

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

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September 19, 2025



Foreign Exchange Celebration... The East Hampton Rotary Club celebrated its Foreign Exchange Program on September 10th. Bacon Academy junior Keegan McKenzie presented on her sophomore year abroad in Karlstad, Sweden. At the same time the club welcomed Regina Kotsur from Dnipro, Ukraine, who is attending East Hampton High School this year. Both the superintendent of Colchester and East Hampton Schools attended the celebration. From left are Colchester Superintendent of Schools Daniel Sullivan, Keegan McKenzie, Regina Kotsur, and East Hampton Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tasel.

East Hampton Soccer Off to Strong Start

By Josh Howard

In a battle of unbeatens, East Hampton High School girls soccer shook off an early deficit and rallied to defeat visiting Valley Regional, 6-2, at EHHS on Sept. 15.

Junior captain Liv Correia scored twice and dished out two assists as the Bellringers reeled off four straight goals in the first half and never looked back, improving to 3-0-1 this fall.

“We were moving the ball and our early crosses were really good,” Correia said of the team’s offensive outburst. “We had great movement — our through passes were on-point.”

The Warriors of Valley Regional strutted into Belltown with a record of 5-0, having outscored the first handful of opponents by a combined score of 29-4.

Early on, it looked like the road Warriors would continue that trend as senior captain Madelyn Riebold netted the game’s opening goal just three minutes into action.

But the Bellringers were not phased as Correia quickly countered by hammering home the equalizer in the seventh minute with an assist from Addison Perkins, who dished out three helpers in the win.

East Hampton head coach Andrea Giuliano was impressed with her team’s ability to shake off the early setback.

“A big difference this season is that we don’t let a goal against us define the game,” explained

Giuliano. “This group keeps attacking.”

In the 23rd minute, the Bellringers took the lead for good when Correia blasted a corner kick that was deflected and rebounded by sophomore Ava Ploszay, who booted the ball home to provide the Bellringers a 2-1 advantage.

Correia then centered a pass to Perkins, who scored with 8:20 left in the first half.

In the closing seconds of the first half, Giuliana DonAroma then scored the first of her two goals.

Ten minutes into the second half, DonAroma polished off the scoring when she tallied her second goal, lofting a shot from the right wing which cleared the outstretched arms of Valley goalie Emma Riley before hitting the top left corner of the net.

In handing Valley Regional their first loss, East Hampton remained one of the two teams in the Shoreline Conference (SLC) without a loss. On Sept. 8, the Bellringers came to a 2-2 draw with Old Saybrook, the other undefeated team in the conference.

Monday’s six goal-performance came on the heels of East Hampton’s 8-1 win on the road against North Branford on Sept. 12.

Giuliano said the key this season is the bond the team has created both on and off the field.

“This is a group that knows themselves very well,” noted Giuliano. “We work on communi-

See East Hampton Soccer, page 24

RHAM Freshman Dies in Dirt Bike Crash

By Toriana Williams

RHAM High School is grieving the loss of a freshman student, Erik Brooker, who tragically died on Sept. 14, following a dirt bike accident in Hebron

The school community and local families are coming together to support one another during this difficult time.

According to State Police Troop K, the crash occurred shortly before 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Brooker was riding a Honda CRF 150F dirt bike west on Burnt Hill Road when he lost control while negotiating a curve near Cone Road.

Police said the dirt bike then traveled off the right side of the road and struck a rocky embankment, where Brooker was thrown from the vehicle.

Brooker sustained serious injuries in the crash and was transported to Marlborough Middlesex Clinic, where he was pronounced dead, police said.

In a letter sent Monday to the RHAM community, Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara expressed his condolences to Brooker’s family and friends.

“It is with deep sadness that I share the tragic news of Erik Brooker, a freshman at RHAM

High School, who passed away after being involved in a dirt bike accident yesterday,” McNamara wrote. “Our thoughts and prayers go out to Erik’s family, friends, and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time.”

Officials have emphasized that the impact of Brooker’s passing will be felt across the school community, affecting students, staff and families in various ways. To support those in need, RHAM schools have implemented additional counseling services. Staff from RHAM High and Middle School are working closely with AHM Youth and Family Services to provide emotional support to students and faculty.

In an effort to offer comfort to grieving students, therapy dogs will also be present at both schools.

McNamara encouraged families to maintain open conversations with their children and to contact school counseling staff if additional support is needed.

“We are committed to supporting one another through this difficult time and thank you for your compassion and understanding,” he added.

In the days following the accident, a GoFundMe page was launched to support Brooker’s

grieving family. The fundraiser was organized by cousin Elizabeth Mauro on behalf of Brooker’s mother, April Caroline.

Mauro wrote that “our family experienced an unimaginable tragedy,” and described Brooker as “a loving son, a protective big brother, and a joyful presence in the lives of everyone who knew him,” adding that his sudden passing has “left a deep void in our hearts.”

The fundraiser emphasizes the family’s struggle to face life without him. It notes that Caroline, along with her daughter and Erik’s soon-to-be stepfather, are now navigating the “heartbreaking reality” of moving forward.

The page explained contributions would go toward funeral and burial costs, memorial arrangements and helping the family focus on healing.

Community response was overwhelming. As of press time Wednesday, more than \$14,000 had been raised – nearly triple the initial \$5,000 goal; a testament to the love and support surrounding Brooker’s family during this painful time.

To donate, visit gofund.me/56f452bca.

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Fall Into Art – An Autumn-Themed Community Art Show

AHM Youth and Family Services will hold Fall Into Art, an autumn-themed community art show, on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 1:30-6:30 p.m., at AHM, 25 Pendleton Drive.

This event will take place during Hebron Harvest Moon Festival. There will be a rain

This free event is in collaboration with the Hebron Creative Collective. If you are an artist interested in showing your work, please register, by contacting AHM at ahmyouth.org.

National Take-Back Day

AHM Youth and Family Services' Coalition for a Healthy and Empowered Community (CHEC), in partnership with the Connecticut State Police, will host a free Take-Back Event Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m.-noon, at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron.

CHEC and the state police host free Take-Back Events in spring and fall for community members to properly dispose of old and unneeded prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and vitamins anonymously.

AHM Fall Programs

Registration is now open for AHM Youth and Family Services' fall programs. There are activities lined up for all ages, including Youth Theater, Family Resource Center programs, Homeschool Enrichment, and Health Matters programs.

