. All cars are welcome - whether she's a show queen or daily driver.

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.

Christmas Craft Supply Tag Sale

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Christmas Craft Supply Tag Sale on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Are you a crafter and have Christmas craft supplies you no longer need or want? Are you in search of new supplies? Then this is the event for you.

Tables are \$20. This event will be great for teachers, crafters, day care providers, Sunday School Teachers and creative folks, the church said.

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



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SEP-12-25

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Did you win Powerball last weekend? Neither did I. Granted, I didn’t buy a ticket, so that probably didn’t help my chances.

But stats don’t lie, and, according to *CT Insider*, chances are at least some of you reading this column did buy a ticket or two or 10.

The news outlet reported Sunday that, according to a recent Lending Tree analysis of 2023 government data, Connecticut ranks sixth nationally in per-capita annual spending on lottery tickets. The data shows the average Connecticut resident spends \$469 per year on lottery tickets. We’re one of just 10 states in which per-capita expenditure exceeds \$400.

To find number one on the list, you don’t need to go very far. The Lending Tree data shows Massachusettsans leads in per-capita lottery spending – by a wide margin. The average Massachusetts resident spent \$915 on lottery tickets in 2023, with Rhode Island a very distant second, at \$573 per resident.

The state that spends the least? North Dakota, which saw its residents spend on average just \$50 on lottery tickets.

All but five states – Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah – currently have at least one lottery game, Lending Tree reported. So for Connecticut to come in number six out of 45 states is pretty impressive – or pretty sad, depending on what your view of the lottery is, I suppose.

As anyone who’s gone on a spending spree

and bought 10 or more tickets in one sitting only to have them all come up bupkis knows (I’m speaking for a friend, of course), buying more tickets doesn’t necessarily mean you’ll win more often. The Lending Tree analysis shows that, in Virginia, 73.5% of 2023 lottery spending was paid out in winnings. Virginia, however, is number three on per-capita lottery spending. The only other two states to pay out more than 70% of spending were Maine and Missouri, which came in 22nd and 23rd in per-capita spending, respectively.

Where was Massachusetts? Despite being top on the list of per-capita lottery spending, it ranked just sixth in terms of the percentage of lottery spending that was paid out in winnings, at 69.4%.

That’s still a better return on investment than Connecticut saw. The Nutmeg State ranked 14th, with 66.2% of its lottery spending paid out in winnings.

What does all of this mean? Here in New England, we like our lottery. And playing the lottery is a total gamble.

Like classic cars? The Middlesex County Historical Society’s 39th annual Antique Car Show and Flea Market will return to Palmer Field, adjacent to Washington Street (Route 66) in Middletown, on Sunday, Oct. 5.

This year’s featured car is a Ford Motors Falcon. **Editor’s Desk continued on page 6**

Bulletin Board

By the time you read this, I may be on my way aboard a chartered plane to Hawaii to shop for a second home.

Or probably not.

It is much more likely than I will be jealously brooding about the luck of some undeserving wretch in Boondocks USA who walked into a convenience store for a six-pack of beer and pack of Marlboros and walked out with a ticket to Easy Street.

I refer, of course, to the Powerball lottery, which, as I write this, has reached \$1.7 billion and rising.

I am not a regular lottery participant. I’m not adverse to risk, but I prefer calculated risk. And my calculations tell me that buying lottery tickets is sort of like using \$20 bills to light your grill.

Lottery hucksters like to say that “you can’t win if you don’t play,” which I guess is true. But you can’t lose if you don’t play, either. And, if you look at the lottery and all of its fancy little ploys to get your money, it’s pretty obvious the scheme is only profitable if there are a lot more losers than winners.

I point this out in case you labor under the misapprehension that the purpose of state and multi-state lotteries is to increase the number of millionaires in this country. No, my friends, the purpose of the lottery is to enrich the government at your expense and make you think it’s fun. And the bait is hope. A slim hope, but still hope. I mean somebody has to win. It’s just that chances are it’s not going to be you.

Nevertheless, even I am not immune to the siren call of unimaginable riches. Swayed by all the hype over a \$1.7 billion pot of gold, I was compelled last week to fork over \$3 for a Powerball ticket. I justified the outlay as “entertainment.”

I don’t expect to win. Past experience (yes, I’ve fallen off the wagon before) has shown that I’m lucky to get one out of the six numbers on the ticket. Statistics indicate that you have a 1 in 292.1 million chance of winning the Powerball jackpot, so it’s not like I should be surprised I didn’t win. Still, you’d think I could do better than one lousy number out of six.

It also irritates me that while the Powerball hucksters lure us to the table by emphasizing a \$1.7 billion jackpot, the winner actually walks away with substantially less. If you take the lump sum settlement (which most financial advisers recommend), you’re down to about \$770 million first crack out of the box. Then you’ve got to pay taxes. Big taxes. Twenty-four percent to the feds just for starters. And, of course, your state will want its share as well.

That’s right, folks. Governments not only profit from the lottery itself, they profit still more through state and federal taxes on your winnings. You may not be able to win if you don’t play, but they certainly can, and do. So that \$1.7 million pot of gold could shrink to \$500 million or less by the time everybody gets done quite legally fleecing you. It’s sort of like having somebody promise you a dozen donuts and then they take six for themselves and you’re supposed to be grateful.

The irony here is that if some private company tried this crap, they’d be accused of false advertising or worse. Some ambitious state’s attorney would file suit or criminal charges. And the next thing you know, the hucksters would be hauled in front of Congress for televised hearings, berated for their dishonesty, relieved of their ill-gotten profits and heavily fined and America (the private sector, at least) would be forcibly reminded of the importance of integrity in their dealings with the public.

(If it amuses you to see Congressmen making passionate speeches on behalf of integrity, I assure you that you’re not alone.)

Now you may be saying to yourself, “Hey, \$500 million isn’t \$1.7 billion, but it’s still not bad. I’ll take it.”

To you I say, “What would your 6th grade math teacher have said if you told her that while 6x6 isn’t 72, it’s still pretty close?”

No, if you advertise \$1.7 billion then the winner should walk away with \$1.7 billion. Period.

This not just a matter of principle; it’s a matter of principal. Besides, do you have any idea what it costs to buy beachfront property in Hawaii these days? No, I don’t expect I ever will either.

[News flash: As I prepared to submit this column, I learned that two Powerball winners have been announced for the Saturday drawing, one in Missouri and one in Texas. As I do not live in either Texas or Missouri, it appears I’ve once again thrown away three bucks. How entertaining.]

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.



Remembering 9/11... Flags for those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, were planted by Portland Leos Jack Hallinean, Decan Kelley, Liam Witschy, Reese Nicol and Brooks Oliva, with Portland Lions Heather Nicol, Scott Nicol and Wayne Chapman, by St. Mary’s Cemetery on Route 66.

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Markham Protests Too Much

To the Editor:

Dean Markham, Democratic chair of the Town Council, has accused me of saying that the Democrats are playing politics with the proposed firehouse. I have never said anything close to that. My only concerns are for the firefighters, town and taxpayers.

The mirror says that Mr Markham does protest too much.

Dr. Richard Brown – East Hampton

Note: Brown is a member of the East Hampton Board of Finance, but is writing as an individual.

Confused Reader

To the Editor:

I find it confusing when I read letters from people that hold an office – whether elected or not, paid or not – who sign off as “speaking as an individual.” How can one voice their opinion on a subject that’s related to the position they hold and claim they don’t have an agenda? Could they be trying to make the reader believe “we are not the boogeyman” in order to get their trust so as to further their own position or belief?

This is especially sad when this kind of letter is meant to fool the reader into believing that the writer is just like you and me in order to get their vote of confidence.

Frank Grande – Colchester

Dementia Talks No. 30

To the Editor:

Fingernails, chin hairs, dry skin – OH MY!!!

One of the things that we seem to learn through our unique Alzheimer’s journey is how to care for our mom, dad, spouse, aunt, friend, loved one differently.

With Mom one of the activities is keeping up with things she would normally be on top of. In the eldercare industry they would fall under Activities of Daily Living (ADLs). Anything hygiene-related falls under that heading, if you will. Alongside a slew of other activities like dressing one self.

For Mom, she always had long fingernails. They were strong too. She would clip and file them regularly. She also had this moisturizer that smelled so nice – warmed butter mixed with coconut. With the journey she is on, keeping up with her growing nails has fallen to my sister and I; and working to keep her skin has hydrated as possible because as we age skin becomes more and more dry; and thinner which means it is easier to have spots that don’t heal very well. And of course, there is always those pesky little chin hairs that show up.

Mom can file a nail or two, but then loses focus. That is ok. Letting her do what she can is the key. She can pluck a hair or two, that is ok. She can still rub in face moisturizer (most of the time), that is good too.

What is the point, you ask?

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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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With this journey there are things we will do for our loved one that we never dreamed would land on our plates. Don't shy away; do your best to find a way to keep your loved one feeling good about themselves. Sometimes gently washing their face and applying some face cream is just what the doctor ordered; especially if they can smile back at themselves in the mirror.

Know you are not alone.

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

Many Thanks to Many

To the Editor:
Portland Food Bank would like to extend a big thank you to the Knights of Columbus Council 7 members for their support every two weeks when the Connecticut Foodshare truck comes to the Waverly Center. While our clients wait for the truck to come, the Knights serve them hot dogs, chips and juice to drink. What a blessing this is for them since they sometimes wait for hours for the truck to arrive.

On another note, a very warm thank you to Kathy Leslie, Jill Benson and Deb Dee who week after week deliver fresh vegetables from the Portland Community Garden for our clients. We must say thank you to St. Mary, Zion Lutheran, Trinity, True Vine, and Congregational churches and their parishioners for their contributions in countless ways.

We cannot forget to thank Jeff Myjak who has, through his Cans-for-a-Cause program donated fruit and vegetables to our clients also.

We are very lucky to be surrounded by such caring and generous people.

**Kevin Backman, Director
Portland Food Bank**

Open Enrollment

To the Editor:
Medicare Open Enrollment will soon be upon us. The Open Enrollment period takes place annually from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. This is your opportunity to review all of your options and decide to stay with your current plan, or switch to another plan, or change the way that you receive your Medicare benefits.

People with Medicare can get their coverage through either Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage Plans. With each of these options, there are pros and cons and differences in costs, provider access, referral processes, and out-of-pocket limits. Medicare Advantage Plans typically include drug coverage and often provide some vision, hearing, and dental coverage. Original Medicare does not include drug coverage; therefore, a Prescription Drug Plan is needed to provide this coverage. Additionally, Medicare does not cover vision, hearing or dental services – riders providing cover are often available through Medicare Supplemental Insurance (Medigap Plans).

Navigating Medicare can be complicated. Every state has a state health insurance assistance program (SHIP). Connecticut chooses to call their state health insurance assistance program CHOICES. CHOICES provides free, unbiased health insurance counseling to people with Medicare, helping you to understand benefits, compare options, and make informed decisions about your coverage. When you contact your local CHOICES certified counselor, you will be provided with one-on-one guidance based on your unique situation and needs.

Your needs, and plan options, change over time, so it is important to review your Medicare choices every year during Medicare Open Enrollment to ensure that you are enrolled in the best plan for you.

Hebron residents can contact your local CHOICES counselor at the Russell Mercier Senior Center to set up a one-on-one appointment by calling 860-228-1700.

**Sharon M. Garrard-Hoffman
Senior Services Director/
Municipal Agent for the Elderly
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Supports Lawrence for BOS

To the Editor:
As a Hebron resident, I've seen firsthand how local leadership shapes our daily lives – from essential community services to the strength of our schools. That's why I'm excited to support Jan Lawrence for Hebron Board of Selectmen.

Jan will bring a thoughtful, solutions-oriented approach to the issues that matter most. He will work to strengthen and modernize our infrastructure, develop a vibrant, accessible town center, expand affordable housing options, reduce the tax burden on residents and, champion first-class schools. Jan will listen first and act with integrity. He will be dedicated to ensuring that Hebron is a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, and play.

I encourage my neighbors to learn more about Jan and join me in supporting a candidate who truly reflects Hebron's values.

John Matra – Amston

Strong Leadership in Challenging Times

To the Editor:
I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Gussie Gilberti for a position on the Board of Education. Gussie is a passionate advocate for students, a thoughtful leader, and a tireless community member committed to improving educational outcomes for all.

Throughout the time I've known Gussie I've been constantly impressed by her dedication to equity and academic excellence, and a transparent communicator.

She brings a collaborative spirit and a wealth of insight that would serve our district well, especially during times when strong leadership is needed.

Gussie believes in putting students first, supporting teachers and engaging families in meaningful ways!

Vote for Gussie Gilberti!
Charles Ryan – Colchester

Championing Education for All

To the Editor:
I am writing to express my strong support for Gussie Gilberti as a candidate for the Colchester Board of Education.

I have known Gussie Gilberti for over 30 years and have always admired her dedication to Education and deep commitment to the well-being of students.

Over the course of her career as a special education teacher in Colchester from 1977-2009 and special education supervisor in Windham and in Plainfield, she gained invaluable experience and insight into the needs of school staff and students. She is thoughtful, fair and passionate about ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

Gussie's leadership and experience make her exceptionally well-qualified to serve on the Board of Education. I am confident she will listen to the community, support our educators and always put students first.

I encourage my fellow Colchester residents to support her candidacy.
Vote for Gussie Gilberti!
Catherine Ryan – Colchester

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REF-19-24

Asking for Your Vote

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am asking for your vote for election to Portland's Board of Assessment Appeals. As a lawyer, I have the skills to understand and interpret statutes and rules and as a nurse, I have the empathy to understand how stressful property tax assessments can be.

Portland Republicans declare "It's About Portland, Not Politics." For me, it's about Portland and about politics. I am proud to represent Portland Democrats who say "We embrace the diversity of our perspectives and understand that, although we may not see eye to eye on every issue, we are richer as an organization because of our differences. We share the belief that our basic Democratic values – inclusiveness, equality, access to affordable healthcare and quality education, economic fairness, a respect for the environment, voting rights – have relevance in the day-to-day lives of folks in our town."

Since retiring from federal service in 2022, I have been an active member of the Portland Democratic Town Committee. I have also met many of you in my roles as chairperson of Portland's Solidarity Committee and co-organizer of our Thursday AM democracy rallies on Main Street.

As with much of the rest of our country, I believe that it's time for a change. Please vote for me, and the rest of our Democratic ticket on Nov. 4.

**Thanks,
Cynthia Tyler – Portland**

Running for BAA

To the Editor:

My name is Bill Donahue, and I am running for a third term on the Board of Assessment Appeals. I would be honored to continue serving the residents of Portland. I have lived in Portland for over 20 years and currently work for Magnor Corporation of America as director of dealer sales for the U.S. and Canada. I am a former member of the St. Michael's College Alumni Board of Directors and currently volunteer with a local youth group.

I really enjoy meeting and working with people from Portland on issues regarding their individual assessment concerns. During the last two terms, one of which was a revaluation period, everyone got a fair hearing and we resolved those issues, so I feel very confident in having the opportunity to serve again for an additional two years. I will continue to bring my business experiences and common sense to this board. I respectfully ask for your vote this November and look forward to serving Portland on the Board of Assessment Appeals.

**Sincerely,
Bill Donahue – Portland
Republican Candidate for BAA**

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Lively 5K!

To the Editor:

The Haddam Neck Fair celebrated its 113th year on Labor Day weekend and the 5K Road Race was a lively part of the festivities. Thank you to the generous area individuals and businesses that made the race (and our T-shirts) possible: Paul's and Sandy's, Too, Po's Rice and Spice, Two Wrasslin' Cats Cafe, Belltown Motors, Airlink Cycles, Suburban Sanitation, Cheers Package Store, Pizzeria DaVinci, Cobalt, Shagbark Lumber and Farm Supply, Town & Country Realtors, and Classic Africa.

Congratulations to overall male winner Lee Barron, who finished in 18 minutes and 03 seconds, and overall female winner Jocelyn Gustavson, who finished in 20 minutes and 41 seconds – and to all 288 runners and walkers who participated. We hope to see everyone next year!

Margaret M. Faber, Race Director

Never Forget 9/11

To the Editor:

East Hampton VFW Post 5095 Auxiliary and town volunteers have placed over 400 flags at the Route 66 four corners in East Hampton. These flags represent the over 400 lives that were lost on 9/11. Three hundred forty-three members of the New York Fire Department, 23 members of the New York Police Department, 37 Port Authority officers and 10 Ambulance personnel died that day. Many more have since died from injuries sustained that day.

Our thanks to Tom Distafano for allowing us to do this in remembrance of 9/11.

**Sincerely,
Ann McLaughlin
VFW 5095 Axillary**

Hebron Open Space Policies

To the Editor:

I recently come across a “Presentation on Open Space Land Acquisition Plan Policies, Accomplishments, Benefits & On-going Activities” by Hebron’s Open Space Land Acquisition Committee, dated March 2022, which can be found online at <https://hebronct.com/uploads/2022/03/OSLAC-March-2022-Update.pdf>.

We are lucky that Hebron has an active Open Space Land Acquisition Committee, which has preserved hundreds of acres of land for environmental protection and healthy outdoor recreation. In fact, Hebron’s Housing Needs Survey from January 2022 revealed that 21% of respondents stated open space is the “First Reason” they live in Hebron, with 38% stating it is the “Second Reason” and 41% stating it is the “Third Reason.” These results combined to make open space the third most important reason people live in Hebron. Not surprisingly, open space is closely related to the most important reason people live in Hebron, our rural character. The preservation of open space allows our rural character to flourish and thrive, supporting Hebron’s unique identity.

The Presentation features the primary policies of the Open Space Committee, which includes: “Policy Two: Create large blocks. Connect the blocks into Greenway corridors. Policy Three: Promote multiple uses where possible. Raymond Brook Preserve protects forest and farmlands that contain watercourses and existing trails.” The creation of the Cesar Peters Park as an outdoor classroom and history museum at the town owned property at 17 Kinney Rd., directly across the street from the Raymond Brook Preserve, would fulfill both these policies and more. Not only will it connect the Preserve to its uphill source of groundwater, protect wetlands and preserve farmland, it will create a dynamic “Greenway corridor” that can be connected to Hebron Elementary, the Hebron Historic District and our commercial center.

Also noted in the presentation are the “Top Preservation Priorities,” which includes, “2. Farmland Preservation: Seek permanent preservation for unprotected working farmland. Protect other significant areas of prime farmland. 3. Extension of Existing Open Space Properties: Seek to enhance existing town-owned open space and parks with additional open space acquisitions.” The property at 17 Kinney Rd. has been identified as the largest deposit of glacial lodgment till soil in the area, the most valuable agricultural soil in Connecticut and unquestionably prime farmland. This is our living history, a thriving embodiment of our rural character. Preserving this soil and farmland will preserve our future as well as our past. Please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook, join the effort to #Save 17.

**Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulumieri – Amston**

Food Waste Collection

To the Editor:

The Hebron Green Committee continues to evaluate ways of reducing the amount of waste generated in our town. For several years, we have developed and managed several successful activities in that regard, including our Swap Shack, the annual paper shred event, roadside cleanup days, and a variety of education and outreach efforts.

We are now evaluating the feasibility of establishing a residential food waste collection system in town, similar to what many towns in Connecticut already have. Most of these programs involve separate collection of food waste at the home, for pick up by a licensed hauler who would bring it to a recycling facility for conversion to compost, energy or another useful resource. While there is an additional cost for the service, it can sometimes be at least partially offset by a reduced cost of trash pick up. Plus it’s really good for the environment!

The Hebron Green Committee will be developing and publicizing additional details on how such a program would be implemented, but first we would like to determine if there is sufficient interest to justify setting up a program. Most haulers would require a minimum number of customers to justify providing this service.

So if you live in Hebron and think you might be interested in joining such a program, please complete the following survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P2Z7ZK5>.

This is a very brief survey and doesn’t constitute any commitment to actually join such a program, but will just give us a preliminary idea of the level of interest in town.

**Mike Harder
Hebron Green Committee**

Understanding ISO

To the Editor:

When it comes to protecting our homes, businesses, and families, fire protection plays a critical role – not only in safety but also in the cost of insurance. One important part of this is the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating system.

ISO evaluates fire departments and communities across the country to determine how well they are prepared to prevent and respond to fires. This evaluation results in a Public Protection Classification (PPC) score, which ranges from Class 1 (the best) to Class 10 (limited or no recognized fire protection).

Several key factors are considered in this rating, including:

- Emergency Communications: How quickly and effectively 911 calls are handled.
- Fire Department Capabilities: Staffing, training, equipment, and response times.
- Water Supply: Availability of hydrants and a reliable water system for firefighting.
- Community Risk Reduction: Fire prevention programs, inspections, and public safety education.

Insurance companies use ISO ratings to help determine property insurance premiums. In general, the better the ISO rating, the lower the insurance costs for homeowners and businesses, because the risk of loss from fire is reduced.

One of the most important factors in an ISO evaluation is the location of fire stations. Response time can make the difference between a small, contained incident and a devastating loss. ISO looks closely at how close homes and businesses are to a fire station and to fire hydrants. Properties located farther away often face higher insurance rates, not because the owners did anything wrong, but because the risk of delayed

response is greater.

This is why having well-located, well-equipped fire stations matters so much. It doesn’t just provide peace of mind that help will arrive quickly in an emergency—it also directly impacts what families and businesses pay for insurance.

Our community’s investment in fire protection is an investment in safety and affordability. By supporting strong fire services and strategically placed stations, we are protecting lives, preserving property, and helping keep insurance rates manageable for everyone.

**Robert Rainville
East Hampton Fire Chief**

Sustainability

To the Editor:

“Sustainability: noun. the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level; -avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance.” -Dictionary i-Pad.

“Sustainable: adjective. able to be maintained at a certain rate or level; -conserving an ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources. 2. able to be upheld or defended.” -Dictionary i-Pad.

“Town officials continue to seek assistance in developing Hebron’s water supply, including available grants, initiating exploratory test wells, and similar investigative engineering measures” -Board of Selectmen 8/7/25

In 2020, Hebron experienced a drought. During the pandemic and after months of dry conditions my own household’s well pump was failing. It took time to get a new pump installed. Even after installation, I was advised to continue augmenting my well water from another source. So, it was back to the fire station where I heard

See Letter, page 29

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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.

Sept. 14 is Rally Day: The service will be led by Seaver. Her sermon title is “God Finds Us,” based on Luke 15:1-20 The service will feature hand-clapping music by Joyful Blue Bluegrass Band, followed by a picnic with lawn games for all ages. Rally Day marks the start of the Sunday school year for children ages 3 through grade 8 and for the youth group. All children in the community are welcome and invited to attend Sunday School and youth groups. Please contact Elizabeth Kukich at ekukich@marlconchurch.org for more information.

Bible Study is led by Seaver and meets Thursdays at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. upstairs in the lounge. All are welcome.

Women’s Circle will meet Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. upstairs in the lounge. The program is led by Seaver and all women are welcome.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located on the ground floor with easy access from the parking lot, is open for sales and donations Fridays from noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays 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 next monthly Florence Lord Housing luncheon for its residents will be Sept. 21. The church-sponsored Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families, will be Sept. 28. Free tickets are available at the food bank.

General Information: Marlborough Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming faith community and all are welcome. The church does not pass a collection plate, but free-will giving boxes are found by the doors in the sanctuary; people can also donate via a QR code in the pew racks or through the church website. For more information on the church or its programs, call Seaver’s direct line at 860-295-0432, email her at pastorval@marlconchurch.org, or contact the church office at office@marlconchurch.org.



God Sees, God Cares!

“He (GOD) appointeth the number of THE STARS; He calleth them all by their names. GREAT IS OUR LORD, and of great power: His understanding is infinite”

Psalm 147:4-5

There Really Is A God After All!

He is an AWESOME GOD who finds His galaxies a very small expression of His great Person. God is beyond and bigger than His finite universe. Yet GOD CAN HEAR your cry, your whisper, your silent thought. GOD CAN SEE so small a tear. GOD CAN TACKLE so big a problem. “Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy” (Psalm 33:18)

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God Really Is After All

He is OVER ALL, He is FOR ALL. God is not absent. God is only a step away. Believe and receive Christ Jesus with all your heart today, without delay. “But as many as RECEIVED HIM, to them gave HE power to become the children of God, even to them that BELIEVE ON HIS NAME” (John 1: 12). “HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have ETERNAL LIFE” (1 John 5:12-13). “And this is LIFE ETERNAL, that they might KNOW THEE the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

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Residents Voice More Concerns with Speed Cameras

By Toriana Williams

At the latest Marlborough Board of Selectmen meeting, residents and town officials engaged in a wide-ranging discussion that touched on several items from speeding cameras and road safety to budget concerns. The meeting, which stretched late into the evening, offered a clear view of the issues most pressing to the community.

Speeding Camera Debate Continues

The most animated exchanges of the night centered around the placement and effectiveness of Marlborough's speed enforcement cameras.

"If you take the total number of citations or the total fines and divide by the total number of citations, the average ticket is for \$66.90," Town Manager David Porter explained. He added that, what this tells him is "the overwhelming majority are first time tickets. People either see the sign and slow down or they get one ticket and they change their behavior, which was our goal."

However, several residents raised concerns that the current locations are missing the town's most dangerous traffic zones.

"I'd just like to ask David Porter, the town manager, and all the board of selectmen members to please strongly consider moving the speeding cameras up to the beach associations and the crosswalks," said resident Jane Boston. "That was the biggest pain-point with ... all the residents and children crossing over to the beach associations."

Boston noted unintended consequences of the current camera placements, warning that drivers tend to slow only in front of cameras, then accelerate rapidly afterward.

Boston said that twice in the last week, she saw two cars racing up North Main Street.

"One is challenging the other," she said. "No one's paying attention to who might be in a crosswalk."

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.stjfisherchurch.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

Another resident urged the board to consider additional safety measures such as stop signs.

"When you guys are thinking about the construction project on North Main, think about adding stop signs for the crosswalks," said Anthony Bratz, who also is running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen this November. "The idea is safety at those crosswalks to allow people to cross safely. Put a stop sign there, make people slow down."

Resident Frustrations with Speed and Safety

Concerns about traffic safety weren't limited to camera placement. One resident described a noticeable rise in cars on their street and questioned whether traffic data was being used effectively.

"You have to think about the unintended consequences that it's creating on roads," said William Guzman, calling for the board to consider implementing additional traffic control on the other side of Lake Terramuggus.

Boston described youth misusing the cameras, noting that some kids treat them as entertainment.

"We see kids on e-bikes and they do these very sustained wheelies and they do them right in front of the cameras so the cameras capture them," Boston said, "They think it's just a real big joke."

Rotary Updates

Peter Hughes, director of planning and development, explained that the proposed rotary at Route 66 and North Main Street is still in the planning stages with the state. Traffic studies are ongoing, but no final design has been approved. They clarified that there would be opportunities for public comment before construction.

New Business and Town Updates

After public comments, the board turned its attention to new business, much of which revolved around long-term infrastructure and

administrative updates. The board reviewed ongoing capital projects and their funding status. Officials emphasized the importance of careful planning to ensure future projects, such as road work and facility upgrades, remain financially feasible.

AT&T has expressed interest in placing an additional antenna in town, with the application process expected to take about a year. The annual audit is progressing, with the town still finalizing its tax collector's report and fixed asset report. Officials said they are optimistic a draft audit will be ready within weeks.

Repairs to the transfer station are complete, where Porter noted, "it looks beautiful. ... perfect place for you to take your garbage. It's pretty spectacular." Sherwood Lane roadwork is finished except for minor edge work.

The reconstruction of North Main Street is being supported through a Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOT-CIP) grant, which provides state funding for municipal road improvements. Final design work is now underway. Residents were assured that safety considerations, including the addition of sidewalks and potential traffic-calming measures, would remain central to the project. The project will also address aging road surfaces and

drainage systems.

Town Events

Officials also highlighted several upcoming community events, including:

Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife and Drum Corps' annual muster and parade on Sept. 13; Night on the Green will be held on Sept. 20, featuring a family-friendly outdoor movie screening; and the townwide tag sale is scheduled for the first Saturday of October.

In recognition of National Library Card Month, Richmond Memorial Library has partnered with Shop Two Coffee to offer cardholders a free cookie voucher – part of a joint effort to promote both local literacy and small businesses.

Community Pride and Volunteerism

The board also discussed plans to place thousands of American Flags around town in advance of Sept. 11, a tradition carried out by volunteers. Last year, the town of Marlborough placed 436 American flags around the town to commemorate 9/11, according to selectman Debbie Bourbeau. A volunteer crew will meet Saturday morning at 9 a.m. to install them. Last year's installation "looked magnificent," said Porter. "We got so many positive comments."

Fire Department Chicken Barbecue

The Marlborough Fire Department will host its 69th annual Chicken Barbecue Sunday, Oct. 5, from noon-2 p.m., at Station No. 1 on Route 66 in Marlborough Center.

Tickets are \$18 per person and include a meal of half a chicken, freshly made coleslaw, a baked potato, a dinner roll, and a dessert. The fire station will be open for those who wish to dine in.

Additionally, the Women's Auxiliary will host a bake sale.

This annual event has a history of selling out quickly. Due to high demand and a limited

number of tickets, residents are encouraged to secure theirs as soon as possible. Tickets are being sold door to door by Marlborough firefighters. If a firefighter has not visited your home, you can purchase tickets by calling the firehouse at 860-295-6219 or Captain Todd Cohen at 860-573- 0428. Tickets will also be able for pick up at Marlborough Plastics, 350 North Main St.

Please leave a message with your name, address, and the number of tickets you need. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

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. All are invited to attend.

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, R.I., the Adamsville Ancients from

Delmar, N.Y., and the Ancient Mariners of Guilford have registered to attend. Some local favorites 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 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.MarlboroughJrAncients.com.

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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.

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RECOMMENDED

HOURS: TWF 8:30-5:30, THU 8:30-7:30, SAT 8-3

860-295-9366

RE2-28-25

Discovery Zone learning Center



45 Pendleton Dr.
Hebron
860-228-3952

152 Hebron Rd.
Marlborough
860-295-8003

2 Orlando Dr.
Columbia
860-228-8885

Infant, Toddler, Preschool, School Age Programs
Monday-Friday 7am-6pm Year Round
Ask about our curriculum & special programs!

REB-10-21

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

Youth Programs: Music/Dance: All classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee is \$140. 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.

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.” 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. 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

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

Events: Cancer Community Gathering: Sept. 17, 7-8:15 p.m. This is a self-led group of cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and loved ones. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lindsay Padula at hclindsapp@gmail.com.

Fall Prevention Presentation and Assessments: Join Aaron Morales, physical therapist and rehab director at the Visiting Nurses of the Lower Valley, on Sept. 17 at noon.

Medicare Presentation: Choices is a national program that provides free unbiased insurance counseling. The regional coordinator from the North Central Area Agency on Aging will be presenting on Sept. 17 at noon. The senior center will also have two open enrollment sessions at later dates

AARP Safe Driver Course: Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Lunch provided. Cost is \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-AARP members. Advance registration required.

Chair Yoga: Cost is \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents. The class is 45 minutes. October session: Oct. 14-Nov. 4. Call to register.

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

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

Regularly Scheduled Programs: Billiards: Mondays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon; **Bingo:** Mondays, 1-2 p.m. Each card costs \$1 and additional cards after are 50 cents; **Cards:** Monday, 2-3:30 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-3:30 p.m.; **Chair Massage:** No appointments until further notice.

Blood Pressure Checks (free) and Chatham Health Education Presentation: Monday, Sept. 22. BP checks will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., followed by a presentation on dementia from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

Coffee & Conversations: Meets the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. Each session includes a discussion on a particular topic of interest, activity and coffee. Sept. 18 topic – “What would you do if you won the lottery?”

September Birthdays: Will be celebrated with cake Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 1-2 p.m. Open to all friends and family. It does not have to be your birthday month to celebrate. However, if it is, please RSVP.

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

Parkinson’s Exercise: These are specialized exercise classes for those living with Parkinson’s disease. There is a fee for each class. Visit [\[www.marlboroughct.gov\]\(http://www.marlboroughct.gov\) 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.](http://www.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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

Adult Programs: 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 – Fall Session: 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.

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.

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.

Eversource: Low-income discount rates (5%, 15%, 20%, 40%, 50%) are available for electric bills. Based on income or receipt of public benefits. Proof required, 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.

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.

TTCP Upcoming Events

The Town Center Project (TTCP) has announced the following upcoming events. For more information, email ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org. The Town Center Project is a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization that completely runs on volunteers. Follow on Facebook at facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc for current updates or visit www.thetowncenterproject.org for more information on the group, its events and its mission.

Scarecrows Along Main: TTCP is again seeking neighborhoods, sports groups, service groups, houses of faith, local businesses and individuals to participate in decorating Hebron’s Main Street. Scarecrows need to be an original creation and in good taste. Set up is Friday, Sept. 26, through Sunday, Sept. 28. Scarecrows will be on display for the month of October, with removal by Nov. 2. Entry fee is \$20, registration is required. All applications must be received by Sept. 26.

Celebrate America’s 250th Anniversary: America celebrates 250 years of independence

Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 672 Gilead St., has announced the following. For more info, see the bulletin at gileadchurchucc.updates.church, email gcc@gileadchurch.net, or call the Parish House at 860-228-3077. The church office is open at the GCC Parish House Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Worship: The church will return to fall hours this Sunday, Sept. 14, with worship at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour at 11 a.m. Services can also be viewed online at YouTube at www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

This Week’s Scheduled Events/Meetings: Saturday, 9/13 – Garden Yoga at 9:30 a.m. (weather permitting); Sunday, 9/14 – Worship Service, with two baptisms, Sunday School Kickoff, and Blessing of the Backpacks, at 10 a.m. (in-person in the sanctuary, as well as online and livestreamed); Sunday, 9/14 – ‘Seeds of Hope’ Special Presentation at 11 a.m.; Monday, 9/15 – Bible study at 9 a.m. (online via Zoom); Tuesday, 9/16 – AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 9/10 – Garden Yoga at 9:30 a.m., weather permitting.

Card Game Nights: Hosted by the Fellowship Committee on the second and fourth Thursdays

Vacancies on Town Boards, Commissions

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

There are currently vacancies for regular members on the Commission on Aging, Hebron Housing Authority, Public Building Committee and the Hebron Green Committee.

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

There are three newly created alternate positions on the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA). The BAA is an official municipal agency designed to serve as an appeal body for taxpay-

Colonial Day Returns Sept. 20

Country Carpenters will hold the 15th annual Hebron Colonial Day Saturday, Sept. 20, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at 326 Gilead St.

This free, family-friendly event invites you to experience Hebron as it was in the 1750s.

Stroll back in time and observe historians dressed in period clothing; working on crafts, teaching school, working in the blacksmith shop, honing their craft in the woodworking shop and more.

Approximately 30 historians will help recreate what life in the mid-1700s was like in Hebron.

“We created Hebron Colonial Day with the goal of showing visitors a glimpse of what life in Hebron was like over 200 years ago,” said Fred J Brehant., the founder of Colonial Day. “We feel it is important that we hold onto our heritage

in 2026. All are invited to join TTCP at Douglas Library Saturday, Sept. 20, at 10:30 a.m., in the boardroom downstairs, as the group starts the planning process for the year-long festivities. Bring your ideas, your enthusiasm and your notebook.

Harvest Moon Festival: Saturday, Oct. 18, 1:30-6:30 p.m. Join TTCP along Main Street for some fall Halloween fun for the whole family. There will be a Jack-o’-lantern Carving Contest (bring and register your pumpkins by 6 p.m.), Scarecrows Along Main on-site voting, Monster Smash and Haunted Mini Golf at the Library have all been confirmed. The RHAM Drama Club and its spooky production team will be returning, as will Famous Legion burgers. Also, there will be illusionist Chris Lengyl, hand-selected vendors, and of course, trick-or-treating along Main Street. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 19. Want to help plan the event? Organizational meetings are held Saturdays at Douglas Library, at 10:30 a.m.

of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome; no need to bring anything.

Collection for HIHS Extended: The Board of Missions invites all to donate needed food staples and hygiene items for Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS). As the food pantry remains in critical need of donations and support, the church is extending its drive through Sunday, Sept. 14. A collection bin is in the church’s main hallway.

Card-Making with Gayle: Create unique, seasonal greeting cards for \$15 with part of the proceeds benefiting the Connecticut Food Bank. The next class is a special fundraiser for the ‘Hebron Rocks Alz’ Walk to End Alzheimer’s team on Sunday, Sept. 28, at 11 a.m.

Fall Save the Dates: Sunday, Sept. 14, Gilead Church Sunday School Kickoff, Blessing of the Backpacks, and ‘Seeds of Hope’ fundraiser; Saturday, Sept. 27, Trunk ‘n’ Treasure Tag Sale from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Gilead Church (rain date: Sunday, Sept. 28); Sunday, Oct. 5, 34th Annual Crop Hunger Walk at Andover Hop River; Sunday, Oct. 19: Fire Prevention & Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Presentation during worship at 10 a.m., and Hygiene Kit Assembly for Church World Service at 11:30 a.m.

ers who believe that the assessor erred in the valuation of their properties or erroneously denied an exemption. The BAA is the first level of appeal from the actions of the assessor.

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

All residents of Hebron who are registered to vote are eligible. Letters of interest may be addressed to: The Town Manager’s Office, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead St., Hebron CT 06248. People with questions can call 860-228-5971.