Visit ahmyouth.org to view the program listings and sign up.

See More RHAM News, page 25

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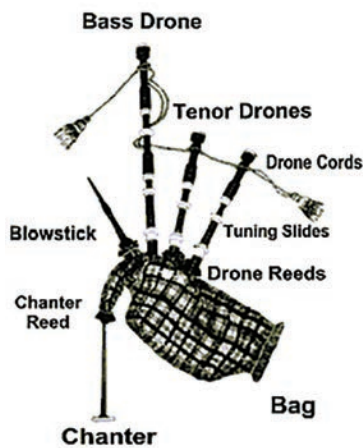
📍 WHERE: Middletown Elks Hall
44 Maynard St, Middletown, CT

🕒 WHEN: Wednesday, September 24, 2025
6:00–8:00 PM

OPEN HOUSE

Questions?

Ken Barber
kenbarber091@gmail.com
Bill Warner
mpbapipeband@gmail.com



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RF9-12-25

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. 8 – 14:

Brady Daggett – Portland High School (Soccer): Daggett scored the game's lone goal, hammering home a bicycle kick for the go-ahead goal in the 28th minute, as Portland earned a 1-0 road victory over Coginchaug on Sept. 11. Daggett, a senior, provided the offense and senior goalie Ethan Wells was in net as the Highlanders won their second game in a row. Up next, the Highlander hosts Cromwell at PHS tonight (Friday, Sept. 19) at 7 p.m.

Ellie Ballard – RHAM High School (Cross-Country): Ballard placed as the runner-up at the 13th Annual Connecticut River Valley Invitational, hosted by Cromwell High School on Sept. 13. Ballard crossed the finish line with a personal-best time of 18:59, placing behind only Alexa Nunez of Wethersfield (18:55) and ahead of 93 other competitors at the multi-school event. The Raptors girls placed third overall out of the 15 programs that competed. Ballard, a junior, is coming off an All-Central Connecticut Conference selections as a sophomore last fall.

Mason Howard – Bacon Academy (Football): Howard kicked the game-winning field goal in overtime as the Bobcats edged Oxford, 16-13, on Sept. 13. Howard, a sophomore, also kicked a game-tying 42-yard field goal with 1:20 left in regulation and connected on a 34-yarder early in the game. Senior quarterback Riddick Burroughs also scored an eight-yard rushing touchdown in the season opener, which marked the initial victory on the sidelines for first-year head coach Sean Ladyga.

Chelsea Ryan – East Hampton High School (Volleyball): Ryan, a senior setter, has helped the Bellringers win their first four games this season. In a five-set victory over Cromwell on Sept. 4, Ryan served up a career-high 34 assists and posted nine digs, five aces, and a pair of kills. East Hampton next travels to Coginchaug



Senior Brady Daggett scored a highlight-reel goal last Thursday as Portland High School boys soccer beat Coginchaug 1-0.

Regional High School to play the Blue Devils tonight (Friday, Sept. 19) at 5 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.

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Longtime readers – particularly those in Andover – may remember the tragic passing of Kenneth Joyce.

Kenneth, 13, died in a skiing accident in Colorado while on vacation with his family in February 2008. At the time of his death, he was an eighth-grader at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury. He was a member of the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron.

While the Joyce family lived in Glastonbury at the time of Kenneth’s passing, they had previously lived in Andover.

Shortly after Kenneth passed, his family founded the Kenneth Joyce Foundation. The foundation’s mission is to “encourage leadership, inspiration and friendship in today’s youth.” The organization awards annual scholarships to high school seniors, and also finds other ways to support the community.

In nearby Glastonbury, the foundation recently supported the community in a big way.

Earlier this month, the Glastonbury Board of Education accepted a donation for the purchase of two digital scoreboards at Glastonbury High School from the Kenneth Joyce Foundation.

The \$315,000 donation will go toward the purchase of the two scoreboards – one of which will be installed indoors in the high school gym and the other outdoors by its turf field.

Kenneth and his three brothers loved football – making the donation of the scoreboards

all the more meaningful.

The scoreboards will provide “a lasting legacy for Kenneth,” Glastonbury school board member Julie Thompson said.

It’s wonderful that, more than 17 years after his tragic passing, Kenneth Joyce’s memory continues to live on in such meaningful ways.

Longtime readers also may recognize the name of Marty Podskoch. A longtime historian, the East Hampton resident has written several books over the years – with one of his favorite subjects being the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The Civilian Conservation Corps began on March 31, 1933 under President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal initiative to help relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Great Depression. Several CCC camps were set up in Connecticut – including ones in East Hampton and Portland.

But it’s the Windsor camp that is receiving special attention from Podskoch next week.

On Thursday, Sept. 25, from 6:30-8 p.m., the Windsor Historical Society will present “Celebrating the Civilian Conservation Corps: The 90th Anniversary of Camp Britton in Windsor,” a lecture by Podskoch.

Camp Britton opened Sept. 12, 1935. Affectionately known as “Camp Bug”, it was not your average CCC camp. Beyond the usual forest improvements and park creation, the

Editor’s Desk continued on page 8

Bulletin Board

Connecticut politicians like to periodically assure us that they’re working diligently to lower our electric bills. This seems a little contradictory to me since it’s their legislative shenanigans—like the “public benefit” charge we see on our bills—that have contributed to the fact that we have the second highest utility bills in the nation after Hawaii (which at least has really nice beaches).

On the other hand, by cleverly forcing the electric company to collect these fees, the perpetrators get to shift the blame for what is essentially another state tax away from themselves and onto the BIG CORPORATIONS. So forgive me if I’m a little skeptical when certain politicians nominate themselves for an “I’m Always Battling for You” award.

Which is not to say that I have great confidence in the BIG CORPORATIONS either, but at least they admit they’re in it for the money and don’t expect you to be grateful.

I guess that in the interest of full disclosure I should confess here that my experience with electricity has not been without its low points over the years. The first of these occurred when I was maybe three or four years old and stuck my finger into the empty socket on a string of Christmas tree lights. It was one of those strings with the oversized color bulbs you used to see more often back in the day before we all went classy with those tiny white lights.