For more information, visit hebronct.com/contact-us/volunteer-opportunities.

Resident Takes Service-Learning Trip

Hebron resident Jessica Delyton was among physician assistant students from the Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies who embarked on a service-learning trip this summer to Guatemala with Global Medical Brigades.

Delton, a member of the Class of 2025, worked alongside local medical professionals to provide care, education, and support to residents in rural areas with limited access to health care.



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United Brethren Synagogue News and Notes

With fall approaching, United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue, located at 10 Church Street (Route 85) in the center of Hebron, invites you to welcome the Jewish New Year by participating in High Holiday services.

Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of Monday, Sept. 22, at 6:30 p.m., with a Zoom service. On Tuesday morning, Sept. 23, we meet to worship in person beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the synagogue. A special children's service will be held first, at 9:00 am. At the end of the morning service, all are invited for apples, honey and cake to welcome in a sweet new year.

Yom Kippur begins with an evening Kol Nidre service at 6:30 p.m. at the synagogue on Wednesday, Oct. 1. The next morning, Thursday, Oct. 2, Yom Kippur services start at 9 a.m. with a children's service. Then services for all ages begin at 9:30 a.m. with the additional Yizkor service held at approximately 11 a.m. and the closing service beginning at 5:30 p.m. The closing service will also be on Zoom. A break fast potluck dinner will be held around 6 p.m. at the synagogue.

There is no charge to attend services. All are welcome.

The synagogue thanked the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut for its grant to fund security during the High Holidays. This grant is made possible by funding from the Jewish Federations of North America's 2025 Emergency Security Fund in partnership with The Tepper Foundation.

In keeping with the holiday season, all who attend services are asked to bring a bag of food for the Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS) food bank, or to make a monetary donation to HIHS.

An upcoming program, Jewish Immigrant Farmers in Eastern Connecticut, offers the opportunity for people to tour the historic synagogue.

Also, on Sunday, Sept. 14 at 1 p.m., a showing of the documentary *Harvesting Stones* will be held at Saxton B. Little Library in Columbia. The film tells the story of how Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe ended up in towns like Hebron, Colchester, Columbia, and Lebanon and what their lives were like in the early-to-mid twentieth century. Then participants will get in their cars and drive first to the synagogue in Columbia and then to United Brethren of Hebron for tours and Q & A. The program is open to all and is free.

A capital campaign has been launched to fund renovations to the historic synagogue building. To learn more, go to www.gofundme.com/f/support-united-brethren-hebrons-vital-work.

United Brethren of Hebron offers a flexible, inclusive approach to Judaism. The synagogue combines elements from both the Conservative and Reform traditions in our services and our membership includes interfaith families and couples.

If you are interested in attending services, becoming a member or would like to learn more about the synagogue, visit www.ubofhebron.org or email ubofhebron@gmail.com.

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



At top, a Dock Dog performer takes a dive after their favorite toy, and, above, Sea Lions Kitty and Lily perform headstands.

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



From top, the brightly colored Ferris wheel turns as children's laughter fills the air; Shelly Plue of Harwinton leads Loki through the crowd as he collects donations for the BAARK Foundation; and KuneKune piglets, which can grow to 120-300 pounds, nudge the ground with their snouts as they gear up for their race.

★ Hebron Harvest Fair, cont. from page 1

tors showcased their machines' strength in an event rooted in old-fashioned bragging rights. Meanwhile, crowds marveled at the Oxen Pulls, where animals standing up to seven feet tall and weighing over 2,500 pounds pulled staggering weights.

Between the big events, families discovered smaller but no less memorable joys. Children petted farm animals and learned firsthand that pigs don't feel soft, but rather rough. Parents gathered under tents, swapping stories over plates of curly fries and teenagers carried plush prizes won on the midway, proudly showing off their victories. It was in these little moments that the heart of the Hebron Harvest Fair truly shone: a blend of tradition, community and discovery.

For many, the Hebron Harvest Fair is more than an event – it's an annual ritual.

"This is one of the cool events you don't get to see too often," said St. Germain, who has plans to return. The Kohn family echoed the same sentiment, explaining that the fair keeps drawing them back year after year.

As the weekend came to a close, fairgoers left with bags of crafts, full bellies and memories of sea lions, dogs and racing pigs. Some already had their calendars marked for next September. The Hebron Harvest Fair offered four days of unforgettable family fun – and once again, it delivered.

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Community Fund Still Accepting Grant Applications

The Hebron Greater Together Community Fund is looking for local folks who have a great idea to benefit the community, but just need a little funding to get started.

Hebron is one of 29 towns surrounding Hartford, which benefit from the Hartford

Foundation for Public Giving. Each year, the HGTCF receives a donation which is intended to be disbursed within our community to promote new ventures and projects for the town's improvement. This year's grant application is on the HGTCF website and the deadline for application is Oct. 1. Here are some examples of past projects that have been wholly or partially funded by a grant from HGTCF.

The Rev. Ron Kolanowski of St. Peter's Episcopal Church recently discussed the grant the church received in the 2024 cycle.

"Our grant was critical to fund an important concert of music by an enslaved African American which was discovered in the archives of Trinity College," he said. "It was composed and written down by Sawney Freeman in early 1800."

Kolanowski said the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CODE) in Hebron co-hosted for the Martin Luther King Jr holiday, followed by dinner and a program in St. Peter's parish hall. The speakers were Diane Orson from NPR and Anthony Pandolfe who scored this music for

strings.

"It was a well-attended event and powerful program featuring one of America's oldest known enslaved composers," he said. "We thought this was an important concert to hold for the MLK celebration and was hugely successful. Given the unique nature of it, the concert could not have happened without the HGTCF. It was also a great example of collaborating with another important community group in town."

Annette Langevin from the Gilead Congregational Church explained how they used their grant.

"We at the Gilead Congregational Church used our grant money to fund three sessions of goat yoga and story time with goats," Langevin said. "Our focus was on how to improve well-being both mentally and physically while also bringing the community together as it's been found that loneliness is at epidemic proportions. What better way to impact all three things?"

Langevin added, "The goat yoga was a huge success, with participants from many surrounding communities as well as Hebron. Giggles and laughter could be heard throughout the session and everyone left with big smiles on their faces. The story time with goats was precious, especially seeing the smiles on both our youth and the adults (many of them grandparents) that attended."

Drusilla Carter, director of Douglas Library, described how they applied their grant to help fund new furniture for the teen center in the library.

"We purchased furniture for the teen area to replace the existing furniture, which definitely wasn't designed for teenagers," Carter said. "The furniture we purchased is heavy duty foam, no hard frames or edges, and is designed to be used in whatever configuration the teens like, and by as many of them as want to pile on it at once. It also looks really cool!"

"The teens love it," she continued. "They were really excited when they saw it, and they love being able to flip it around or lay it on its side and use it however is comfortable for them. And we love that foam means it doesn't make loud noises when it falls over or when the kids kick it! We were able to use some funding from donations and from an existing Lions grant to match the funds from HGTCF, and we certainly couldn't have done it without the HGTCF grant – good heavy-duty furniture is expensive, but this should last for years and it makes a huge difference for the kids and for other users of the library, so it's worth every penny."

So get thinking. What have you wanted to do or wanted to see happen in Hebron that a grant from HGTCF might help to get started? We re-

ally love to help folks with these great "kitchen table" ideas to realize their vision and benefit our community.

The Hebron Greater Together Community Fund (HGTCF) has announced an Oct. 1 deadline for grant applications to support projects during 2026 that improve the quality of life for citizens of the Hebron community.

Eligible grant applicants are 501c3 nonprofit organizations that serve the citizens of Hebron. Individuals or a group of citizens may submit an application in partnership with a nonprofit organization that has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent of the proposed project. Grantees must be willing to announce and display in all publicity that the project is supported by the HGTCF. Final reports for a previous grant must be completed.

Grant applicants may apply for amounts ranging from \$500 to \$7,500. Grants over \$1,000 require matching donations of either cash and or in-kind donations of equipment, labor, materials, services, etc. Each grant applicant will be interviewed by members of the HGTCF Committee. Grant awards for 2026 will be announced in December.

For HGTCF application instructions and forms, email Hebron@hfgpcommunityfunds.org.

Online Resources for Historic Research

Are you interested in learning about free online resources for historic research? The Hebron Historical Society and the Douglas Library invite you to a PowerPoint presentation by Romano Ghirlanda, president of Marlborough Preservation Society. This program will be held in community room of the library, 22 Main St., on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 11:30 a.m.

This program covers free online resources available through the Connecticut State Library and is divided into two sections.

Parks and Rec News & Notes

Hebron Parks and Recreation is offering the following. For full program descriptions – including costs – and to register, please visit hebronct.recdesk.com/community or call 860-530-1281.

Family Movie Night: All are invited Saturday, Sept. 13, for a movie under the stars at Veterans Memorial Park. The movie is free and open to all. Bring a blanket or beach chair. There will be food and fun starting at 6:30 p.m., and the movie starts at 7:30 p.m. *The Sandlot will be shown.*

Youth Basketball: Registration is open for the grades K-12 Recreational and Travel basket-

ball programs.

Home Alone Safety for Kids: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 5-6:30 p.m., at the Gilead Hill School PREP Room. This is a unique class for boys and girls ages 8-13 who are left home alone. This interactive course will cover safety concerns parents have when their children are by themselves.

Babysitters Training: Saturday, Oct. 4, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Gilead Hill School PREP Room. This is an entry-level course intended to teach age-appropriate skills necessary to care for children of all ages. Please bring lunch. Registration deadline: Thursday, Oct. 2, 5 p.m. Fee: \$110.

Upcoming at the Library

The following events are taking place at Douglas Library. For more information, call 860-228-9312 or visit douglaslibrary.org.

Adult Programs: Poetry Group: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Hebron Poet Laureate Larry Zimmerman will lead an informal discussion of poetry. Bring one of your own poems to share for discussion and critique. Open to all ages.

Friday Films: Fridays, Sept. 12 and 19, 1 p.m. *The Unholy Trinity* (rated R) will be shown 9/12, and *Jurassic World: Rebirth* (PG-13) on 9/19. There will be free water and freshly made popcorn.

Quiet Reading Club: Saturday, Sept. 13, 2:45-4 p.m. Settle in with a good book for an hour of quiet reading time after the library closes.

Cookbook Club: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m. Each month, read a different cookbook, and each person will choose a recipe to make and share with the group. This month, the club will read and cook from *Apple Cookbook*. Cookbooks are available for checkout.

Bad Movie Matinee: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 1 p.m. *Cowboys vs. Dinosaurs* will be shown. This film is not rated.

Book Discussion: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m., at the American Legion. Discussed will be *The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club*. Must be 21 or over to attend.

American Job Center: Thursday, Sept. 18, from 3-5 p.m. – William Newton will be here to help you with your resume and answer all your questions regarding training programs and finding a job.

Chess Nights: Pickup games every Thursday starting at 3:30 p.m. in the Community Room. All skill levels welcome.

Museum Passes: Most of the museum passes are print-from-home from the library website. See the complete list under the 'Services' tab.

Knit Wits: Mondays at 6 p.m. Bring your project or your questions for this group of knitters and crocheters.

St. Peter's Turkey Dinner

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., will hold its next monthly community dinner Saturday, Sept. 20, from 4 p.m. until sold out. The menu will include turkey breast, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, Sandy Marshall's julienned carrots, roll, and your choice of dessert. The cost is \$17.

There are no preorders or reservations. A server will come to your vehicle while you are in line and take your order. You will receive

a ticket for each dinner desired. The servers will take your ticket(s), payment, and dessert choice and return to your vehicle with your dinner(s) and dessert. They will place your items in your back seat, trunk, or hand it to you. You will not need to get out of your car.

As part of the St. Peter's outreach programs, a portion of each meal sold this month will go to the Tara Farm Rescue in Coventry.

For more details, contact the church at 860-228-3244 or visit www.StPetersHebron.com.

The Worship Center News & Notes

The Worship Center, a non-denominational Christian church, holds services and programs at 99 Marjorie Circle (unless noted). For more information and full program descriptions, visit theworshipcenterct.org and click on the 'events/calendar' link, or call 860-228-4442.

Worship: Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. and are also broadcast on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@theworshipcenter9733.

Kingdom Women: Women's Bible Study: The study will continue in the Book of Psalms every first and third Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the church.

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship!

Church of The Holy Family News

The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), celebrates weekend Masses Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and weekday Masses Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Visit www.goodshepherdct.org for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-3727. Church of The Holy Family is a member of the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd, with the Rev. Michael Phillippino serving as Pastor.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Phillippino is available for the sacrament on Thursdays at 7 a.m. and on Saturdays at 4 p.m., or by appointment (church phone ext. 110). Refer to the parish website for other available times at St. Columba Church in Columbia.

Praise Band and Choir Rehearsals: New members (voices and musical instruments) are welcome. Choir rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., and Praise Band rehearsals are Thursdays at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will resume Sept. 23 and 25. For details, contact Nicole Bernier, Music Ministry, at music@goodshepherdct.org or see her after Mass.

"Neighbors Feeding Neighbors": The Social Outreach Committee collects breakfast cereal on the second Sunday of each month for the benefit of the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Wilimantic. The next collection date is Sept. 14. However, cereal is most welcome any time. Place bagged donations in the oak collection box near the Robing Room.

Youth Ministry: Welcomes all parish teens in grades 8-12. This year's kick-off meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 13, at 6:30 p.m., in the St. Columba Youth Center. Safe environment-certified adults are always present to ensure compliance with Diocesan Safe Environment

'Scavenger Hunt': Friday, Sept. 12. All middle school and high school youth are welcome. All youth are invited for food, a lesson, and a scavenger hunt. Kids are welcome to come either at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and the whole event, or arrive at 8 p.m. for dessert and activity. Pick-up is at 9:30 p.m.

Virtual Prayer Night: Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. Contact the church office or website for a link and meeting ID.

One-to-One Confidential Christian Care: Provided by Stephen Ministry to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office; there are several new ministers trained and wanting to help.

Guidelines. See the parish website for more information and announcements of meeting dates and details.

Bicycle Drive for Willimantic Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM): Through September, the Social Outreach Committee will collect donations of serviceable adult bicycles and equipment such as Ulocks, bike tubes, pumps, chains, and helmets for adult transportation. Donors can drop off donations at the church garage (interior left side; enter through the side entrance) or at the WAIM loading dock on Riverside Drive in Willimantic, Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon.

Collection for Project HOPE, Inc. (Homeless Shelter): The Social Outreach Committee is collecting the following items for the shelter: household cleaning products, paper towels, TP & 13- and 55-gallon trash bags; men's crewneck T-shirts & boxer briefs (M,L XL,2XL); women's briefs (sizes 6-10); men's & women's crew & no-show socks; women's personal hygiene products; and laundry pods or liquid detergent. Place bagged donations in the oak collection box next to the Cry Room. Call Monica McErracher (860-228-4211) for more information.

Parish Picnic: On Sunday, Sept. 21, from 2:30-5:30 p.m., the parish will celebrate a combined 100 years, with the 70th anniversary of St. Columba Church and the 30th anniversary of the Church of the Holy Family. The celebration will take place at the pavilion located in the Columbia Recreation Area on 10 Hennequin Rd., Columbia. Parishioners are asked to confirm attendance by Sept. 14 using the sign-up sheets posted or the QR code on the small flyers in each church to access the sign-up genius.



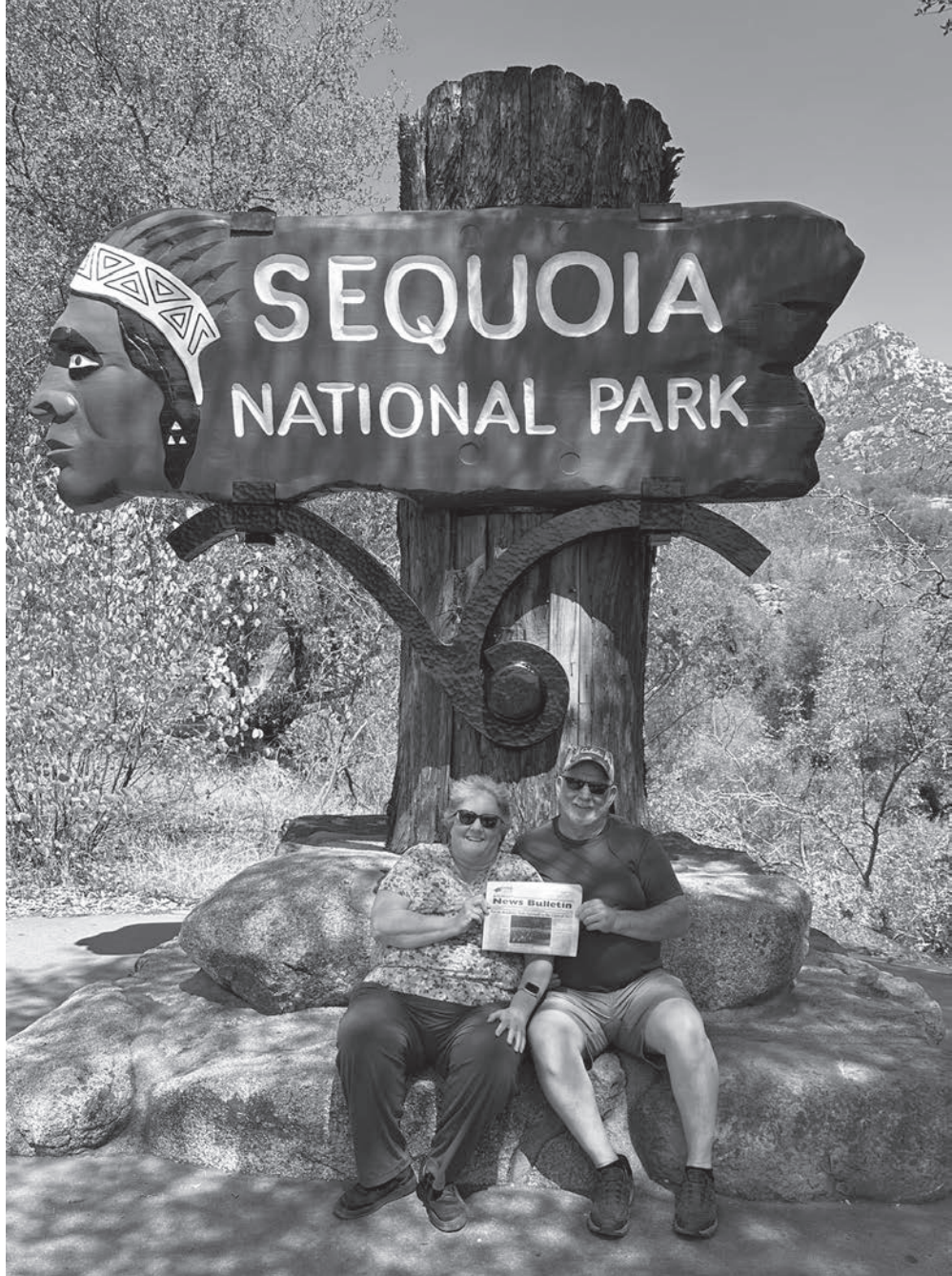
Paper at Pikes Peak... Dave and Sue Meurs of Colchester took the *Rivereast* with them to the summit of Pikes Peak in Colorado, at 14,115 feet above sea level. Lots of people asked them about the *Rivereast*, they said!

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!



Digging Denali... Nicolle and Michael Coffin of Colchester recently went to Denali, Alaska – where they visited Denali National Park and Preserve!



Super Sequoia... Steve and Barb Goodwin of Colchester are traveling in their RV seeing the U.S. There's so much to see, they said! They said they've been in awe of some of the areas they've visited, but so far, Sequoia National Park is at the top for this trip. "We still have a lot of traveling to do before we get back to Connecticut," they said.



Smarter than the Average Bears!... John and Gail Phillips of East Hampton, along with their granddaughters Ashley and Aubrey Phillips, recently went on a vacation to Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp Resort in Carver, Mass. They brought along the *Rivereast*, of course! They had loads of fun visiting with Yogi, Boo Boo and Cindy Bear.

? 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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Congrats, Cadets!... Pictured are Colchester Fire Cadets Lt. Hunter Lambert and Capt. Brody Derr. Lambert and Derr graduated from the Connecticut Fire Academy weeklong Advanced Skills and Concepts Class on Aug. 16. This advanced class builds on skills learned last year in the introduction class. At graduation, the class puts on a demonstration by responding to a simulated call involving fire, vehicle extrication, standpipe operations and high-angle rope rescue.

September is Blood Cancer Awareness Month

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, now known as Blood Cancer United, is organizing its annual Light the Night Walk at Rentschler Field on Thursday evening, Oct. 9 – and once again, the Colchester Pavement Pounders are participating.

With over 100 types of blood cancers, Blood Cancer United supports lifesaving and innova-

tive research, provides financial assistance for patients, and advocates for patients and their families. This is the third year for the Colchester Pavement Pounders team, and all residents are welcome to join. If the group raises more than \$5,000 by Oct. 9, Colchester has a chance to be featured in *USA Today*.

To donate, visit tinyurl.com/3v39vahw.

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

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

like Scrooge's. The cost is \$160 per person and includes a huge buffet dinner and cabaret style performances. Space is limited.

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

Colchester History Museum Open Weekly

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

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

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

Medium at Polish Club

The St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will host medium Rebecca Anne LoCicero on Saturday Oct. 4.

Doors open at 6 p.m.; be seated by 6:45 p.m. so the show can start on time. LoCicero will be at the club from 7-9 p.m.

Tickets are limited, are \$30 per person and are on sale at the club.

For more information, call 860-537-2550.

Designer Purse Bingo

East Hampton High School Project Graduation will hold its second annual Designer Purse Bingo Saturday, Oct. 18, at Priam Vineyards in Colchester.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m., and games start at 7:15 p.m.

Cost is \$35 per ticket. For tickets, go to ehhprojectgraduation.ludus.com/200468698. Tickets will not be available at the door.

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 proj-

ects 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.

Youth Football Recap

The Colchester Cougars youth football squads were in action last weekend against Tolland. Here is how they fared:

Seniors: Lost in the rain, 20-0. After injuries knocked out a few of the Cougars, Tony Bitgood, Payton Belch and Jaxon Ward filled roles they were not accustomed to and did a great job.

Juniors: Lost, falling to 0 and 2 on the season. Having lost a couple of key skill position players to injury and minus three linemen for the contest, the Cougars managed to dig in a bit on defense but could not reach pay dirt offensively.

Micro: Lost, 14-6. The team came out strong, with Ryker Mathews scoring the first 6 points of the game. Unfortunately, just before half-time, the game was postponed due to weather. Coming back Monday night, Silas Constant had a breakaway for more than 50 yards and Cam

Brodeur had a 13-yard catch. However, the Cougars were not able to capitalize on their moment and lost.

Peewee: The squad took a step in the right direction this week against Tolland. Despite a lackluster first half where the team had only 6 offensive plays, the Cougars played an even second half of football topped by a long run by Jacob Martin to end the game. The Cougars were able to drive the ball several times in the second half and even got a four down stop. The staff will focus on the little things during the bye week as the players proved they have the competitiveness and toughness to compete.

Up next for the Colchester Cougars is Whaling City in New London, on Sunday, Sept. 14. The Micros play at 11 a.m., Juniors at 1 p.m., and Seniors at 3 p.m. Peewee has a bye week.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Colchester Veterans Honor Guard will host a Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Joseph Polish Club, 395 South Main St., on Sept. 16 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Blood donations always needed to meet the demands from hospitals for surgery and other procedures. While donations of all blood types are needed, the Red Cross especially needs type O Negative and type B Negative blood donors.

Download the American Red Cross app or go to the Red Cross website at www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment. Also note that walk-ins can also be accommodated.

For more information, contact Al Letendre at letendrej@sbcglobal.net.

Toastmasters Open House

The Air Line Trail Club Toastmasters will have an Open House at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., on Thursday, Sept. 25, from 6:30-8 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m.

Discover the art of communication and leadership at this interactive event. The Toastmasters program is designed to help you build the skills and confidence necessary to express yourself effectively in any scenario.

The group holds regular meetings the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 6:30 p.m., at Town Hall. For more information, email contact-6976@toastmastersclubs.org.

Garden Club

‘Plants and More Sale’

The Colchester Garden Club is having its third annual “Plants and More Sale” Sunday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 35 Hayward Ave.

There will be locally grown perennials, houseplants, garden tools, handmade gifts, flower pots, and more. Purchases help the Colchester Garden Club with its programs including community beautification, senior center activities, youth gardening, and public educational programs.

Senior Health & Wellness Fair

All are welcome to the Senior Health & Wellness Fair being held Friday, Sept. 19, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane.

There will be free information on home health services, assisted living, skilled nursing facilities and rehab services, Medicare, transition services, Alzheimer's programs and more. A blood pressure clinic will also be offered.

For more information, call 860-537-3911 or email cscprograms@colchesterct.gov.

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A Mansion Like No Other



This sprawling, 50,000-square-foot, \$9.9 million estate – formerly owned by the likes of 50 Cent and Mike Tyson – may be located in Farmington, but a Colchester resident has the pleasure of selling it. The resident, Sherry Borgeson, was Berkshire Hathaway’s top-selling agent in Connecticut this year.

By Toriana Williams

On a quiet stretch of property in Farmington sits a home that feels more like a self-contained world of its own. Recently listed for \$9.9 million, this 50,000-square-foot estate is one of Connecticut’s most jaw-dropping residences, having amenities that could rival luxury resorts and a history that includes both celebrity parties and boardroom meetings.

This listing is represented by Colchester local Sherry Borgeson, Berkshire Hathaway’s top-selling agent in Connecticut this year, who says the sprawling estate is so vast she had to walk through it alone several times just to learn its layout.

At over 50,000 square feet, the estate is more than double the size of many hotels and could pass for a town on its own. It encompasses a main house with east and west wings, a guest house and a pool house. With 19 bedrooms in the main residence and several more across the property, the house offers extraordinary space for family, guests or even multiple households.

Each wing is fully equipped with its own kitchen, living room, dining area and separate entrance. While it generally functions as a single mansion, the home can be closed off into three distinct residences. A gated entry, elevator and dramatic dual curved staircases in the foyer set the tone for the grandeur inside.

The numbers alone are staggering: 43 bathrooms across the estate, with many bedrooms featuring two apiece. Several bedrooms include lofts, walk-in closets and sweeping views of the landscaped grounds that cover over 17 acres. When it comes to kitchens, there are seven in total – ranging from modern family setups in each wing to a professional-grade caterer’s kitchen outfitted with restaurant-quality equipment.

The estate was built for more than just living – it was built for entertaining. Its indoor and outdoor pools, including a grotto-style retreat beneath stone arches and a waterfall, provide year-round luxury. There is also a hot tub, sauna and steam room, if you’d like a little bit of a

sweat.

Sports and recreation are abundant, with a full gym “nicer than any gym I’ve had a membership to,” according to Borgeson, a racquetball court with a viewing gallery and billiards and game rooms.

But it’s the unexpected touches that make this property unforgettable.

Inside, this one-of-a-kind-home contains a nightclub spanning nearly 4,000 square feet, complete with high-end lighting, a DJ booth and wet bar. There is also a casino featuring tables sourced directly from Las Vegas that can aid in giving charities or dinner parties an authentic feel. Kick back and watch your favorite films in the movie theater with plush seating, and scream your favorite tunes in a recording studio, where rapper 50 Cent once recorded music videos and albums.

The estate’s expansive grounds are designed as thoughtfully as the interior. A stocked pond with a paddleboat and fountain creates a park-like centerpiece, while a system of walking paths and bridges invites leisurely strolls. Perhaps most striking is the helipad, rated to accommodate any type of helicopter. From there, the Hamptons, New York City or Boston are less than 30 minutes away. The property also includes an eight-car garage, catering to collectors and commuters alike.

The mansion’s history is as renowned as its design. Originally built by Colonial Realty, the home later passed into the hands of heavy-weight champion Mike Tyson before being purchased by rapper 50 Cent, whose lavish parties attracted thousands of guests.

The current owners, by contrast, have transformed it into a family home and business hub. With seven children, some of whom now work in the family’s company, Askar Corporation, they reimagined the mansion as a professional and personal retreat. A fully outfitted board-

room, complete with state and nation flags, has hosted meetings with politicians and business leaders.

The property was listed on Aug. 28, and interest has already been substantial. National media outlets including *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Post* have all covered the listing. Showings are limited to financially qualified buyers – proof of at least \$10 million in assets is required before even stepping through the gates. Despite this, Borgeson said she’s been surprised by how many serious inquiries she’s received. Until it sells, the family is open to allowing the property to be used for select high-end events.

Representing such a sprawling, high-profile property requires both expertise and grit. Borgeson, who has worked in real estate for 26 years, is the number-one Berkshire Hathaway agent in Connecticut by number of homes sold this year, according to Multiple Listing Service (MLS) data. Known for her tireless work ethic – taking client calls as early as 6 a.m. and as late as 11 p.m. – Borgeson emphasizes honesty and long-term client relationships over chasing commissions.

When asked her favorite feature of the mansion, she points to the grand foyer and the indoor pool, both of which embody the house’s mix of elegance and fun.

For a state better known for its colonial homes and coastal retreats, this Farmington estate stands apart. Equal parts luxury resort, corporate campus and family compound, it embodies both extravagance and versatility. Whether its future owner envisions it as a retreat, an entertainer’s paradise or a multi-generational home, one thing is clear: properties like this don’t come around often. With its scale, amenities and history, it remains one of Connecticut’s most remarkable addresses – a mansion that feels like a world of its own.

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Selectmen OK Sewer Budget, Safety Upgrades

By Toriana Williams

The Colchester Board of Selectmen moved through a packed agenda this week, approving the town's sewer budget and rates, greenlighting critical safety upgrades at a pump station, authorizing several major financial transfers and addressing early childhood services.

Early Childhood Services Agreement
The first major item of the evening focused on early childhood education and family support. The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved authorizing First Selectman Bernie Dennler to sign a local governance partner subcontractor agreement with Shine Early Learning on behalf of Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3).
C3's director, Cindy Praisner, explained that the move stems from the state's new Early Start Initiative, which consolidates funding streams and adds Shine Early Learning as an intermediary between local councils and the state Office of Early Childhood.
"On our local level, nothing's really going to change," Praisner told the board. "We already had a parent ambassador in place, but their expectations are shifting a little more locally – and they're being funded through this grant money."
Praisner highlighted the range of services C3 provides, including connecting families to infant care openings, running "play and learn" groups for children under five, offering parent workshops on child development and providing free professional development to daycare providers.
She noted that the group also partners with organizations like Thames Valley Council for

Community Action (TVCCA), which offers home visiting programs for new mothers.
"We connect families to those programs. We also offer direct programs to families ... so they're not out there doing it alone," said Praisner.

Sewer Rates and Budget Approved
Another of the night's most significant items was the approval of the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) sewer operating budget, set at \$1.7 million. The decision came after a detailed explanation of how postage costs and other expenses are included under "service contracts."
Questions were raised about whether the town was still directly paying for postage. A response clarified that the bills are now handled by an outside contractor. The board ultimately voted unanimously to approve the sewer operating budget and supporting rates.
Safety Upgrades at Pump Station
Safety dominated the next section of discussion as the board considered authorizing \$81,500 for confined space ventilation upgrades at the Prospect Hill Pump Station, with Colchester's portion offset by Hebron's cost-sharing. The facility, located off Route 2 near Savitsky's Farm, has long posed challenges for maintenance crews due to its underground vaults.
The well is approximately 50 feet deep, "and there's an equal vault that's 50 feet deep next to it," said Public Works Director Joseph Leone.
The greatest concern consists of the lack of

forced air circulation.
"Right now, our forced air system at that pump station is non-operational," he said. "It had flooded earlier this year, and it damaged the panel and it damaged the fan in the wet well."
Leone added a stark reminder of the risks.
"Anyone who's taken OSHA before knows that [during] a confined space entry ... you could be breathing something potentially toxic, and pass out," he said, adding, "There's stories about pipe crews that ... all end up dying trying to save each other because they weren't prepared."
The board voted unanimously to approve the upgrades, with assurances that new fans and control panels would be relocated above ground to prevent future flood damage.
\$235,000 for Water Project
Selectmen also authorized a \$235,000 contract with Haley Ward to provide construction administration, inspection and required state paperwork for the town's upcoming water project. Haley Ward, formerly Lenard Engineering, designed the town's original plant and has remained closely involved.
"They're intimately familiar with the plant," said Leone. "That's why I'd want them to be running the construction administration, the inspection and the DWSRF paperwork aspects of it." The board approved the proposal without opposition.
Workers' Compensation Settlement
Two financial transfers rounded out the evening. First, the board recommended transferring \$149,088 from the unassigned fund balance

to cover the second payment in former deputy fire chief Don Lee's workers' compensation settlement case. The case was previously settled in November 2024, with the understanding that funds would not be built into the budget.
"We paid the bill in June as the court stipulated ... but we now need to reimburse that line item for ourselves in the budget," said Dennler.
The second transfer involved moving \$150,000 from the town's snow reserve into the vehicle reserve, earmarked for the purchase of plow trucks and other snow-related equipment.
Board members acknowledged that the snow reserve was originally intended as a cushion for harsh winters, but with the balance exceeding \$350,000, they agreed it made sense to reallocate part of it.
"It makes sense for us to do it now," Leone said, "because the state is increasing their emissions requirements. So in order for us to keep these trucks on the road, we will need to replace their engines, which is like a \$20,000 cost per truck."
He added, "By doing this transfer, we're providing savings there."
Meeting Wrap-Up
Before adjourning, board members thanked staff for their diligence, particularly on water and sewer issues. "Joe, I do want to thank you for your work on this, getting the sewer and water budgets back up to date and caught up," Dennler told Leone. "I know that it's been a large undertaking to sort of get this issue wrapped up that's been lingering for a few years."

Westchester Church News
Westchester Congregational Church, located at 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend. The church choir always welcomes new members. Services are also available on Zoom; visit www.westchestercongregationalchurch.org for login information. Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.
Twelve-Step Meetings: Al-Anon meets in Canney Hall Wednesdays at 7 p.m. AA meets in Canney Hall Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
Scouts: The church sponsors Scouting America Troop 109. During the school year, Troop 109 meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knitting Group meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. Many knitted, crocheted, and quilted items have been sent to Native American reservations, hospitals for babies, and other places to help those in need. The Blessings Box is at the end of the church parking lot and contains donations of non-perishable food, personal care, and other items for those in need. Take what you need; donate what you can. Also, the church sponsors the Wounded Warrior Project, a donation opportunity to help veterans.
For more information, visit westchestercongregationalchurch.org, email westconchurch@gmail.com or call the church at 860-267-6711. Pastor Ron Lake can be reached at 860-428-3460.

Colchester Federated Church News
Colchester Federated Church is located at 60 Main St., and pastor is the Rev. Lauren Ostrout. The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and can be reached at 860-537-5189 or cfc06415@gmail.com.
Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m. The service is also broadcast via Facebook Live. Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship tab. Updated information is on the church's Facebook page.
Twelve-Step Meetings: AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.
Boy Scout Troop 72: Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m. from September through June.

Senior Center News & Notes
Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane, has announced the following. **Unless noted, registration is required for all programs.** For full program descriptions and to register, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or for a full list of activities, visit www.colchesterct.gov.
Monday, Sept. 15: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 10:45 a.m., Free Bacon Bingo; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 11 a.m.-noon, fitness orientation by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge, Set Back.
Tuesday, Sept. 16: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:30 a.m., Watercolor Class No. 5; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club, Maritime Wonders Trip Presentation; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole, Boston Lights Trip Departs from St. Andrew Church, Senior Listening Session; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.
Wednesday, Sept. 17: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology by Appointment; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Be Like Bacon Banquet: Wisdom Through the Ages; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.
Thursday, Sept. 18: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m.; Yoga; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage by appointment;

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Eagle Scout Project Car Wash

Boy Scout Troop 72 Eagle Scout candidate Chase Vandrillo will have an Eagle Scout Project car wash on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Colchester Federated Church on 60 Main St.

The purpose of the car wash is to raise funds to create a Lions Club Memorial Monument at Lions Pond on Halls Hill Road. The area is frequently used for the Lions Club fishing derby and by other people throughout the year.

Cash donations to the project fund will also be appreciated. Donations can be sent to the Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main Street to “Troop 72 BSA” add note: “For Colchester Lions Monument.”

For more information, call 860-465-7909.

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.

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.

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.

Wetland Ecosystem Exploration

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Programs at Library

Cragin Memorial Library, located at 8 Linwood Ave., has announced the following programs. 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. 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 Challenges, 6 p.m., family program – no registration required; Wednesdays: Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Ages up to 12 months; Thursdays: Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Ages 3 – 5; Story & a Craft, 5 p.m., for children and their caregivers -- no registration required; Fridays: Sensory Table (Runs year-round regardless of storytime sessions), 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Teen Subscription Book Boxes: First Monday 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 register.

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 register.

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 caregivers.

Birding by Ear with the Connecticut Audubon 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-Saturday, 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 different 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 children 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.

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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. Last-minute registrations are being accepted.

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

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

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.



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C3 Fall Programs

The Collaborative for Colchester’s Children (C3) has free fall programs for families with young children. Play & Learn groups and parent/caregiver educational workshops are now open for registration. To learn more and to register, go to ColchesterC3.org.