What would possess me to stick my finger in a hot lightbulb socket? As I recall, I was under the impression that my nose would light up like Rudolph’s, or, better still, like Mr. Sweeney’s—Mr. Sweeney being the jolly fellow who lived up the street. Only as an adult did I realize that the juice that lighted Mr. Sweeney’s nose didn’t flow through a wire. In any case, I stuck my finger in the socket and I don’t know if my nose lit up, but I sure as hell got quite a jolt and possibly a personality change as well.

Had that happened today, I suppose I could have sued my parents for not providing proper supervision, the Christmas light company for marketing dangerous unprotected sockets to people too young to read, and maybe even Santa himself for being a part of festivities that involve what lawyers refer to as “an attractive nuisance”—that being strings of colorful lights almost guaranteed to lure a child away from the lead-painted choking hazard he’d been quietly chewing on over in the corner.

But things were different in 1954.

As I recall it, my mother, responding to my shriek of shock (literally) and ascertaining that whatever the long-term effects of my misadventure, at least I had not reduced myself to a smoldering cinder in the short term, admonished me, “I told you not to do that.”

Well, yes, she did tell me. But she told me a lot of things, and she’d tell me a lot more in the years to come, and frankly it got to be a little hard to keep track after a while.

Anyway, instead of receiving maternal sympathy, phone calls from lawyers eager to take my case, and generous financial settlements from insurance companies, the general feeling among family and friends was that I was a potential half-wit who would bear close watching in the future.

Those suspicions seemed to be confirmed a few years later at a family picnic in East Glastonbury. My cousin and I were standing in a puddle by a fence watching cows munch on grass in a field across the street. Actually, we were avidly watching the cows decorate the landscape with cow flops, which may seem a little unseemly in some quarters, but is considered high entertainment when you’re about eight or nine years old.

During a lull in the action, my slightly older cousin—whose idea of an entertaining afternoon when there are no flatulent cows to be found was to chase ants around with a “death ray” constructed from a magnifying glass (he also started smoking cigarettes when he was like ten)—interrupted my bucolic reverie with the suggestion that I grab onto the wire separating us from the peacefully grazing bovines.

“And be sure to use both hands,” he advised.

Not one to disappoint those who already considered me a leading candidate for village idiot, I did just that, and learned that there’s more than one way to catch your hair on fire. Also, that what’s intended to keep cows in serves equally well to keep curious children out. Talk about lasting impressions: to this day, I live in fear even of static shocks.

If you’re wondering where this is all going, there is a conclusion of sorts to my meanderings. To get back to our politicians and their assurances that they’re working diligently to reduce our high electric bills...

Believe them if you want. As for me, I’m inclined to think that when it comes to promises, they’re not much different than flatulent cows.

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.



Proud Finish!... Ending their summer training Belltown FC competed in The Play with Pride Tournament. Facing tough opponents, Capt. Charlie McCarthy-Nowak led his team to first place. Displaying fluid attacks and a strong defense, the boys earned an undefeated 3-0-1 record. Pictured are Coach Josh Landon, Hudson D’Elia, Lukas Via, Aiden Pierson, Eli Mitchard, Tony Balamucki, Ollie McCarthy-Nowak, Sawyer McCarthy-Nowak, Charlie McCarthy-Nowak; front row, Joel Zavattero, Jeffery Walitynski, Mitch Bombaci, Macklin Davis.

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

A Challenge to Hebron

To the Editor:

I’d like to offer a note of appreciation and a challenge to the people of Hebron.

On quite a few nights over the summer, due to some uncommon circumstances, I found myself awake at 3 a.m., lying on my back in the driveway, looking up at the stars. It was beautiful and magical and spiritual, and I wouldn’t have been able to see as much of the galaxy if it weren’t for you, my neighbors, keeping it mostly dark without any glaring lights. The star-filled night sky was magnificent.

Our family moved here in 2021. We love that there’s a state park behind the backyard, and we love the open space, the quiet, and the wildlife. As a town, we have so many wonderful things that make Hebron special. Let’s not take these things for granted.

The challenge: Have you noticed that there are so many healthy, fit-looking youth, and then we adults often become overweight and out of shape? Hebron has been blessed with numerous attributes due to its farming history. Everything changes. If we are to continue to be a wonderful town, we may need to be more intentional and decide what’s important and special about Hebron so that we can maintain it. We may need to prioritize these values so that they are enduring. What is worth the cost to protect?

Matt Warren – Hebron

Dancing Into Wellness

To the Editor:

At the Portland Senior Center, one of our priorities is supporting healthy aging through engaging, accessible programs that keep people moving, connected, and energized. That’s why we are excited to announce that our popular SyncoCize class with Sue has now moved to Tuesday evenings.

This shift is especially meaningful because it opens the door for community members who are still working during the day but want to stay active and have fun in the evening hours. It’s a wonderful way to combine exercise, music, and social connection, all key ingredients in maintaining wellness as we age.

Sue has been with us for years, and her experience, energy, and talent continue to enrich our center. She brings not only expertise in movement and coordination but also a genuine spirit of encouragement that makes every participant feel welcome and motivated.

Healthy aging is not just about adding years to life, but adding life to years. Programs like SyncoCize reflect what we strive to do at the Portland Senior Center: create opportunities for wellness, joy, and community for adults of all ages.

Sincerely,
Sarah Caratasios, LMSW
Director & Municipal Agent
Portland Senior Center

RIVEREAST

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

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Running for Finance Board
To the Editor:
My name is David Caterisano, and I am a financial professional with over 15 years of experience in wealth management, insurance, and leadership. I help clients develop tailored strategies for banking, investments, and retirement planning, and have built and led a successful insurance agency while mentoring other advisors.
As a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, I managed multimillion-dollar assets, directed disaster response operations, and led teams of up to 75 people worldwide. My career reflects a commitment to integrity, fiscal responsibility, and service.
I am running for East Hampton's Board of Finance to bring my financial expertise and leadership to town governance, ensuring responsible budgeting that balances the needs of families, seniors, and local businesses while supporting the town's long-term growth.
David Caterisano – East Hampton