State Police 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 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.”



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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.

Ahavath Achim Schedule

Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., has announced the following schedule: **Services:** Fridays at 6:30 p.m., live and on Zoom; Saturdays at 10 a.m., live and on Zoom. **Classes on Tuesdays:** Folklore of the Talmud at 6 p.m., followed by Talmud at 6:30 p.m., and Kabbalah at 8 p.m. For more information, or Zoom links, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Veteran Coffee House

The next Colchester Veteran Coffee House will be held at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 10:15 a.m.-noon. Contact Mary Gura at 860-537-2921 with questions or suggestions for speakers.

Bacon Academy Open House

There will be a Bacon Academy Open House Thursday, Sept. 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the high school. All prospective Bacon students – and their parents – are invited to come tour the campus and facilities, see Bacon’s extracurricular options at its Club Fair, and watch music, tech ed., and FCS workshops and demos. For more information, visit ba.colchesterct.org.

Pumpkins & Pooches are Coming!

Pumpkins & Pooches, hosted by the Colchester Dog Park, will be held Oct. 4, from 1-4:30 p.m., at Hop Culture Farms & Brew Co., 144 Cato Corner Rd. All are invited – including dogs! There will be pet-related vendors, raffles, treat bag decorating, and other activities for the kids – all while supplies last. There will be dog costume contests at 3 p.m. Dogs must be vaccinated and on leashes. No retractable leashes please. Also, organizers are still accepting pet related vendors. Contact tag-nobark@gmail.com for info.



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REG-12-25



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: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Adult Programs: 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.

Fall Into Flowers: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m. Create a beautiful fall arrangement while learning the basics of growing your own cut flower garden. Vessel and florals provided. Space is limited; registration required.

Tech Help: Thursday, Sept. 25, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

Teen Programs: 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 the library's.

Reading Merit Badge: Saturday, Sept. 27, 11 a.m. Teen librarian Keri Lancelot is a Reading Merit Badge counselor. All scouts are welcome to come to the library and work on the requirements for Reading Merit Badge in a group setting. Workbooks (and snacks) will be provided. Scouts can also reach out to Lancelot on an individual basis anytime.

Children's Programs: Cartooning Workshops with Jason Deeble: Tuesdays, Sept. 16 and 23, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Author, educator and graphic artist Jason Deeble will help kids level up their drawing skills, build unforgettable characters, and create dynamic plots.

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.

DIY Days: Saturday, Sept. 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a different toy, game, or treat together. No registration required; just drop in.

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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.

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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REG-14-24

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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.

Police News

8/27: Stewart McClellan, 43, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with second-degree threatening and disorderly conduct, East Hampton Police said.

8/27: Karin Johnson, 54, of Portland, was issued a summons and was charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension, police said.

8/27: Sydney Rae, 30, of Bristol, was issued a summons for operating under the influence, police said.

8/31: Katrina Cecer, 26, of Old Lyme, was arrested and charged with electronic stalking and disorderly conduct, police said.

9/1: Dewight Cassells, 40, of East Hampton, was issued a summons and was charged with second-degree criminal mischief, police said.

From Aug. 25-31, officers responded to 19 medical calls, four motor vehicle crashes and three alarms, and made 12 traffic stops, police said.

Art Association to Meet

The East Hampton Art Association will host watercolor artist Bivenne Harvey Staiger at its program and meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m., in the East Hampton Public Library function room.

Staiger is a signature member of several art organizations. Her work has received such awards as the Silver Medal from American Watercolor Society's 152nd annual exhibition (2019). She was a featured artist in *Watercolor Artist* magazine's January/February 2020 issue, and she is the author of *White! Light! Bright!*

How to Make Your Backgrounds Support and Enhance Your Watercolor Paintings (2022). She has illustrated the children's book *I Love You as Much As...* by Sarah Caratasios (2024).

Staiger offers classes, workshops and demonstrations in watercolor throughout southern New England. She is represented by Spectrum Art Gallery in Centerbrook, and her website is at www.bivennefineart.com.

For the Sept. 17 program, admission for non-members is \$5, and students are free. Refreshments will be served.

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: Practice is at 8:30 a.m. Sunday. Email Linda Napolitano at lindanapolitano@me.com for more information.

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

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Senior Bowling League

Calling all seniors in the nine *Rivereast* towns! A brand-new Monday Morning Senior Bowling League is forming now and will start Sept. 29.

The league is designed for those who have not bowled in over 30 years. Contact Jack Anderson for more information, at 860-882-3752 or jackande52@aol.com.

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.

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.

For more information, find the association on Facebook and at easthamptonctartsassociation.org.

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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: Rehearsals are held Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. New members are always welcome.

Adult Bible Study: Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Music Room. The study is the Book of Psalms.

Women's Fellowship: The next gathering will be Sunday, Oct. 12, from 1-3 p.m., at Mary's.

Drive-Thru BBQ: Saturday, Oct. 4, noon-5 p.m. Place orders by reservation at officehncc@gmail.com or calling the Church office.

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.

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. 15, 9 a.m., at Air Line State Park, 69 Smith St., East Hampton. All abilities welcome; walk at your own pace.

Blood Pressure Checks: Monday, Sept. 15, 12:30 p.m., with Chatham Health.

Dr. Benfield Presents "Fernweh": Tuesday, Sept. 16, 10:30 p.m. Fernweh is a deep, restless longing for distant places and new experiences. In this free program, Benfield will take seniors through more than 137 destinations – from Paleolithic art and Gorillas in the Mist to the icy wonders of Antarctica.

Design & Create Button Boxes: Thursday, Sept. 18, 1:30 p.m. In this free program, use all types of buttons to make something new with a box of your choice. Some cigar boxes donated by Kenneth Barber & Associates.

Mock Mahjongg Tourney: Friday, Sept. 19, 9:30 a.m. Hone your Mahjongg tournament skills through this interactive session with Bar-

bara Hahn.

Bike Rides for Seniors with Kim Clouser of AirLine Cycles: Friday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m., at the Air Line Trail State Park, 69 Smith St. Bring your bike, helmet and water to the ride. Call the senior center to register.

Family Tree: Friday, Sept. 19, 10:30 a.m. Research your family tree with Kenneth Doney. Bring a laptop, iPad or cell phone to class.

Paint & Sip: Friday, Sept. 19, 1 p.m. Features a group painting class of "The Little Fox" with artist Maria Fisher and beverages and snacks. Cost is \$10. Register and pay at the center.

Circuit Training - Tips from a Personal Trainer: Fridays at 1 p.m., Sept. 19, 26 and Oct. 2. Learn how to properly warm up, strengthen your muscles, and increase your flexibility with certified personal trainer Mary Henderson. A workout will be designed for your specific areas of need. Cost is \$25 for the three-week session. Registration limited to three participants. Stop by the senior center to sign up and pay.

Trips: 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 or drive yourself. 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.

Class of '80 Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 1980 will host its 45th Class Reunion Saturday, Sept. 27, at Campagna Restaurant in Portland.

There will be food, dessert, live music and a cash bar and tickets are \$55 per person.

Contact Mary Beth Julian at 860-884-6442 for more information.



Epoch Arts Fall Classes... All are invited this fall for a variety of artistic classes and events at Epoch Arts. Experience classes like theater, art, photography, ceramics, improv and more. This semester, there is a new 3- and 4-year-old class, and teens are reminded to sign up to act in Epoch's original theater production and haunted house. Classes are held at 27 Skinner St. For full class descriptions and registration, visit www.epocharts.org. Pictured is Grace Fuller in the Junior Ceramics class.

Senior Services Townwide Survey

The Senior Center and Services Task Force was established in early 2025 to help East Hampton determine how older adults and other community members might be best served in the future. To help make sure current and future offerings best meet the needs of all community members, the task force is conducting a townwide survey.

If you are a resident of East Hampton and wish to support the town by taking the survey, you may do so online by going to the following link, which takes less than 10 minutes to complete: tinyurl.com/SCTFSurvey.

If you wish to complete a hard copy of the

survey, they are available at the Senior Center, the Library, and the Town Manager's office at Town Hall.

Any resident who might need help with filling out the survey may attend one of a help session at the Senior Center on Sept. 24 at 2 p.m.

The survey will be available through Monday, Sept. 29.

The survey results will help the Task Force develop recommendations for improvements and possible future facility changes, which will then be presented to the Town Council in an end-of-year report.

Belltown Motors
Tire & Service Center

How To Prepare Your Car For Fall

As Fall begins to creep in, it reminds us that colder weather is on its way. This means that it is time to prepare your car for the upcoming seasons. Colder weather makes it more difficult for your tires to maintain grip and makes the windshield more defenseless against cracks.



Here are some things Belltown can help you with to prepare for the months ahead:

1. Check The Belts & Hoses

Belltown will look for cracks, leaks, and wears in the belts and hoses to ensure that there are no signs of splitting, fraying, or glazing.

2. Check The Fluid Levels

We'll check windshield washer fluids, transmission fluids, coolant, brake fluids, and power steering fluids. All are very important for ensuring that your car runs smoothly.

3. Check/Replace Tires

Belltown will check the tread, inflation, and overall condition of your tires and we may recommend rotating your tires, so they wear evenly.

4. Check Your Heat

You want to be sure your heat/defroster works when the colder weather hits - driving with fogged-up windshield is unsafe.

5. Check The Brakes

With every season, brakes are crucial for safe driving. Cold weather heightens brake problems, since the roads have the potential of becoming slippery from snow and ice.

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

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Hal Riddle’s 1986 Pontiac Grand Prix will be among the vehicles featured when the Markham Meadows Car Cruise returns next weekend.

Markham Meadows Car Cruise

Always supporting local Wounded Warriors, Flags Across East Hampton and the police department’s canine dog program, the 11th annual Markham Meadows Car Cruise is slated for Saturday, Sept. 20, from 2-5 p.m., at Markham Meadows Campground, 9 Markham Road.

You don’t have to have a cruise car to attend! All are welcome to come for the music, the food, the raffles, and the autos on display. Coolers and chairs welcome.
This event has raised more than \$60,000 for the above-mentioned causes.

TANGO2 Benefit Banquet Coming

The biennial TANGO2 Benefit Banquet and Auction is set to take place at 5 p.m. Nov. 1, at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell.
The banquet will be hosted by Kasha and Mike Morris, who founded the TANGO2 Research Foundation in late 2017 after their then

16-year-old son Ryan was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease called TANGO2 Deficiency Disease (TDD).
All proceeds from the banquet will be used to fund research and support programs related to TDD.
The event will include a cocktail hour, three-course meal, music, dancing, wine pull, bour-bon blackjack as well as various raffle and auc-tion items. There are still tickets available for purchase, at a cost of \$85 per person. For more information regarding the banquet or to donate, visit tango2banquet.raiselysite.com or email kasha.morris@tango2research.org.

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 inter-mission.

Epoch Arts Tag Sale

Epoch Arts, located at 27 Skinner St., will continue its gigantic, indoor, rain or shine tag sale this weekend.
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 pro-ceeds directly fund Epoch’s youth programs for the year.
The tag sale runs Friday, Sept. 12, from noon-5 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13 and 14, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

RTC Meets Next Week

The East Hampton Republican Town Com-mittee will meet at The Dublin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16. All are invited to attend and learn about volunteer opportunities in the com-munity.
For more information, email ehctgop@gmail.com or visit www.easthamptonrtc.com.



Historical House Tour... Pictured is the circa-1770 Freeman Rockwell House, which will be among the homes included on the Chatham Historic Society House Tour Satur-day, 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 more information, call 860-705-0959.

Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

The Knights of Columbus St John Paul II Council 6190 at St. Patrick Church will hold its first semi-annual spaghetti and meatball din-ner Friday, Oct. 3, from 4:30-7:15 p.m., at the church parish center, located at 47 West High St. Take-out and dine-in meals will be offered.
Meal prices are \$15 for adults and \$14 for seniors. Children 5 and under eat for free. The meal will include a salad, bread, dessert, coffee or tea and a punch/iced tea drink. Canned soda

and bottled water will be available for \$1.
Proceeds will support local charitable pro-grams. The Knights of Columbus will also collect non-perishable food items for the East Hampton Food Bank.
There will be musical entertainment at the dinner, by local singer-songwriter Bill Naugh-ton, Jr.
Contact Jim Pedersen at 860-716-9629 for more information.

Quilt Project to Benefit the Food Bank

The East Hampton Quilt Project is selling raf-fle tickets for a 62” x 62” quilt, created by local women. Proceeds benefit the benefit of 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, Con-gregational Church, Pumpkintown at Paul’s and Sandy’s Too, Lake Pocotopaug, Comstock Bridge, Old Bank building, Pine Brook Pre-serve, 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/easthamptonquiltpro-ject/home](http://sites.google.com/view/easthamptonquiltproject/home).
The drawing will be on Nov. 22 at 10 a.m. at the Food Bank.

Lions Raffle for Scholarship Program

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

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

Alto, Tenor, Bass Vocalists Sought

The Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vo-cal Chords, conducted by Samuel Tucker and accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra under the direction of Alan Dougherty, is currently seek-ing dedicated individuals to join its expanding alto, tenor, and bass sections.
No auditions or prior experience are required. Rehearsals started Aug. 26 and are Tuesdays, 6:45-9 p.m., at St. Francis Church, Msgr. Fox

Parish Hall, 10 Elm St., Middletown, in prepa-ration for the spring concert scheduled for Sun-day, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School. New members may enroll through Sept. 16.
For further information, visit vocalchords20.org or contact 860-342-3120. Additional re-sources are available on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

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.

Designer Purse Bingo

East Hampton High School Project Gradua-tion will hold its second annual Designer Purse Bingo Saturday, Oct. 18, at Priam Vineyards in Colchester.
Doors open at 6:15 p.m., and games start at 7:15 p.m.
Cost is \$35 per ticket. For tickets, go to ehh-sprojectgraduation.ludus.com/200468698. Tickets will not be available at the door.



Madam President... Fowler-Dix-Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and Aux-iliary 5095 are proud to announce that VFW Auxiliary Department President Cheryl Costello-Pelkey will be the guest at the Sept. 27th Lobster Fest. See more on the festival elsewhere in this section.

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.

Class of ‘85 40th Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 1985 is going back in time.
The class will hold its 40th reunion Saturday, Oct. 11, from 6-9 p.m., at The Gelston House in East Haddam.
Register at www.eventbrite.com. For more in-formation, call Dan DiStefano at 860-978-0489.

Plant for 10 Months of Color

All are invited to join the Belltown Garden Club on Monday, Sept. 22, for a program en-titled “Plant for 10 Months of Color.” The pro-gram will be held in the East Hampton Library community room starting at 6:30 p.m.
The presenter is Nancy Ballek McKinnon of Ballek’s Garden Center in East Haddam. Her presentation will focus on selecting a mix of pe-rennials that will provide a continuous display of color in our gardens throughout ten months of the year. These suggestions will include both pollinator and native plants in the mix as well as many other favorites.
Members of the public and prospective mem-bers are always welcome and encouraged to at-tend. The Belltown Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT and Na-tional Garden Clubs.
Call JoAnn at 860-267-4129 with any ques-tions prior to the meeting.

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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?" The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition is open to high school students in grades 9-12, 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. 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.

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.east-hamptonrec.com.

Recreational Basketball Program: Registration deadline is Oct. 12; practices start in November and games begin in December. Grades 1-2: Instructional League, cost is \$85; Grades 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8: Competitive play in the Lakes League (games and practices will take place at East Hampton middle and elementary schools. May require travel to nearby towns), cost is \$155. Coaches are needed for all age groups: Volunteer coaches receive one free registration (registration fee refunded after completing a background check and online training).

Boys and Girls Travel Basketball Tryouts: Monday, Sept. 22, and Wednesday, Sept. 24, at East Hampton Middle School. Time for grades 5 and 6 is 6:30-7:30 p.m. and time for grades 7 and 8 is 7:45-8:45 p.m.

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

Halloween Wreath Workshop: At Town Hall Thursday, Oct. 2, from 6:30-8 p.m. Craft your own spooky-chic Halloween wreath! Choose from creepy-cool materials like bats, skeletons, black roses, feathers, spider webs, twinkle lights, and more – all built on a natural wreath base. Cost is \$35.

Class of '10 Reunion

The East Hampton High School Class of 2010 is planning its 15th reunion. Share your availability at tinyurl.com/4yuex98x.

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Sat 8-5; Sun 9-2

REF-3021

Cash Oil now has new ownership – Erin Flannery, mother of three, shown here with previous owner Billy McLaughlin.

Cash Oil Under New Ownership

Cash Oil has serviced our community for over 40 years – and will continue under new ownership. Erin Flannery, mother of three, will be adding another hat to wear with her duties of raising a family. "Billy [McLaughlin] has done such a great job over the years of providing home heating oil for all in the community and I plan to do the same," Flannery said. "It's not broken so there is no need to fix it, and I plan to move forward with the same procedures that are in place now." McLaughlin plans to help make sure everything goes smoothly through this busy season to be sure there are no interruptions in service

and everyone stays warm. Also, Cash's driver, "Trey," who everyone has grown to know and see, will be staying with the company. Flannery said she is very excited for this opportunity to not only provide for her growing family but to help instill a good work ethic into her children. While everything will be staying business as usual – same phone number, same trucks, same pricing – in the coming weeks Cash Oil will be able to start accepting credit and debit cards for payment options. For heating oil orders, give Cash a call at 860-267-0431.

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REF-29-25

Rec. Basketball Leagues (Girls & Boys, Grades 3-8): Players in these leagues should expect to have one practice per weeknight starting in early December and one game per week starting in January. The majority of games will take place on Saturdays. Games will take place in Portland, Cromwell, East Haddam and Haddam-Killingworth.

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-

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.

Zion Lutheran News & Notes

St. Mary Church News & Notes

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

Senior Center News & Notes

Upcoming Events: Unless noted, all events are free. **Syncocize Update!:** Class is now be

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Hitching post?