Voting for Lawrence
To the Editor:
I am proud to support Jan Lawrence for Hebron's Board of Selectmen. Jan has lived, worked, and raised a family in our town, and he understands what makes Hebron special. He is not just a candidate – he is a neighbor who cares deeply about the future of our community.
Jan brings a rare mix of skills and experience. As a business owner, he knows what it takes to grow and succeed while creating opportunities for others. In his role with the State of Connecticut, he has worked for more than a decade to improve systems that help families and people in need. That shows both his professional talent and his heart for service.
Beyond work, Jan has been a constant presence in Hebron life. From coaching youth sports to cheering at school events, he has always given back. He knows our kids, our schools, and the challenges our families face.
Jan's priorities – strong schools, modern infrastructure, a lively town center, affordable housing, and fair taxes – are the same priorities I hear from neighbors every day. With his energy, fairness, and collaborative spirit, I know Jan Lawrence will deliver results. Hebron will be stronger with him on the Board of Selectmen. Please vote for Jan in November!
**David Rose, Member
Hebron Democratic Town Committee**

Colchester in the Sunshine
To the Editor:
Colchester has never been more open and transparent than it is today.
We get weekly newsletters that keep everyone updated. The budget is easy to follow with documents posted for all to see. Even large FOI requests have been answered quickly and completely.
After years when information felt harder to get, it is refreshing to see everything shared so clearly. It builds trust, keeps people connected, and shows Colchester is heading in the right direction. That is real progress, and it is worth appreciating.
John Farrell – Colchester

Asking for Support
To the Editor:
We, Gussie Gilberti and Nancy Nelson, are running for Colchester Board of Education. We believe in working cooperatively and as such we are working as a team. When elected on Nov. 4, 2025, we will work cooperatively with other board members to build an excellent education for all Colchester students.
If elected, our priorities on the Board of Education will be (in no particular order):
Encourage transparent communication and collaboration between the BOE, school administrators, and the community;
Put students first with responsible budgeting with built-in accountability;
Advocate for rigorous classroom instruction that challenges all students;
Attract, support and retain excellent teachers;
Plan proactively for the maintenance of our school buildings and facilities;
Support the Bacon Academy Fields Project;
Promote early childhood education for all;
Support students academically, emotionally, socially, and physically;
Curriculum that prepares all graduates to enter the 21st century workforce;
Strengthen partnerships between our schools and community;
Manage our resources with foresight and sound planning.
We humbly ask for your support as the Democratic candidates for the Board of Education on Nov. 4, 2025.

Sincerely,
**Gussie Gilberti and Nancy Nelson
Candidates for Colchester
Board of Education**

Honesty Matters
To the Editor:
I have always been open and honest with this community, and I will continue to share the truth. Anyone who has followed me knows I have no problem saying exactly what I believe.
Last week, while on vacation at Disney with my family, I was not following national news. On the day of the Charlie Kirk incident, my husband mentioned his name, and I responded honestly: "I don't know who that is." I juggle a full-time job, a business, directing theater productions, raising three children, and serving on the Town Council. I do not have the time, or the interest, to follow every national political figure.
That evening, I saw my Facebook feed filled with hostility and cruelty. In response, I changed my cover photo to a single word: Karma, an image I have used before. When a relative asked if it was related to the news, I replied: "No, not in that way. I was just observing how people in this country are treating each other right now, and it's disgusting. We are all human." I then logged off for the night.
The next day, I learned that a resident had reposted my cover photo with his own lengthy explanation of what he believed it meant. He even admitted he was speaking to "the spirit" of what I posted. This individual does not know me or my intent, yet he created a narrative that dehumanized me and cast me as a villain.
Even more troubling, other elected officials and candidates joined in the thread. One even questioned my religious beliefs. Within that same discussion, threats were made against me personally, and a false, deeply inappropriate comment was made about one of my children. I reported those remarks to the East Hampton Police Department.
Initially, I left the cover photo up, knowing I had no ill intent. But once I saw threats and attacks against my family, I removed it. Protecting myself and my children is not about "silencing" anyone -- it is about safety.
If anyone misunderstood the photo as condoning violence against Mr. Kirk, I apologize. Relishing in someone's misfortune goes against

my beliefs, and I clarified that within minutes of being asked.
Some individuals in our community view my openness and honesty as a threat to their own interests. In November, residents must decide which path to follow: one grounded in integrity, responsibility, and respect, or one driven by distortion, hostility, and fear.
Karen Wanat – East Hampton
Note: Wanat is vice chair of the East Hampton Town Council, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Dementia Talks No. 31
To the Editor:
Today, Sept. 19th, marks 30 days until our team, #HebronRocksAlz, walks to end Alzheimer's at Rentschler Field, East Hartford. Hopefully you have seen some of our signs pop up around the *Rivereast* delivery area!
Don't stop reading yet – pretty please with a cherry on top!
I am also doing bike ride from Thompson to Portland along the Air Line Trail – about 60 miles, in one go, on Oct. 11 (rain date Oct. 12).
Why the ride you ask?
This question was posed to me recently and I will share the answer with you too. Over the summer I decided to get out and explore the parts of the Air Line I hadn't been on. In doing so, I found a calm, a quiet, a lightness. This is a similar lightness that I find when I visit my mom, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's back in 2017.
You know that lightness, where moving feels effortless, thoughts quietly flow through your mind. Trees, flowers, sky and clouds "just are". The aroma of a humid day lingers or the crispness of autumn arrives to clear the soul. A calm when you are just in the moment. Just like when I'm with mom.
The turns, the downhill and the uphill (and yes that does exist on the Air Line!!!); the crushed stone to rocky areas; not knowing what might come next, but accepting the journey and what it brings. This too is like our Alzheimer's Journey.

See Letters, page 6

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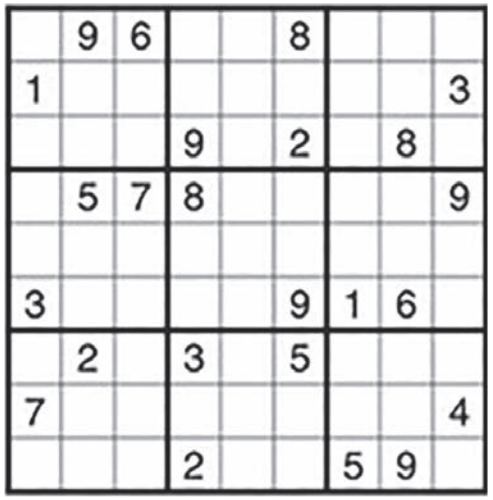
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★ Letters, cont. from page 5

This is how the 60-mile quest came to be. This will be a “Ride to Remember, while pedaling in the moment”! I would truly be grateful if you would help us generate funds for more research, caregiver support services and help us pave the path to a destination where Alzheimer’s is no longer a death sentence.