6 One of the musical Three B's

10 "___ Like It Hot": 1959 film

14 Quotable Yogi

15 Shivery fever

16 Pressing need?

17 Throw out

18 Calligrapher's skill

20 Stingy

22 Salon goo

23 Panache

24 Religious recluse

26 Campus life

29 Ancient numerals

30 Java holder

31 Type of brake

33 Mechanic's place

36 Flubs

38 Buy alternative

40 Texas flag feature

41 Main squeeze

43 Actress Delany

45 Sister of Zsa Zsa

46 Some rescue ops

48 Morgue denizens

50 Misconduct mark

52 "Passing" actress Negga

53 Pub's brew

54 Restocked rations

59 Octopus' arms

61 Past its prime

62 Do ___ others...

63 Clothing fuzz

64 Burial places

65 Sail supporter

66 Counter current

67 Underhanded sort

2 First name in jeans

3 Calc. prerequisite

4 Like some eyebrows

5 Shook up

6 Certain Indonesian

7 Many a moon

8 Sailing vessel

9 Unalike, as mixtures

10 Military address

11 Stems (from)

12 "Haystacks" painter

13 Author Madeleine L'___

19 Plant swelling

21 Immediate kin

25 Fourth planet from the sun

26 Iowa State's home

27 Short-spoken

28 Covenants

32 Scoundrel

34 Some ___ all...

35 Notable times

37 Goalie's feat

39 Church storehouse

42 Military tech development agcy.

44 Manet and Monet

47 Unemotional

49 Particle of light

50 Piece of information

51 Justice Kagan

55 Peddle

56 Newborn's need

57 Italian island

58 Office fixture

60 Daycare charge

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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‘Voices of Portland’ Turns Unknown Stories into Written History

By Kaily Martinez

On Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Portland Public Library, the community celebrated the well-deserved launch of the “Voices of Portland” book. Town officials and members felt that their stories shouldn’t be unheard of or unknown, and decided to make them a written part of Connecticut history.

In February of this year, “Voices of Portland,” a collaboration between the Portland Historical Society, the Committee on Solidarity and the Portland Public Library, featured a panel of Black residents. Residents spoke, on behalf of their family members or themselves, about their experiences living and working as Black residents in the town.

“All four panelists could have spoken consider-

ably longer than time permitted. We wanted to continue the conversation,” Susan Bransfield said.

Some of those in attendance were the February panelists, whose stories fueled the idea to turn these experiences into a physical piece of historical literature.

Before Bransfield concluded her speech, she happily announced that the Portland Historical Society will take orders for copies of the book *Voices of Portland, Volume One*.

“If we have enough people that want them, certainly that fee may be reduced,” Bransfield said.

Liz Hibino, a member of the Committee on Solidarity and “Voices of Portland” planning team, said Barbra Shaw and David Rowan, a

brother and sister duo who grew up in Portland, were part of the crew that assisted in starting the project.

“This amazing brother and sister duo has been with us from the very beginning of this project, helping to get it started, and having been the inspiration for it by sharing stories with us while we were planning the Juneteenth Celebration several years ago,” Hibino said about Shaw and Rowan.

“They have helped, not only by sharing their own stories, but by connecting us with others who they grew up with who could be part of this project,” she said. “They’ve attended countless meetings, proofread over 100 pages, and donat-

ing their time to do all this because it’s that important to them.”

Following Hibino’s heartfelt speech was Shaw, who followed in a similar tone. “This has been important to me,” Shaw said. Shortly after, Shaw thanked Jennifer Billingsly, the director of the Portland Public Library, for putting together the project and acknowledging “how important that it was.”

“I know if my mother was here to see this, she would be so proud of David and I, and it shows we’re carrying on her legacy and that people need to know about the town of Portland, because we have new residents that have no idea of the history of this town,” Shaw said.

A Home Tour Melding the Past and Future

On Saturday, Oct. 18, Portland Historical Society is sponsoring a tour of a Portland home that melds the past and future. Providing ideas for renovating or building a new home, the young and young-at-heart will gain insight into efficiently adapting a house to the needs of a family as its needs and requirements change.

A story of a couple with acres of woods and a dream of building a home will be shared. From clearing the land to finishing an enclosed porch, you will gain information on designing a home that will allow you to age-in-place. Docents will offer guided tours of the home with tours beginning at 8:15 a.m., 11:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Tours will last approximately two hours. Children 12 and older are welcome to register and must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets for all registrants are \$50.

During this next year, the historical society is conducting a campaign to raise money to fund the rebuilding of the 1821 Gildersleeve Store on the grounds of the Ruth Callander House of

Portland History. This house tour is one of several special events being sponsored by the society to raise funds for this major project.

Tickets can be purchased by completing a registration form that is available on the side porch of 492 Main St. or by downloading the form from www.PortlandHistSoc.org. Forms must be mailed with payment by Wednesday, Oct. 1. No tickets will be available at the door. You will be mailed a ticket with your assigned tour time and the location of this home.

This Sunday, Sept. 14, at the opening of the Ruth Callender House Museum of Portland History located at 492 Main St., house tour tickets will be available for purchase and can be paid for by check, cash or credit card.

A limited number of tickets is available for each time slot. Each ticket purchased will move the Society closer to their fundraising goal and the rebuild of the historic Gildersleeve Store, a link to Portland’s shipbuilding legacy.

Spirit Award Recipients

The Portland Senior Center has announced this year’s honorees of the Ralph Paley Spirit Awards: Susie Hale-Colby and Francis Dwyer.

“Both embody the true spirit of community, kindness, and service that this award represents,” the senior center said. “Their dedication and selfless contributions have touched countless lives and continue to strengthen the fabric of Portland.”

Bereavement Support Group

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

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

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

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.

‘First Choice & A Second Chance’

Parents are invited to come for a free program at the Portland middle and high school Open House Thursday, Sept. 18, from 6-7 p.m.

Stephen Hill, speaker, author, attorney and advocate, will present “First Choice & A Second Chance.” Hill will share his personal journey to deliver a message of hope, prevention, and resilience.

PHS Class of ‘63 Gathering

The Portland High School Class of 1963 will hold its gathering luncheon at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at Farrell’s Tavern, 245 Marlborough Street, 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 williamorganek@gmail.com as soon as possible.

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.

FPL Book Donation Day

The Friends of Portland Library will accept donations of gently used, clean and resaleable books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m.-noon. Volunteers will be available to assist at the side door of the library.

Donated materials are resold at the ongoing Second Hand Prose book sale and at the Fall Book Sale. Proceeds support the many adult and children’s library programs; the purchase of new materials; and sponsorship of museum passes that offer free or reduced

admission to local museums.

Please remember that all donated items must be in a saleable condition. Items that are dirty, moldy or in poor condition cannot be accepted. No textbooks, business books, computer books, VHS videos or magazines, please. Donations are tax-deductible and acknowledgement forms will be available.

Visit www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org for more information. The library is located at 20 Freestone Ave.

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.

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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: 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.

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: 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 today, Sept. 12.

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 pre-cut 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: 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. **Talk About Books:** Tuesday, Oct. 7, 1 p.m. *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick will be discussed.

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



American flags line the Marlborough Town Green, 436 in total, in remembrance of first responders who lost their lives during the Sept. 11, 2001 attack.

★ *Marlborough Honors, cont. from page 1*

news,” she began. “It was 9:15 in the morning, and everything in the world seemed like it had stopped. We were all in shock. I’ll never forget that.”

The world did indeed stop, as millions of viewers tuned in to watch the unforgettable events unfold, their breath caught in their throat. “My

heart stopped ... We still think about it. That memory is always there,” Concedello expressed.

For Marlborough, the field of flags is more than an act of tribute – it is a reminder that even in a small town, the events of 9/11 remain close to home.

GOP Candidate Meet-and-Greets

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.

Additionally, the candidates will be at Campagna Restaurant on Thursday, Sept. 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., 151 Marlborough St. All are invited to this relaxed evening of conversation and connection with the candidates.

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.

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, UCC, located at 554 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome. This Sunday, Sept. 14, church pastor the Rev. Judith Cooke will preach “Lost and Found,” based on Luke 15:1-10.

Also, at 10 a.m., elementary aged children will meet for Church School in the newly renovated classroom, and the middle school class will meet in the youth room.

After worship in Fellowship Hour, the congregation will gather for conversation and refreshments.

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

Fall Craft and Vendor Fair

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., is sponsoring a Fall Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., outdoors at the church. If it is raining, the fair will move indoors.

There will be a wide assortment of seasonal crafts and vendor products available for sale, including holiday crafts, jewelry, baked goods, note cards, candles, wall décor, goat milk soap, fairy scenes, Connecticut-made food items, crochet and sewing items, all-natural cosmetic items, woodworking and more.

For additional information, text 860-463-6444 or email carol.hill@comcast.net.

PHS 60th Class Reunion

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

For more information, email sueanders006480@aol.com.

Class of ‘80 Reunion

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

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

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.

PHS Class of ’67 Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 1967 will hold 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.

Trinity Episcopal News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., invites all to services on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Bible Study starts at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. The Rev. Mary Ann Osborn is the priest in charge.

The church is open for prayer and meditation, and the church office is open, from 2-4 p.m. each Friday. Anglican Prayer beading sessions are held at this time as well; all are welcome – no prior beading experience required.

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

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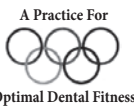
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DENTAL TREATMENT PAIN RELIEF OPTIONS

People often avoid necessary dental care because of anxiety about pain during procedures. Luckily, modern dentistry has very effective pain relief options. Topical and injected local anesthetics are commonly used for routine dental procedures. Local anesthesia can also be delivered electronically using a TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) unit, which sends electrical impulses to numb the treatment area. Nitrous oxide is another common and effective option that is easily administered through a rubber face mask. Local anesthetics, TENS anesthesia, and nitrous oxide all wear off quickly and allow the patient to drive home after a procedure. For advanced dental work, oral surgeries, or patients with extreme dental anxiety, intravenous or oral sedation and general anesthesia are all options.

What's been keeping you from visiting the dentist? If it's the fear of possible pain during dental treatment, we would like you to know we have calmed the anxieties of many patients over the years, with our relaxing atmosphere and friendly, compassionate staff. And because of the many advances in dentistry, the dental procedures we perform today are much less painful or even pain-free. We'll work together to ensure your appointments with us are comfortable, productive, and rewarding.

P.S. Patients using general anesthesia for a dental procedure may need to undergo treatment in a hospital setting where their vital signs can be monitored.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC

The Ridge • 142 East High Street • East Hampton, CT 06424

860-267-6666 • www.DrMantikas.com

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

★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

great water stories and got tips from Hebron firefighters. Their comments echoed what the water company had said earlier, that a record number of Hebron residents were running out of water that fall.

If for the sake of argument, our climate is becoming more extreme. And if for the sake of argument, water travels underground making it difficult to predict exactly where our well waters come from. And if for the sake of argument, the firemen and water experts were correct....about household water shortages....is forcing growth in Hebron such a good idea? Wouldn't a better approach be, curbing growth and conserving water supplies, primarily those located above established residential neighborhoods? After all, water isn't exactly free.

As good water and land become less available, the battles will become more intense. While a stitch in time is worth nine and an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, drilling extra wells could threaten Hebron's variable water supplies. However, conserving water protects our seasonally depleted supplies. Conservation protects not only the quality of local water but the quantity of that water as well. Our federal government says U.S. residents use, on average, 100 gallons of water, per person, per day. You can calculate your own water usage with National Geographic's water calculator. Using these averages, now tackle the bigger issue... bringing in more housing and businesses. Will this alleviate water problems or add to them? Is more growth, in Hebron, actually sustainable? #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Who Are They?

To the Editor:

Once again, it's election season in East Hampton. Three current Republican officeholders – Bridget McLennan, Alannah Coshow and Ted Hintz Jr. – have all penned letters to the editor about the ongoing firehouse issue (which is now costing taxpayers \$10,000/month for every contract extension). Each one signs off “as an individual,” not by their elected title that they currently hold.

That's a very curious choice.

When you're actively campaigning for reelection, and you're already serving in public office, your words carry weight “because” of your title, not in spite of it. Voters deserve to know when an opinion comes from someone with decision-making power on how taxpayer dollars are spent.

Signing as individuals while discussing official town matters feels like these three are trying to have it both ways: influencing the conversation while dodging their own accountability. If you're proud of your role, own it. If you're speaking on behalf of your board or council, be sure to mention it proudly. Otherwise, it's just political ventriloquism treating voters like dummies.

Kyle Dostaler – East Hampton

Who Wants A Community Center?

To the Editor:

Would you like to see a future community center/senior center right here in our town? The Senior Center and Services survey at <https://tinyurl.com/SCTFsurvey> asks this very question, and we want to know your thoughts.

We are exploring the possibility of a future combined Community Center/Senior Center, one that welcomes residents of all ages. Last year, as part of our research into what other nearby towns offer residents, we visited two new, modern centers: one in Colchester and one in Willimantic. Both were beautifully designed facilities with fitness and health rooms, arts spaces, cafés, social areas, and one even had an Olympic-sized pool. Both centers saw huge increases in membership – these are places people want to be.

What was most interesting was that the centers were built primarily using funds raised from the state, and through a variety of grants, sale of real estate holdings, and private donations.

The first step is to gauge the interests and opinions of East Hampton residents, which is the purpose of this survey. Here is what you need to know about the survey: (1) It is open to any town resident over the age of 18; (2) it takes just 5 minutes to complete; (3) it is anonymous; and (4) the deadline to complete it is Sept. 29.

Please take the survey and please ask your friends and family to take it too. Please let us know if in the future this might be the place you would want to be! <https://tinyurl.com/SCTFsurvey>

**Kim Crabbe, Vice Chair
Senior Center and Services Task Force**

Our Future – Taxes and Surveys

To the Editor:

A survey is underway that concerns ALL East Hampton town residents over 18 – not just older adults. While initiated by the East Hampton Senior Center & Services Task Force, it is not limited to just the senior center but may include a community or recreation centers as well benefiting the entire town. The resolution for The East Hampton Senior Center & Services Task Force specifically states it will consider and identify potential funding sources to include private donations, grants, state and local funding.

Please do not dismiss this based on the assumption it may raise taxes. Colchester and Willimantic both built beautiful new Senior/Community/Recreation centers with residents experiencing minimal financial impact. East Hampton can do it too – but only with your input.

It takes about 5 minutes to take. Paper copies are available at the EH Senior Center, EH Library, and the Town Manager's office at Town Hall or on online: <https://surveymonkey.com/r/WT2KRT2>

**Cindy Craig, Member
Senior Center & Services Task Force
East Hampton**

Running for RHAM Board

To the Editor:

My name is Brandie O'Reilly, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for the RHAM Board of Education.

As a longtime resident and parent of four children who graduated from the RHAM district, I have seen firsthand the strengths of our schools as well as the challenges they face. I believe every student deserves access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success, and I am committed to ensuring that RHAM remains a place where students thrive both academically and personally.

I have had the privilege of serving as a process coach for the School Governance Council in the Hartford Public School District, where I worked to support collaboration, accountability, and continuous improvement within our schools.

If elected, I will work to support our teachers, listen to the voices of parents and students, and advocate for thoughtful decisions that balance educational excellence with fiscal responsibility. My goal is to help RHAM remain a strong, vibrant district that serves the needs of today's students while preparing for the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow.

I would be honored to earn your support in this election and to serve on the RHAM Board of Education. Together, we can continue building a future where every student is given the opportunity to succeed.

**Sincerely,
Brandie O'Reilly - Amston
Candidate for the RHAM Board of Education**

This Is Not Leadership

To the Editor:

I read with interest and confusion the article [Colchester] “RTC members raise concerns...” in the Sept. 5th edition. The takeaway is a total lack of any specific plan for executing the changes they claim are so vital. Indeed, I struggle to find any single action item at all.

I was present at the budget workshops where John Thomas and Tim Vaillancourt made the claim that they could easily save \$1.5 million on school budgets. They claimed it could be cut with no adverse effects on any programs. They were repeatedly asked to identify the cuts they were in favor of. They refused every time.

Months later, nothing has changed. No plan. No details.

This is not leadership.

It does seem clear that the three current candidates interviewed for the article are desperate to divert attention away from the Colchester GOP's recent record. When Thomas and Vaillancourt held the Board of Finance majority from 2021-2023, they left our finances in tatters. Hidden costs mounted, audits were left incomplete, and we all were stuck footing the bill to clean up the financial mess they left behind. Let's not forget the cuts they pushed in 2023 that would have eliminated full-day kindergarten in Colchester.

There is a reason voters rejected this group almost 2-to-1 at the last election.

Now they expect us to trust them again when they can't even offer a single solution? That's a blueprint to repeat the disaster this crew created the last time they were in charge.

**Respectfully,
Vincent Rose – Colchester**

Stop Recycling Chaos

To the Editor:

I read last week's article, “RTC Members Raise Concerns Over BOE Priorities, Projects,” and one thing stood out right away. Chair John Thomas, Michael Dubreuil, and Tim Vaillancourt did not offer a single real solution. They only piled on complaints.

Much of what they said was exaggerated or simply wrong. The air conditioning project at Bacon Academy, which they made such a fuss over, is already moving forward. That makes their complaint worse than useless. It is totally baseless.

The same goes for their other claims. Yes, schools have salaries to pay and maintenance to handle. That is not mismanagement. That is the everyday work of running a school district. Our Board of Education is already addressing these challenges responsibly.

What is missing is any insight from the RTC members on how they could improve the situation. How would they pay for staff, projects, and maintenance without hurting our schools or raising taxes? How would they improve collaboration while spending all their time attacking? This is the same behavior that caused so much of the chaos in previous years, and now they want to drag us back into it.

Colchester residents deserve leaders who bring ideas and work together, not ones who stir up chaos by making noise about problems that are being solved. Complaining is easy. Governing is not.

John Farrell – Colchester

Protecting Our Town

To the Editor:

The chairman of the Town Council accuses the Republicans on the Board of Finance of caring about cost too much. Dean, that's our job! So, you're welcome! (BTW: our actions on the BOF concerning 11 Skinner St. have been bipartisan.)

Dean also states in his letter last week in the Riverest that the “Democrats secured an agreement from the property owner that any contaminants (at 11 Skinner St.) would be cleaned up.” If that were true, why did the Town Council ask the Board of Finance to approve \$230,000 for environmental clean-up at the site? The latest report warns that it will cost an additional undetermined expense to pass muster with DEEP before our firemen can safely occupy the building.

Cost and the environmental issues are each vital and must be considered carefully before sending this to referendum.

**Alannah Danaher Coshow – East Hampton
Candidate for Town Council**

***Note:** Coshow is also vice chair of the East Hampton Board of Finance, but is speaking as an individual.*

Colchester Pride

To the Editor:

Colchester voters have good reasons to be proud. Colchester voters are on a hot roll. As one of 69 mid-sized towns in Connecticut, Colchester had the third-highest voter turnout for mid-sized towns in 2021. In 2023, it was first.

There's a good possibility that Colchester could increase from 48 percent to over 50 percent in 2025. Only three mid-sized towns in Connecticut's history had over 50 percent turnout. Colchester could be the fourth.

On the present active voter rolls, thousands did not vote in 2023 when they had the opportunity. Over 2,000 unaffiliated voters stayed home, 1,200 registered Republicans stayed home, and 1,100 registered Democrats stayed home.

The year 2025 offers a lot of upsides to increase voter participation. Republicans and their unaffiliated allies under performed in 2023. They wouldn't vote for a Democrat. They also didn't support their controversial incumbent. His actions generated too many negatives. The 2025 Republican challenger is more acceptable.

Then there were pro-Democratic voters unsure of the Democratic challenger's inexperience that stayed home in 2023. The now Democratic incumbent has experience.

Lastly, there are several hot races. For the BOS, Republicans are running two Old Guard incumbents and new generation challenger for two seats. The BOE is more interesting. Two Republican incumbents were not supported to run again by their caucus. They were replaced by those considered better to keep the superintendent and budget in check. The ousted incumbents are running as petitioning candidates.

In closing, 2025 has the potential to be another banner year for voter turnout. Voter turnout is considered a great barometer for civic involvement and pride. Back-to-back number 1? We will see.

**Be well to all,
James D. McNair III – Colchester**

Colchester Schools

Dear Colchester Neighbors:

As the new school year begins, I want to share how the town is supporting our students and families.

A strong public school system is essential to a thriving community. While the superintendent and Board of Education oversee school operations, I believe it's important for the first selectman to be a strong partner in addressing student needs.

To ensure a safe start to the school year, Colchester Police provided extra support as students returned to school and buses resumed their routes. Police and Youth Services have also been assisting students around the pedestrian bridge on Norwich Avenue between WJJMS and Pleasant Street, which was closed by DOT order on Aug. 27.

Safe, walkable routes to school are a priority for me. Public Works, in coordination with our town engineer, moved quickly on bridge repairs. Thanks to their efforts, it should reopen next week.

We're also investing in youth programs. The Youth Center will undergo a major renovation starting this fall, funded by ARPA, expanding usable space and improving the facility for after-school activities.

Over the past two years, we've partnered with the BOE and state officials to secure significant grant funding for Bacon Academy, including flooring and HVAC projects. The HVAC contractor filed building permits in late August; equipment submittals have already been made and approved by the project engineer. This summer, the Town also partnered with school officials to repair the Jack Jackter Elementary School playground.

Bacon sports have always been a source of pride, but the Bacon athletic complex has been in disrepair for too long. I have such great memories of my own time at Bacon and it's frustrating to see the current state of the complex.

That's why we've hired an engineering firm to work with our building committee on plans for a full athletic complex renovation, including new drainage, turf fields, tennis courts at Bacon along with other upgrades at the Town RecPlex. We anticipate bringing the project to public referendum in January. More info can be found at ColchesterCT.Gov/AthleticComplexProject.

**Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler
Colchester First Selectman**

Dissent is Healthy

To the Editor:

Contrary to a hit piece circulating on social media, dissent is not a bad thing – even amongst members of the same political party. In fact, respectfully listening to opposing opinions is the way that compromise and mutual understanding can be successfully achieved.

Recently, there has been an attempt by East Hampton Republicans to paint the Democrats in the Town Council majority as disjointed over the issue of the new firehouse. It's true that there are dissenting opinions among different members of the blue team and votes related to the issue have not been unanimous.

My first question is, why is that a bad thing? We should expect our leaders to seek more information and disagree with their colleagues. That's democracy: not everyone has to be on the same side of every issue. Dissent is healthy and an important part of what makes for an effective government.

I applaud Town Council Vice Chair Karen Wanat and Councilor Jordan Werme for respectfully dissenting from their fellow Democrats. They are challenging the status quo for the good of East Hampton's residents.

The local Democratic Party has diversity of opinions and politics. I am a proud progressive, yet I respect their positions of Democrats who lean more moderate or conservative. Whatever differences of opinion we have, we are united in our commitment to do what is best for the community and lead with integrity.

Which brings me to my second question: why are East Hampton Republicans resistant to dissent among themselves? In the last four years, the local RTC has pushed out anyone who doesn't toe the line. The moderates are largely gone not only from the committee, but from the upcoming ballot.

Unwillingness to accept dissent borders on authoritarianism. We see it every day in national politics. No matter how absurd, damaging, or cruel a policy that the president proposes, Republicans just nod along and capitulate. Those who dissent are labeled as leftists, crazy, and are threatened with a primary from a hardline

See Letter, page 33

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

Raptors Soccer Rolling Early



RHAM senior captain Michael Thatford competes with Glastonbury’s Micah Frimpong during the season opener last Wednesday.

By Josh Howard

RHAM High School boys soccer opened the season on the road, defeating Glastonbury 1-0 to spoil the Guardians’ home opener on Sept. 3. A goal by junior Caiden Rojas in the second half proved to be the difference as Raptors held off their Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) East rivals behind a strong defense, led by senior goalie Jay Weingarten. RHAM head coach Raymond Bell called it a “gusty, tough” performance, noting his team outlined a clear strategy prior to the season opener.

“When you play such a good team like Glastonbury you could give up a goal and before you know it, you’re down 5-0, so we had a game plan in the first half to manage the heat and conserve some energy for the second half,” explained Bell. The plan worked to perfection as Weingarten was terrific in net all game, saving every shot he faced. “Our defense really stepped up today,” said Weingarten. “We knew it was going to be a hard game today, but we just had to play our game and listen to the coaches.” After earning some varsity experience a season ago, Weingarten is now the main man in net. He supplants all-state goalie T.J. Machows-

ki, now a college freshman playing at Roger Williams University. “He does a great job at organizing the team in front of him,” Bell said of Weingarten. “He’s a good leader; he does a great job at communicating to the guys.” Rojas’ difference maker came in the 47th minute when GHS goalie Jonathan Seymour swatted a shot that was deflected back into the net for the game’s lone goal. Glastonbury controlled the tempo and possession for a majority of the first half before the tides started to shift after the break. In the second half, Bell’s bunch went toe-to-toe with the Guardians, who are coming off consecutive trips to the conference championship game, including winning a CCC title in 2023. GHS head coach K.C. Warren credited RHAM for carrying out a good game plan and believed his team was too quiet in the season opener. “The one key thing today was that we didn’t communicate,” explained Warren. “We talked about that prior to the game, but I felt that was the biggest thing that we didn’t execute today.” The home team’s best chance for the equalizer came in the 63rd minute when Glastonbury senior Derick Li fired a shot from point-blank range, but Weingarten was able to deflect the



Senior goalie Jay Weingarten stopped every shot as the Raptors defeated the Guardians, 1-0, at Glastonbury High School.

ball away at the last moment. Weingarten’s final save came in the closing second when he covered up a ball to end the final threat. “It’s a big win, but it’s the first game of the season,” stated Weingarten. “There’s a lot of ups and downs that are going to come this season; we just have to push through and keep working hard.” Along with manning the net, Weingarten is captaining the team on the field with fellow seniors Michael Thatford, Justin Dooley and Logan Giannelli. The four team captains are aiming to build off the success the team had a year ago when they won a state tournament before falling in double overtime to No. 3 ranked Daniel Hand in the second round of the Class M state tournament. Now the full-time starting goalie and a team captain, Weingarten said his approach this season is similar to a year ago. “I’m always looking to become that leader and help us build as a team,” he noted. “You can

always build on what has happened and learn from it, it’s always a learning process” Bell noted that he has been impressed with his team’s ability to rise to the occasion over the last couple of years, which was front and center in the season opener. “I don’t think we played our best team game, but we won,” added Bell. “Sometimes we are outnumbered, but we have always been mentally and physically tough.” RHAM kept it rolling over the next two games, beating Pomperaug and Conard. In the 2-0 win at Pomperaug High School on Sept. 3, Thatford and Quinn McCarthy netted goals, which Dooley assisted on both. Two days later, Thatford scored a goal and dished out an assist in a 3-1 win over Conard. Rojas and Lucas Fortin also netted goals, while Dooley added a helper. The Raptors are slated to play their first game at RHAM High School this Saturday, Sept. 13 when Rockville comes to Hebron for a game at 10 a.m.

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.

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.

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.

Volleyball Car Wash Sunday

The RHAM Volleyball car wash scheduled for last weekend was rained out, and instead will take place this Sunday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at 10 Main St., Hebron.

All proceeds benefit the Friends of RHAM Volleyball.

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

At the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM, the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission APPROVED Application PZC-25-007: Lawrence Marsiglio, Noah’s Crossing Subdivision, Moodus Road and Wilkes Road, 5 Lot Residential Subdivision. Map 08/ Block 31A/ Lot 2 with conditions. Kevin Kuhr, Chairman

1 TB 9/12

COLCHESTER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Special Meeting on Monday, September 22, 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 9/12



Having a Tag Sale?



Reach more than 75,000 Homes For Just \$15 A Week

Includes 25 words; .20 cents each additional word (Now through October 15th, 2025)

Your Tag Sale ad will appear in:

- **Rare Reminder**, mailed Thursdays to 40,500 homes in Newington, Wethersfield, & Rocky Hill/Cromwell.
- **Glastonbury Citizen**, mailed Thursdays to 5700 paid subscribers in Glastonbury.
- **Rivereast News Bulletin**, mailed Fridays to 27,500 homes in Portland, East Hampton/ Cobalt/Middle Haddam, Marlborough, Hebron/Amston, Andover, and Colchester.

Just e-mail us at classifieds@rarereminder.com or call 860-563-9386.

Deadline is every Tuesday at 10am for that week’s papers.

09/07/25

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

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of Sept. 1-7:

T.J. Machowski - Marlborough (Soccer): Machowski was named at the Conference of New England (CNE) Defensive Player of the Week after posting a shutout in his first collegiate start. Machowski, a freshman goalie at Roger Williams University, made 11 saves as the Hawks of RWU blanked the Lions of Emerson in Boston, Mass. on Aug. 30. The 2025 RHAM High School graduate is fresh off an all-state and all-conference selection last fall as he manned the net for the Raptors. Machowski is studying business management at RWU.

Genny Christensen - Portland High School (Soccer): Playing in her first high school game, Christensen scored the Highlanders first two goals during a 4-1 road victory over Somers High School on Sept. 3. Christensen, a freshman, ignited an offense that also received goals from Leah Cruz and Lea Rivera, while senior captain Gracie DeRing was in net for the opening day victory. As of Wednesday, the Highlanders have a record of 3-0 and next welcome Morgan at PHS on Monday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m.

Cassie Owocki - East Hampton High School (Soccer): Owocki, a sophomore goalie, kept the net clean as the Bellringers opened the 2025 season with a 2-0 win over Lyme-Old Lyme at East Hampton High School on Sept. 4. Owocki shutout was supported by goals from Olivia Correia and Hadley Galovich. Next up is an away game at North Branford today (Friday, Sept. 12) before the Bellringer return home of Monday, Sept. 15 to host Valley Regional. Both games start at 4 p.m.

Alyssa Blanchette - Bacon Academy (Soccer): Blanchette, a senior, scored four goals and dished out an assist as the Bobcats opened the season with a resounding 9-0 home victory over Waterford on Sept. 3. Mia Hageman (two



2025 RHAM High School graduate T.J. Machowski made 11 saves and registered a shutout in his first official collegiate game.

goals and two assists), Ava Galante (two goals), Quinn Guntulis (goal) and Lily Lenda (two assists) also contributed to the scoring. Three days later, Blanchette and Galante scored a goal as the Bobcats beat Norwich Free Academy 2-0. Bacon next hits the road game tonight (Friday, Sept. 12), traveling to Griswold High School at 4 p.m. before they return home to host Woodstock Academy on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 4:15 p.m.

To nominate an athlete as a Standout of the Week, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com. Please include as many details about the athlete or performance as possible.

From the State Senator’s Desk

As students return for another school year and the seasons change at the end of summer, September is an important time to be mindful of mental health. We never know the pressures and struggles others may face, and as seasonal changes and life stresses can impact depression and other conditions, it’s more important than ever for us to look out for each other.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, a time for us to raise awareness of mental health issues that can lead to suicidal ideation, work to end the stigmas of mental illness and make sure anyone who needs help is encouraged to seek it. Far too many people keep their problems to themselves, which only leads to further isolation; you’re never truly alone, despite how it can feel.

For many of us, this month represents an opportunity for us to learn the warning signs that someone is experiencing a mental health crisis or suicidal thoughts, especially important given the stress and anxiety that youth and adults can face.

Youth warning signs can include expressions of hopelessness, displaying severe emotional pain or distress, withdrawal from plans and events or unusual outbursts of anger or irritation and changes, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Adults may act anxious or reckless, use substances more often, show mood swings or serious health issues, or discuss feeling hopeless or even plans to commit suicide.

If you see or hear a loved one display these behaviors, especially if they become intense or if they experienced a painful event, loss or change in their lives, take action. If they seem to be in immediate danger, call 911 or 988, the suicide crisis hotline. If you have the opportunity, ask them if they’re OK, and if you’re concerned, ask if they are thinking about self-harm. Listen to them and stay with them until you know they’re safe or you can get them further help.

If you are experiencing these struggles yourself, please do not make any hasty decisions. All too often, suicide is a permanent solution to problems that are temporary. Please seek help through calling 911, 988 or health professionals or reach out to someone who may be able to help, whether it’s a friend, guidance counselor, teacher, colleague or simply someone you trust.

With a continued focus on mental health awareness, early intervention and supporting others with compassion, we must work to make sure no one in our community is left behind. The devastation that suicide brings can be crushing; even one loss of a parent, child, sibling, relative, partner or loved one is too many. Let’s commit to saving lives and caring for each other.

More information on suicide prevention can be found at samhsa.gov and nami.org.

State Sen. Norm Needleman
D-33rd District

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



Needleman

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

IWWA

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency will hold a Public Hearing at their meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 24, 2025 in the East Hampton Town Hall to consider the following applications:
IW-25-029: Belltown 30LLC, 30 Long Crossing, Drill 3 Test Wells for Future Community Water System in Wetlands and Upland Review Area, Map 12/ Block 36/ Lot 39
IW-25-030: Taylor Rand, 45 Long Hill Road, 3 Lot Residential Subdivision in Wetlands and Upland Review Area. Map 06/ Block 12/ Lot 7A & Map 06/ Block 12/ Lot 7B
Chairman Joshua Wilson

2 TB 9/12, 9/19

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

IS ILLEGAL For Help Call

888-247-4401

If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.

Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

★ *New Chapter cont. from page 3*

least invasive in how they were going to do it.” For Nilson, that attention to detail mattered, noting that the company was able to repair the church without it looking like it was under construction.

From its founding in 1747 to the hurricane of 1938 to today’s long-awaited steeple restoration, the First Congregational Church of Andover has endured as a symbol of resilience and faith. The renewed tower is not just a construc-

tion project, but a statement of care for both the building and the people who gather within it. Both Nilson and Lunberg expressed deep gratitude for the role the congregation played in making the restoration possible.

As the scaffolding comes down and the steeple once again crowns the historic white church along Route 6, it stands as both a beacon and a promise: that this congregation, rooted in history yet alive with joy, will continue to welcome neighbors for generations to come.

Community & Senior Center Happenings

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

Chair Yoga with Haley: Mondays, 10-11 a.m. Cost is \$7, payable at the time of class. For transportation, call Linda at 860-498-2326.

Food Pantry: Mondays through Sept. 29, 5-6:45 p.m., and Tuesdays, Sept. 17 and Oct. 1, 8:30-10 a.m. Transportation to Andover Congregational Church is available (except for on holidays). For more information on other available dates and times, contact Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226.

Food Share Truck: Transportation to Andover Congregational Church is available Wednesday, Sept. 24. Contact Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226.

Shopping Trips: Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Wilimantic on Sept. 23, and Manchester on Sept. 16 and 30. Transportation is available; contact Linda at 860-498-2326.

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

Chess and Checkers Club: Thursdays, 3-4:30 p.m. Enjoy a friendly game of chess or checkers with neighbors. All skill levels welcome.

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

Gentle Yoga: Fridays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Cost is

AVFD Steak Dinner

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department’s annual steak dinner will be Saturday, Sept. 20, from 5-7 p.m., at the firehouse on School Road. This meal includes sirloin steak, baked potato, salad, fresh baked bread, beverages and dessert. Eat in or take out.

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.

\$10, payable at time of class. For more information, contact Haley Proto at 203-645-4933. Drops-ins welcome.

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

Lunch Every Wednesday: Wednesdays at noon. Cost is \$5. Let Haley know you’re coming, at 860-798-6862, and call Linda to reserve your ride at 860-498-2326. Schedule: Sept. 17, Bingo & Light Lunch – enjoy sandwiches with fresh fruit, chips and cookies. Prizes offered. Sept. 24, luncheon and entertainment with Georgina’s Sausage Taormina, served with salad, garlic bread, and dessert.

Movie & Snacks: Fridays at 1 p.m. Free, with chips and seasonal fruit. Schedule: Sept. 12, *The Bodyguard* (1992) starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston; Sept. 19, *All That Jazz* (1979) directed by Bob Fosse and starring Roy Scheider; Sept. 26, *Hook* (1991), starring Robin Williams and Dustin Hoffman. For transportation, contact Linda at 860-498-2326.

Kids’ Cuts with Rebecca: Friday, Sept. 19, 3-6 p.m. Each session is 20 minutes and costs \$20. Please ensure hair is clean and dry before the appointment. Transportation is available if needed. Space is limited; call Haley at 860-798-6862 to reserve your spot.

Setback & Snacks: Monday, Sept. 15 and 29, 11 a.m. Enjoy coffee, tea and a variety of snacks while spending time with neighbors and friends. All experience levels are welcome. Free and open to all.

Dominoes & Snacks: Monday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m. Enjoy coffee, tea, and a variety of snacks while spending time with neighbors and friends. All experience levels are welcome. Free and open to all.

Chair Massage with Linda: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 4-5:30 p.m. Appointments are 30 minutes and cost is \$32. Sign-up is required; call Linda Derick at 860-655-4409.

Town Concert: Friday, Sept. 22, 7-9 p.m. Bring a beach chair or a towel. Water and snacks will be available. Sponsored by the Andover Recreation Commission. Free.

Babysitter Training: Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This in-person course prepares youth ages 11-16 to safely and confidently care for children and infants. The course covers feeding, diapering, picking up and holding children, safety and emergency response. Registration fee: \$75/residents, \$105/non-residents.

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Effective with our Aug. 7, 2025 papers, pricing for classified ads - both reader/private party and commercial - will increase.

We recently received an increase of up to 9.5% in mailing costs from the Post Office, the third increase in less than a year. We are committed to mailing the *Glastonbury Citizen* to our valued subscribers, and the *Rivereast News Bulletin* to the more than 27,000 homes in the towns we serve, but postage increases like this greatly affect our business.

We encourage you to take advantage of enhanced frequency discounts for all levels of classifieds, which could help you offset some or all of this rate increase.

Thanks as always for your business.

Obituaries

Portland

Gerald and Theo Kuzina

It is with deep sorrow we announce the passing of Gerald John Kuzina (73) on Thursday, April 3, and Theo Ann Labbadia Kuzina (74) on Friday, Aug. 22. They resided in Micco, Florida and were formerly of Portland.