Google: #HebronRocksAlz 2025 Hartford
The search results should include our walk page; we would love it if you joined our team or were able to donate.

Thank you in advance!
And, please know you are not alone.
With much love and peace,
Tonya Maurer – Amston
(multitasking@comcast.net – in case the search didn’t work for you)
Alzheimer’s Hot Line 1-800-272-3900

Running for Town Council

To the Editor:
My name is Joelyn Leon, and I am proud to be running for East Hampton Town Council as a Democrat. As a longtime resident and political director of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, I have spent more than 30 years advocating for working families and building coalitions to make communities stronger.

Here in East Hampton, I will focus on responsible budgets that protect taxpayers while investing in quality public education, supporting seniors on fixed incomes, and ensuring our public safety services have the resources they need. I am committed to preserving our open spaces and Lake Pocotopaug, strengthening small businesses, and promoting transparent, accountable government that puts residents first.

I look forward to listening to the concerns of my neighbors and working together to keep East Hampton affordable, vibrant, and connected for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Joelyn Leon – East Hampton

An Excellent Candidate

To the Editor:
Nancy Nelson is a Democratic candidate for the Colchester Board of Education. I am proudly supporting her because she is a retired educator, a dedicated public servant, and avid advocate. Nancy Nelson has a demonstrated work ethic, a clear-eyed understanding of Colchester’s needs and issues, and commitment to finding cost effective solutions. She listens to various viewpoints, researches the issues at hand, and makes informed decisions. These qualities make her an excellent candidate.

I hope you will join me in voting for her on Election Day, Nov. 4.

Mary Dean – Colchester

Vote for Colchester Republicans

To the Editor:
Take a close look at your last two years of tax bills. Notice anything? Now compare them to the percentage increases in the Board of Education budgets. Do they line up? Next, consider this: school enrollment is actually declining. Yet somehow, more administrators have been hired. Does that make sense?

It’s clear something is out of balance – and there’s one reason why: the BOE.

The Republican Board of Education slate of candidates nominated and supported by our Republican Town Committee will finally stand up to the superintendent. The Republican Board of Finance candidates also nominated and supported by our Republican Town Committee will bring back fiscal discipline. And the Republican Town Committee’s nominated and supported Selectmen slate will make Colchester affordable again.

For a better and affordable Colchester, vote for the Republican Town Committee’s nominated and supported slate of candidates.

Rich Tanner
48-Year Colchester Resident

Dependable and Dedicated

To the Editor:
I strongly support Nancy Nelson as a candidate for the Colchester Board of Education. Nancy has a broad base of experience in the field of education. She devoted over 30 years to the discipline of education, serving as a classroom teacher, helping to develop curriculum, and as a math consultant,

An active member of the Colchester community, Nancy has served on CORE and frequently volunteers at the Colchester Senior Center.

Nancy is dependable, approachable, dedicated, interested in the welfare of children and is fiscally responsible.

I urge you to vote for Nancy Nelson in November.

Sincerely,
Gail Tracy – Colchester

Choosing Chip

To the Editor:
I am writing to endorse Raymond “Chip” Morris’ candidacy for the Marlborough Board of Education. An incumbent candidate, Morris is currently serving as chair of the Board of Education, having been elected chair by the unanimous vote of all the other board members, who saw in him good judgement, high ethical standards, the ability to collaborate with others, a careful listener.

Morris works in public health as an adult psychiatrist in East Hartford where he supports mental health wellness for adults of all ages. He is a current board member of AHM. Chip has lived in Marlborough since 2019 and has two children in the Marlborough schools, having moved to town because of its excellent schools. He is deeply committed to ensuring continued excellence for MES but also understands the need to keep costs low and communicate collaboratively with town officials on projects and issues that affect both.

I encourage you to vote for Raymond “Chip” Morris on Nov. 4 so he can continue his work with the Marlborough Board of Education and MES.

Jean Wilson – Marlborough
Note: Wilson is a current member of the Marlborough Board of Education but is writing as an individual.

Running for ZBA

To the Editor:
My name is Bob Hein and as a candidate for the position of alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals in East Hampton, I ask for your vote. I am a 30-year resident of East Hampton and previously had a two-year term on the Board of Finance. I have a BA in Political Science from UConn and after retiring from a more than 40-year career in manufacturing in 2012, I started a new career as a substitute teacher in our local school system, which continues to this day.

As our town grows and changes, there will be zoning issues that have to be addressed. Some of these issues will result in appeals by interested parties. As an alternate, my job would be to fill in for absent or recused members and vote on decisions in accordance with local and state laws and regulations while considering relevant evidence and testimony. I will, to the best of my ability, give all parties, evidence, and arguments, a fair and unbiased consideration in accordance with established procedures. I look forward to serving the residents of East Hampton.

Bob Hein – East Hampton

All EH Adults – Please Respond!

To the Editor:
In order to understand East Hampton’s residents needs for senior center improvements, and the potential for a community center, the views of all adults in town are important. Thus the Senior Center and Services Task Force, with Town Council approval, requests your input in their 5-10 minute survey. This survey asks you about the details of what you would like to see, which is the first step in the planning process. Deciding which of those needs and wants can get funded, and lining up the grants, donations, and funding, are all later parts of the process.

Even if you are not 60 years or over yet, your input is still important for several reasons. If there is a community center, it could include facilities and programs that would appeal to you and your family now. If you have older friends or relatives in town, your input can highlight services they could use. If you have views about whether older adults should be separate or be a part of the community, you could express them.

I am writing as chair of the EH Commission on Aging, which identified the need for modernization of our Senior Center. Please join in serving your community and older adults by filling out this survey. Simply enter this link in your browser to go right to the survey. <https://tinyurl.com/SCTFSurvey> Thank you!

Eric Rosenberg, MD
Chair, East Hampton Commission on Aging

DPWAC Update

To the Editor:
I know it’s been a few weeks since I wrote a letter and I hope this one is not lost in the fray with the different political candidates support letters.

On this past Monday the Action Committee reviewed some very well thought out plans presented to us by Chris Nardi of Silver, Petrucelli & Associates. The public works director, Paul Forrest, along with two of his staff and some members of the Action Committee worked with SP&A to come up with some basic plans. These plans will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at the Thursday, 9/25/25 BOS meeting.
This would be an excellent time for members of our community to see what’s being planned, and be able to comment on the plans during the “public comment” time allowed at the end of the meeting. Speak now or forever hold your peace! I’ve been asking continuously for my fellow Hebron voters to get engaged and learn what’s going to be voted on at referendum come late winter or early spring 2026! Let’s not be Monday morning quarterbacks, but be part of the solution.

We also discussed townwide trash and recycle pickup during the time that the transfer station is closed for construction. This is another reason for you to be involved and speak up at the BOS meeting. Everyone generates waste that needs to be properly disposed of. How will this affect you? Please attend the next BOS meeting and find out! The BOS meetings can be attended in the comfort of your own home on your computer or in person at the town hall.

I look forward to seeing you at the 9/25/2025 BOS meeting at the Hebron town hall! As always, email questions to me at thabicht@hebronct.com Read the most recent FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) on the town of Hebron’s website at www.hebronct.com and please ask questions to learn what we will be voting to pay for.

Sincerely,
Todd Habicht
Hebron DPWAC Vice Chairman



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Running for School Board
To the Editor:
I am writing to announce my candidacy for the Marlborough Board of Education in the upcoming election.
As a longtime educator, I have dedicated my career to helping school districts grow stronger, more equitable, and more responsive to the needs of children. I bring with me more than three decades of experience in public education as a teacher and administrator, including my previous service as Superintendent of Schools in Tolland.
I have also served in other district administrative positions responsible for business and operations. These roles have given me firsthand insight into the challenges and opportunities facing public education from classroom instruction to budgeting and long-term planning.
What inspires me most today, however, are my grandchildren who currently attend Marlborough Elementary School. Their experiences have renewed my commitment to ensuring that every child in this town receives a high-quality education in a safe, nurturing environment.
Like all families in our community, I want our school to be a place where curiosity is encouraged, where educators are respected and supported, and where transparency and accountability guide every decision.
Marlborough has a proud tradition of valuing education. I would be honored to contribute my experiences and energies to help continue that tradition. I believe I can offer a thoughtful, informed voice to the board – one that is focused on collaboration, fiscal responsibility and, most importantly, doing what is best for students.
I ask for your support in this election. I look forward to the opportunity to serve our town and its children.

Sincerely,
Bill Guzman
Candidate for the Marlborough Board of Education

The Silence Speak Volumes
To the Editor:
Republicans and Democrats at the state-level in Connecticut came together in a joint statement to condemn the violence that took place on Sept. 10th, when Charlie Kirk was assassinated in response to his biblical Christian beliefs and conservative worldview. Although calls for unity after years of toxic hyperbole and demonization from the left received mixed responses, a public condemnation of the violence was necessary and proper.
Sadly, that sentiment was not apparent amongst East Hampton Democrats. The East Hampton Democrats chose not to put out any statement or even reference the state-level statement on their social media presence. They made no reference to the horrible violence in any way. When one of their own incumbent politicians, Town Council Vice Chair Karen Wanat, chose to make light of Kirk's murder on social media, and the town became aware of it, the East Hampton Democrats said nothing.
It's important to note they did not condemn her behavior, nor did they defend it. They remained silent, hoping the people of East Hampton would eventually forget and move on. But the people of East Hampton will not forget, nor will they be fooled by backpedaling, equivocation or gaslighting on what happened.
They'll also not forget their neighbors who made comments that seemed to embrace the horrible notion that Charlie Kirk's own actions were at fault, chalking it up to "karma" and explaining that he got what he deserved. They took the Democratic politician's lead and came out of the woodwork to justify and excuse her behavior, and less directly that of the assassin's.
The court of public opinion has witnessed the East Hampton Democrats' silence and knows that it's a tacit approval of their candidate's actions. Election Day is not far away, and if the East Hampton Democrats remain silent on this matter, and maintain their endorsement of the candidate in question, then the voters must assume her sentiments on the issue are universally shared by the East Hampton Democrats and all the candidates they endorse.
If you want to hear what the East Hampton Democrats, including those who control our Town Council, think about all of this, I suggest you send a firm but respectful email to the following contacts and ask them:
Town Council: towncouncil@easthamptonct.gov
Town Manager: dcox@easthamptonct.gov
East Hampton Democratic Town Committee: easthamptonctdems@gmail.com
East Hampton Democratic Town Council Chair: kevin.reich2020@gmail.com
Bryon Turner – East Hampton

Lottery Tickets
To the Editor:
To put buying lottery tickets in perspective, you will notice that Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York are in the top six. They also happen to be in the top 10 for tax burden. It's the lower-income people who are the largest group buying lottery tickets, hoping to offset their expenses, even if it means spending money they shouldn't. The chances of winning are also less because these states keep more of the prize money.
So, unless you're willing to move from the northeast, your only hope of getting ahead is to win a lottery, because these high-tax states are only going to continue doing what government does best – "increase your taxes."
Frank Grande – Colchester

Cost of Community Services
To the Editor:
"Cost of Community Services (COCS) studies conducted over the last 30 years show working lands generate more public revenues than they receive back in public services. Their impact on community coffers is similar to that of commercial and industrial land uses. On average, because residential land uses do not cover their costs, they must be subsidized by other community land uses. Converting agricultural land to residential land use should not be seen as a way to balance local budgets.
In nearly every community studied, farmland has generated a fiscal surplus to help offset the shortfall created by residential demand for public services. This is true even when the land is assessed at its current agricultural use.
Communities need reliable information to help them see the full picture of their land uses.