Jerry and Theo were high school sweethearts and were married for 56 years. The couple are survived by their loving son, Joseph Kuzina of Micco, Fla.; Gerald's brother, Thomas Kuzina Sr.; Theo's sisters, Jean (Gary) Crouch, Theresa (Gil) Thibault; brother-in-law, Greg Glass; and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, whom they loved very much and enjoyed spending time with.

They were predeceased by their son, Gerald A. Kuzina; Jerry's parents, Richard and Helen (Organek) Kuzina and his brother Richard Kuzina; Theo's parents, Anthony and Olive (Bransfield) Labbadia; and sister, Nancy Glass.

Jerry graduated from Vinal Technical High School and was employed at Jarvis Airfoil, Inc. for many years. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed spending time with his sons, extended family and friends.

Theo was the former owner of Magic Mirror Hair Salon for many years prior to working at Middlesex Hospital. She was happiest when cooking for her family and friends.

Jerry and Theo enjoyed many happy hours on the water whether at the beach, cruising or boating.

They were loved by many and are greatly missed.

A private burial will be at Saint Mary Cemetery in Portland at the convenience of the family.



Theo Kuzina

Colchester

Joel J. Berube

Joel J. Berube, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Sunday, Sept. 7, with his family by his side.

Joel was born March 21, 1942, in Fort Kent, Maine, and was the son of the late David and Alvine Berube. After he graduated from high school, he moved to Connecticut and attended barber school and at the age of 21, was drafted to the Army for the Vietnam conflict.

After his military commitment, he met Rena Caron and they were married in 1967. The two settled and lived in Connecticut to raise their two children. Rena predeceased Joel in October 2017 and in 2021 Joel married Doris Denault.

Joel will be remembered as a family man. He always enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed traveling all over the world and in his later years, he joined the Antique Veterans to provide military honors.

Joel will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife Doris; his son, Dean Berube and wife Zelma Berube of Colchester, his daughter Lisa Berube-Neubert and husband Carl Neubert of Deep River; his grandchildren, David, Daniel, and Trey; his siblings Don, Gene, Betty, and Lucy; along with many extended family members and dear friends.

He was predeceased by his brother James and sister Claudette.



East Hampton

Louis A. Carillo Jr.

Louis (Lou) A. Carillo Jr. of East Hampton departed peacefully Sunday, Aug. 24. Born Oct. 20, 1947, in Torrington, he was 77 years old.

Lou graduated from Torrington High School with the class of 1965 and enlisted with the United States Army in 1966. He served in Vietnam with the 4th Infantry Division in the central highlands of Pleiku and the 1968 TET Offensive.

Upon his return, Lou graduated from Northwestern Community College in 1971 and New Britain General Hospital School of Respiratory Therapy in 1972. He retired, after 41 years, from the Hartford Hospital cardiac lab as a cardiovascular technician.

Lou was a lifetime member of the VFW Post 5095 in East Hampton, where he served as past commander, adjutant, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Connecticut state surgeon.

His greatest joy was spending summers boating on the Connecticut River with his family and going for long walks with his best friend "Willow."

Lou is survived by his former wife, Winifred Carillo (Dayton); his two daughters, Jackie Martin (Carillo) and Chatham Carillo; his son, Mason Carillo and his wife Lindsay Carillo (Bobzin); his two grandchildren, Zoe Martin and Xavier Carillo; as well as his sister and two



brothers, Carol, David and Roger.

"Whenever you see a rainbow, think of me with a smile. Every day after Vietnam was a gift, it's been a good life." – Louis A. Carillo Jr.

Per his request, there will be no calling hours. A service, with military honors, will be held at the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery on Friday, Sept. 19, at noon.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family asks that a donation, in Lou's name, be made to a local animal rescue or shelter in honor of his love for all dogs big and small.

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

East Hampton

Mallory B. Reynolds

Mallory B. Reynolds, 38, formerly of East Hampton, passed away unexpectedly on the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 20. Born Nov. 26, 1986, she was the daughter of Dennis and Barbara (Brown) Reynolds. Mallory was raised in East Hampton, where she spent most of her life, before relocating to Vermont in 2013.

Anyone that had the pleasure of meeting Mallory often knew her to be the life of the occasion. Mallory's energy and charisma brought excitement to nearly every gathering, where you were greeted with her gleaming smile, and welcoming charm as if you had known each other for years even if you had just met. While many knew to address her as Mallory or Mal, only those close to her knew her as 'Moo' or 'Bud,' to which she would affectionately respond with a smile and a hug.

Mallory did not have many "hobbies," as she was often up for participating in nearly any activity you wanted her to be a part of, bringing her fun and exciting personality along with her. However, her fondest memories were camping with family and friends in her youth, and always of her many yearly trips to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, with her family (and if you were that lucky friend, you came along too!), as the beach was always the place that brought her solace.

Later in life, when she became an aunt to Liam and Emma, she filled her memory bank with spending as much time with them as she could afford, then affectionately becoming known as "Auntie Moo." From that point on, any meeting or phone call with Mallory was met with a quick hello, so she could then move on to playing with or chatting with her niece and nephew as priority.

If you were fortunate enough to be one of Mallory's true friends, you knew Mallory to be incredibly loving and loyal to her friends and her family, even if you did not see eye to eye on a given situation. Her personality, charisma and energy will be truly missed by all that truly knew her, and her sudden loss leaves behind a lifetime of memories and stories that will keep her spirit alive within all of us.

Mallory is survived by her parents, Dennis Reynolds of Colchester, Barbara Reynolds of Marlborough; her sister, Jessica Ducki and her husband Adam of East Hampton; her nephew, Liam and niece Emma (Ducki); her aunt Betsy Selner and cousin Alex (Deb); her uncle Barry and aunt Trudy Hale; and her cousins Amorette



Hight (Josh) and Nathan Hale.

Services will be private per the request of the family.

East Hampton

Calling Hours for Gary & Rebecca Culbert

A reminder that calling hours will be held for Gary E. Culbert and Rebecca S. Culbert at Spencer Funeral Home in East Hampton on Friday, Sept. 19, from 5-7 p.m., with a gathering at the East Hampton VFW immediately following. Burial is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20, at Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton.

Gary Edward Culbert, formerly of East Hampton, passed away Sunday, July 20, at the age of 77. His daughter, Rebecca Susan Culbert, also formerly of East Hampton, passed away the day before, on Saturday, July 19, at the age of 38.

Marlborough

Harvey Hood

Harvey Hood, 73, of Marlborough, peacefully completed his earthly journey surrounded by his cherished family on Sunday, Sept. 7, after a year-long battle with ALS.

Born April 9, 1952, to the late Arleigh and Annabelle Hood, Harv spent most of his childhood in Hartford before the family relocated to Marlborough, where he would eventually meet his future wife, and together, raise their own family.

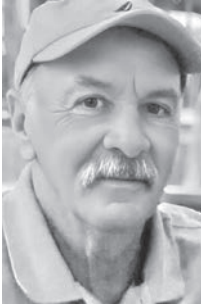
He was proud of his 40-year career at Wire-mold in West Hartford, and 22 years of award-winning work assisting customers at Home Depot in Glastonbury, many of whom he considered friends. He loved helping others, telling a great story, and making people laugh, which he did so often. A decades-long bowler on various leagues, he proudly watched his son Dan and grandchildren pick up where he left off and soaked up every frame, always their most enthusiastic and number one fan.

Above all else, his true passion was his family, and the beautiful life he and Kathy built on the lake. From faithfully attending every event and activity of his three children to recent years living his absolute best life in his favorite role as Grandpa, he was truly happiest when experiencing the joy firsthand of the people he loved the most. His gentle spirit and overwhelming kindness helped create the calm and tranquil oasis that has made their home everyone's favorite place on earth. We are incredibly grateful that he was able to spend his best years and final moments enjoying this most special place.

Harv will be missed beyond words by his loving wife of 44 years, Kathryn (Purzycki) Hood; daughter, Allison (Mike) Mahon; son, Dan (Kristina) Hood, all of Marlborough; grandchildren, Michael, Eamon, Willow, Juliana and Mckenna; sisters, Nita Rogers and Betty Roberts; brothers, Tom and Steve Hood; and lifelong best friend, Peter Yednorowicz.

It brought Harv immense comfort and continues to bring us immeasurable peace to know he will be welcomed into eternity by his son Bryan, who tragically passed away in 2006. Their long-awaited reunion dulled the sting of what he endured this past year and reminded us all that God's promise of eternal life is profoundly real.

According to his wishes, services for Harv will be private. True to his generous spirit and limitless kindness, his final gift was the donation of his body to the Quinnipiac University School of Medicine, providing tomorrow's physicians with experience no textbook or technology can imitate, in hopes to offer better outcomes for future patients.



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★ *Letters, cont. from page 29*

MAGA supporter. Government cannot be effective when power goes unchecked.

We should expect better from our leaders than to simply cower in cowardice. Local Democrats welcome dissenting opinion, whether from within our party or out. Just because we may disagree does not mean we are not united. It means that we respect each other and are willing to listen.

Sincerely,
Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Note: Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said he is writing independently of the board.

Committed to Our Children, Schools and Community

To the Editor:

I am honored to announce that I am seeking reelection to the Hebron Board of Education this November. As a former teacher and children's policy analyst, I have dedicated my career to advocating for kids. Here in Hebron, where my husband and I are raising our family and our daughter is a proud RHAM student, my work on the Board is both professional and deeply personal.

Serving as board chair has been one of the greatest privileges of my life, and I remain deeply committed to Hebron's children, families, and schools. Over the past several years, I have worked hard to provide steady, collaborative leadership that puts students first. Together with my colleagues and our community we have achieved many milestones as part of our District Advancement Plan.

During my eight years on the Hebron Board of Education, I have worked to expand access to preschool to meet growing demand, led policy updates as chair of the policy committee, and advocated for fair teacher and support staff contracts and increased starting pay. I have also championed mental health supports, including the Choose Love SEL program, launched the Student Liaison program to elevate student voices, and supported innovative initiatives such as bringing therapy dogs into our schools.

Beyond the classroom, I have worked to strengthen relationships between the Board, the town, and our school leadership, chaired the Town Charter Review Commission, and supported the arts as an active RHAM Music Booster. These efforts reflect my belief that strong schools are built through collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to the whole child.

I am seeking reelection because I believe every Hebron student deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. With your support this November, I look forward to continuing this important work.

Sincerely,
Heather Petit – Amston

Note: Petit is chair of the Hebron Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Speaking Up is Wrong?

To the Editor:

Lately there's a poisonous idea spreading in Colchester: that speaking up is somehow wrong. Raise a concern about what the town is doing and you are instantly branded as negative, difficult, or disruptive. It does not matter what your politics are. Left, right, or in the middle, the message is the same. Smile, clap, and hand out praise. Anything else and you will be treated like you crossed a line.

That is not democracy. Democracy is not built on silence and obedience. It is built on citizens who are free to question, criticize, and demand answers. When elected officials act like

criticism is betrayal, they are not serving the people anymore. They are serving themselves. If we cannot point out their mistakes without being attacked for it, then the whole exercise of voting is nothing more than theater. We may as well start bowing to crowns and calling them kings and queens.

Calling out problems is not being hostile. It is being responsible. If town spending spikes, people should be able to ask why without being smeared as greedy or uninformed. If a project falls apart, residents should be able to demand an explanation without being accused of sabotage. If a board member makes a decision that hurts the town, citizens should be able to call it out without being told to "be nicer." That is not cruelty. That is accountability.

And let's be honest about facts. Too often, when a fact makes something look bad, people rush to attack whoever said it. They act as if the person speaking up is the cause of the problem. That is backwards. A fact is a fact. If it shines a light on failure or waste or dishonesty, the blame belongs with what created the failure, not with the person willing to speak the truth out loud. The messenger is not the problem.

Officials are not owed constant applause. Citizens are not required to sit in silence. A healthy community depends on neighbors who are willing to speak plainly, even when it makes others uncomfortable. Especially then. Colchester does not need any more self-anointed royalty. What it needs is accountability, honesty, and the courage to tell the truth.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

Announcing My Candidacy

Dear Hebron Residents:

My name is Brian O'Reilly, and I am honored to announce my candidacy for a seat on the Hebron Board of Finance. My family and I have proudly called Hebron home for over 20 years. In that time, I have had the privilege of serving our community through local boards and coaching youth sports, experiences that deepened both my appreciation for Hebron and my commitment to giving back.

As a small business owner, I understand firsthand the importance of careful budgeting, long-term planning, and accountability. These same principles guide how I approach public service. Hebron is a wonderful town, and I believe that strong financial stewardship is essential to preserving the quality of life we enjoy, while ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used wisely and responsibly.

- If elected, my priorities will be:
- Fiscal responsibility – balancing community needs with affordability for residents.
 - Transparency – keeping residents informed and engaged in financial decisions.
 - Long-term planning – ensuring sustainable growth and stability for Hebron's future.

I am committed to listening to residents, working collaboratively with town leaders, and applying both common sense and financial discipline to every decision before the board.

It would be a privilege to serve you in this role. I respectfully ask for your support as I seek the opportunity to represent you on the Hebron Board of Finance.

Sincerely,
Brian O'Reilly - Amston

Candidate for the Hebron Board of Finance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

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Power Failure in Colchester

Dear Colchester Residents:

I'm a Republican candidate for the Board of Finance, and our team believes in one simple approach: common-sense solutions. You might think, "Well, surely we already have that, right?" Unfortunately... not always.

Here's one clear example: the town and schools can use their combined buying power to negotiate competitive electric rates and save taxpayers money. That's a smart, simple, common sense step.

But our current contract expires in December 2025 – right in the middle of the fiscal year. The responsible move would have been to negotiate a new contract before this year's budget season. Instead, the town and schools didn't take action. That meant they had to guess high on electric costs – padding both budgets by 40% and forcing taxpayers to shoulder more than necessary.

The better choice was obvious: lock in a contract early to protect residents from inflated costs. That's the kind of forward planning Colchester deserves. Saving taxpayers money should always be a top priority for elected officials.

This November, vote for leaders who value transparency, responsibility, and above all, common sense solutions that keep Colchester affordable for families. Vote Republican.

And before Election Day, we'd love the chance to meet you—join Colchester's Republican candidates for a meet-and-greet at the RecPlex pavilion on September 20th. Enjoy some good food, share your ideas, and hear more about our common sense solutions for keeping Colchester affordable. For details, visit ColchesterRepublicans.org.

See you there!
Michael Dubreuil -- Colchester
Republican Candidate for Board of Finance

Ready to Serve Marlborough

To the Residents of Marlborough:

My name is Joe Sheridan and I am running for Board of Finance Alternate as a nominee endorsed by the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee.

When my wife and I started our family, we wanted to find a community that was friendly, affordable and a great place to raise children, and we found that here in Marlborough. We moved here in 2020, and five years and three children later, I wanted to find ways to give back to this community with my expertise.

I have bachelor's degrees in accounting and finance and I have put that education to use in accounting roles for the past 18 years at both public and private companies across a range of industries. That background would make me an excellent addition to our town's Board of Finance, as I am well prepared and qualified to perform financial oversight for Marlborough.

I plan to have a collaborative, open-minded approach as an alternate, listening first and learning from the experience of the incumbent



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members, while offering my own unique perspective whenever possible.

So today I am asking you for your support and vote in November, both for myself and the excellent MDTC slate of candidates. I look forward to contributing to the financial stability of our town so that it can continue to grow and flourish - just like my family has here in Marlborough.

Sincerely,
Joseph Sheridan – Marlborough
Candidate for Board of Finance (Alternate)

Row C for BOE

To the Editor:

Hiring the right superintendent is important for our community. During our first term on the Board of Education we worked diligently to do just that. A good BOE supports their superintendent and questions his actions when necessary, keeping him to a vision to improve the district. Superintendent Sullivan has moved all of our schools forward in every area. His first initiative was to hear from the community and he did just that, meeting with parents and community members. Then forming working groups led by administration and including staff, parents and community members. These groups worked collaboratively to address facilities, student and professional culture, and community perception.

Most importantly a comprehensive capital plan was put together with the Bacon Academy roof at the top of the list. Colchester town leaders, board chairs and the superintendent have been collaborating on financing the project. This is no easy task, but it is important to find solutions that will not give tax payers in our town sticker shock. Simultaneously, all three boards have worked together with the community to bring the long standing safety issue in the fields to fruition. First steps to improve our school and recplex fields are finally happening. These are long overdue initiatives.

With the Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen working together and setting aside party politics Colchester can keep moving forward in a positive manner. Through continued positive communication, Colchester can do great things for our residents and especially our kids — our future and our legacy. Negative attacks serve no one, least of all the tax payer. All this progress can be easily undone, so it is critically important to vote Row C for BOE for experienced members Margo Gignac and Donna Antonacci. Thank you for your consideration.

Donna Antonacci – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Education



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 Planning 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

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For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester.
For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am. These positions are in Colchester.
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Legal Notice
Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission **APPROVED** the following application at their Regular Meeting on September 9, 2025:

- Permit Application **IWWC #25-09:** Andover Lake Management Association (ALMA), **81a Lakeside Drive (ALMA Right-of-Way)**. Installation of a 4-foot by 8-foot prefabricated aluminum dock with two steps within Andover Lake. If you have any questions, please contact the Andover Wetlands Agent at 860-742-7305 x4221 or email (preferred) at wetlands@andoverct.org

1 TB 9/12

LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:

I. **Petition 2025-20 & 21:** Petition of Wendy & Scott Sears for Special Permit and associated Site Plan approval to construct a Veterinary Clinic at 280 Church Street on 2.22 acres in accordance with Section 3.D.2.2, Neighborhood Convenience District.

II. **Petition 2025-22:** Petition of Carl Holmgren Jr. for Special Permit to construct an accessory structure exceeding 900 square feet in accordance with Section 2.E.8 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations at 523 East Street, Residence-1 District.

Planning and Zoning Commission
Sep 24, 2025, 7:00 – 10:00 PM (America/New_York)
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Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 9th day of September 2025.
Frank Zitkus, Chair

2 TB 9/12, 9/19

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

To: All Elected and Appointed Boards and Commissions in Marlborough
From: The Board of Selectmen
Re: All Boards Meeting Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center Chairmen,
We would like to invite you to the fall All Boards Meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center on School Drive. As per our charter, we should meet "for the purpose of communicating plans and coordinating action for carrying out the affairs of the town." Your part is to provide an update as to what your Board or Commission has been working on and what might be in store for the future. As Chair, we ask that you inform your members about this meeting and that someone from your group give a brief presentation to the others about your activities, goals, etc. If no one is able to attend in person, you might want to prepare a statement to be read at the meeting by the BOS Chair on your behalf.
We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of our town. Serving as an elected official or an appointed official takes time and commitment, and we want your service to be recognized by all.
On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, thank you!
Regards,
Deb Bourbeau Chairman, BOS

2 TB 9/12, 9/19



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