COCS studies are inexpensive ways to evaluate the net contributions of working and open lands. They can help local leaders discard the notion that natural resources must be converted to other uses to ensure fiscal stability. They also dispel the myths that residential development leads to lower taxes, that differential assessment programs give landowners an 'unfair' tax break and that farmland is an interim land use just waiting around for development." – American Farmland Trust, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.
As election season approaches we hear the same old stuff. We don't hear politicians safeguarding Hebron's groundwaters, Open Space, historical heritage, farmland or rural charm. We hear impervious surfaces, that must be salted, we hear construction and we see loss around most corners. That's painful.
How do we stop the merry-go-round surrounding the myth that growth leads to tax reductions?.....We could put the farmers back in charge..... In the past four years I've had the chance to converse with multiple farmers, in and out of Hebron. In these beautifully weathered faces I hear passion for natural resources, common sense, stories of families losing their farms, often due to suburban complaints and real concerns about the future of this nation. Some are literally fighting for the right to farm. However, none of them have lost their sense of humor. One simply cannot raise livestock, farm and know all the local politics without humor.
Hebron can help by becoming a Right to Farm community and by preserving its land and heritage...but this won't happen on its own. Public support is needed. Write to your local politicians. #save17
Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Tag Sale Thank You
To the Editor:
Epoch Arts sends out a huge thank you to our community! For all those who donated and then shopped at our 2025 Tag Sale, we thank you. The Tag Sale is our biggest fundraiser and an opportunity to visit with our community and this year was a huge success! We have such a great community who supports our youth programs each year and we are blessed to call you all friends! We also want to thank our volunteer workers who have worked hard to pull this off, you are our heroes and we love you all so much!
The Epoch Arts Staff and Board of Directors

Qualified to Serve
To the Editor:
My name is Vincent "Vin" Pitruzzello, and I am a first-time candidate for the Portland Board of Selectmen. I want to take the opportunity to formally introduce myself. My wife Lisa and I have called Portland home for over three decades, we've raised our family here, and we deeply value the small-town spirit that makes this community so special.
I earned my Bachelor of Science in engineering from the University of Connecticut and a Master of Science in management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. I was fortunate to receive a great education, and that's why education remains one of my top priorities.
Throughout my career, I've held senior leadership roles – including director, vice president, and general manager – across many diverse organizations.
My immigrant parents were given the chance to succeed in this country and now I want to do my part to give back to the town that helped
See Letter, page 26

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RE9-19-25

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Vacancy on Town Commission

Marlborough is looking for residents interested in serving as alternate on the Commission of Aging.

All residents of Marlborough who are registered to vote are eligible. Interested candidates should go to the town website, marlboroughct.gov, and type in “Application for Boards or Commissions” in the search bar for the application.

The closing date on applications for vacancies is 30 days from the first date that the vacancy is posted in the newspaper. In this case, that date is today, Sept. 19.

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

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.

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: 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 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.

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: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:45-1:45 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.

Beginner Tai Chi: Tuesdays/Thursdays, noon-12:45 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Session begins Oct. 7. Fee: \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

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.

New Grief Share Session to Start

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

The group consists of 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 ses-

sions 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.

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.stjfcchurch.org.

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

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

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

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.

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

meet monthly; and an active book club meets quarterly. Social activities are planned throughout the year to provide additional parish fellowship.

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

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

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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.

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RivereastNewsBulletin



Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

camp worked in step with the Connecticut Agricultural Station to execute insect control and research.

Podskoch’s talk will explore the origins of the CCC and the camp’s work in the Poquonock section of Windsor. Attendees will learn how Windsor’s CCC camp helped advance both environmental stewardship and scientific innovation during a pivotal era in American history.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and WHS members, and \$6 for children. Pre-registration is encouraged. For tickets or more information, visit www.WindsorHistorical-Society.org or email info@windsorhistorical-society.org.

Hollywood lost one of its all-time great actors this week, when Robert Redford passed away at the age of 89. To say the actor was beloved would be an understatement. He starred in some of the most beloved films of all time, including *The Sting*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *Barefoot in the Park*, and two films related to subjects very near and dear to my heart: the baseball classic *The Natural* and what many feel is the best journalism-related movie of all time, *All the President’s Men*.

He was also a very accomplished director, helming such well-regarded features as *A River Runs Through It*, *Quiz Show* and of course *Ordinary People*, which netted him a Best Director Oscar in 1981.

And he was also a very well-spoken man, offering some very wise quotes over the years about not just the film industry, but life in

general. Here are some particularly noteworthy ones:

“Speak out for what you believe and what you feel. Or don’t. You have to live with yourself.”

“Life is essentially sad. Happiness is sporadic. It comes in moments, and that’s it. Extract the blood from every moment.”

“Sound and accurate journalism defends our democracy. It’s one of the most effective weapons we have to restrain the power-hungry. I always said that *All the President’s Men* was a violent movie. No shots were fired, but words were used as weapons.”

“Not taking a risk is a risk. That’s how I see it. If you’re going to take a risk, you have to be prepared if it doesn’t work. You have to have perseverance and a certain gumption and maybe be a little nuts.”

“I think it’s important to fail. Failure’s not fun. I’m not that perverse. I grew up in a world that said failure is the end of the road. It’s not. It’s a step along the road.”

“If you persevere, if you really believe in something strongly enough, you just keep at it until it happens.”

“I believe there’s no room for discrimination. None. I think it’s un-American.”

And lastly:

“I have a very low regard for cynics. I think it’s the beginning of dying.”

Rest in peace, Mr. Redford – and thanks for the cinematic memories, and also the wisdom.

See you next week.

Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough

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. Sunday school is open to all children in the community for children ages 3 through grade 8. Contact Elizabeth Kukich at ekukich@marlconchurch.org for more information.

Worship on Sept. 21 will be led by Scott Reid while Seaver visits with the Sunday school children during class time.

Bible Study is led by Seaver and meets Thursdays at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. upstairs in the lounge. All 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/MC-Cebay.

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.

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: 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.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.

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.



The garden at Marlborough Congregational Church is now a Pollinator Pathway! Pictured is Michele Sinkez, designer of the garden, with the official Pollinator Pathway medallion sign. Photo by Stephanie Bunting.

Local Church Aligns with Nature and Bugs

Marlborough Congregational Church (MCC) has officially become part of Pollinator Pathway, an organization that consists of public and private pesticide-free garden corridors of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects and birds.

In a fragmented landscape defined by parking lots and manicured lawns, pollinators like hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies can have a difficult time finding food and shelter. Planting native flowering plants on highway rights-of-way, farms, schools, home gardens, corporate landscapes and on public spaces together make for pollinator pathways throughout the year and during migration.

The MCC garden demonstrates an assortment of native plant species that bloom throughout the year, that feed bees and butterflies nectar and pollen, feed birds berries and seeds, and provide larval host plants for Monarch and other butterflies.

Visit www.pollinator-pathway.org for more information on the topic and view the MCC garden features on the map. You're also welcome to stop by the church and see what the buzz is about!

4th Friday @ the Arts Concert

Ashly Cruz will perform at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St., on Friday, Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m., as part of the center's 4th Friday @ the Arts concert series.

Cruz, a Connecticut native, has headlined at BB King's Dance Club at Foxwoods Casino, as well as brought her wide variety of song and dance to La Vie En Rose Bistro in New London. She released her first single and video titled “My Tango Baby”, as well as developing the unique “Cardio Latino” fitness routine. She has also led the development of Connecticut rock band Cruz Machine.

Admission to this program is free, and subsidized by a Grant from the Marlborough Greater

Together Community Fund of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

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

Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit regional center for the fine arts, performing arts and fine crafts, and completely organized by volunteers.

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

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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:

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 has returned to fall hours, 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/Gilead-ChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

This Week’s Scheduled Events/Meetings: Saturday, 9/20 – Yoga at 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Sunday, 9/21 – Worship Service at 10 a.m. (in-person in the sanctuary, as well as online and livestreamed); Sunday, 9/21 – Coffee Hour at 11 a.m.; Sunday, 9/21 – “Finding Steady Ground” support group at 11:30 a.m.; Monday, 9/22 – Bible study at 9:30 a.m. (online via Zoom); Tuesday, 9/23 – AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 9/24 – Yoga at 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Card Game Night, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following programs. For more information and full program descriptions, and to register, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. **Pre-registration is required for all programs unless noted.** For an online senior newsletter, visit hebronct.com/town-departments/senior-center.

Painting Class: Wednesdays, Oct. 1 and 8, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 for both sessions or \$25 for one. Join Audrey Carrol to create a fall leaf semi abstract watercolor, with a variety of texture techniques. All levels of painting experience. Call for the supply list. Please sign up by Monday, Sept. 29.

Cardio Drumming: Tuesday, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m. This is a free class, but you must pre-register by Monday, Oct. 6, at 10 a.m. This high-energy workout combines the rhythm of drumming with simple moves, giving you a full-body exercise. This program is designed for all fitness levels. Sponsored by The Residence at Glastonbury. Maximum of 20 people allowed.

Movie Monday: Monday, Sept. 29, 12:30 p.m. *City Island* (2009; rated PG-13) will be shown. Popcorn will be served.

Mindful Meditation: Monday, Sept. 29, starting at 11:25 a.m. The class is free. Mindful meditation is a mental training practice that teaches you to slow down racing thoughts, let go of negativity, and calm both your mind and body. Led by Mandy Rocznia, who has been practicing mindful meditation for 17 years. To register call 860-228-1700.

Yoga: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m. The new session started Sept. 3 and will run through Oct. 1. Fee for all sessions is \$27, or you may drop in for \$5 per class. Instructor Laurie Pasteryak will lead classes suitable for both the experienced and beginner yogis who can do their practice on either the floor or in a chair.

Tai Chi: Thursdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m. This class consists of soft, fluid, circular movements that build into a flowing meditation. The new session began Sept. 4 and runs through Sept. 25. Fee for all sessions is \$12.

Quality of Life Care Options – Defining Palliative & Hospice Care: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m. This presentation will be led by our social worker Dennis Farrar and accompanied by Sandy Waldo and Rebecca Tamsin.

Discover Excellent Posture and Sound Meditation: Friday, Sept. 19, 10:30 a.m.-12:30

America celebrates 250 years of independence 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.

Card Game Nights: Hosted by the Fellowship Committee on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome; no need to bring anything.

Gilead’s Donation to Covenant Soup Kitchen: Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, Gilead’s Board of Missions was able to donate over 90 pounds of food and goods to the Covenant Soup Kitchen. A special shout-out to church volunteers Jill and Grace MacLachlan for their help.

Card-Making with Gayle: Create unique, seasonal greeting cards for \$15 with part of the proceeds benefitting 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: 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.

p.m. Cost is \$25. Sara M. Billings will teach you an awareness with your body while seated and standing for balance, core strengthening and excellent posture.

Weekly Shopping Trips – Please Notice Alterations for Shopping Days: Pre-registration is required by Wednesday at 10 a.m. for Thursday trips and by Thursday at 10 a.m. for Friday trips. Schedule: Thursday, Sept. 25, Big Y; Thursday, Oct. 2, Stop & Shop. Pick-ups start at 9 a.m.

Renters’ Rebate Program: State law provides a property tax credit program for Connecticut homeowners who are age 65+ or totally disabled and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Likewise state law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut 65+ and totally disabled renters. The filing period for this program is until Oct. 1. Applications will be taken by appointment by calling the senior center.

Senior Transportation: Offered to ages 60 and up and all adult disabled individuals, for medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Transportation available Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance, but 48 hours is recommended – and required for new riders. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the dedicated transportation line at 860-228-5977.

Recurring Daily/Weekly Happenings: Some programs have a fee, and some are no-cost; most require pre-registration. More information in the monthly newsletter or at the senior center. **Monday through Friday:** Exercise Equipment Room, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – though from 9 a.m.-noon on Fridays.

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

St. Peter’s News & Notes

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St. (mailing address: P.O. Box 513) in Hebron. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski. The church is located on Route 85, a quarter-mile south of the intersection with Route 66, at 30 Church St.

Sunday Worship: The church’s summer schedule is in effect. There is one service with hymns at 9 a.m. The church is air conditioned. All are invited to stay for Coffee Hour.

Meetings: Balance Class: Mondays, 10:30-11:00 a.m., \$5; **Boy Scouts:** On summer break; **Buildings and Grounds Committee:**

First Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; **Hebron Greater Together Community Fund:** Third Tuesdays, 6 p.m.; **Virtual Coffee Hours:** Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; **Vestry Meeting:** Third Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Outreach: Food Donations are collected for various local food pantries. Donations may be placed in the brown donation box outside Phelps Hall. For more information about services and other events at St. Peter’s, visit stpetershebron.com or search for St. Peter’s Hebron on Facebook.

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!

Hebron Creative Collective

The Hebron Creative Collective, a group of resident artists who work in a variety of media, is looking for new members.

The mission is to inspire, support and share creative skills with fellow artists, to engage the public through demonstrations, teaching and exhibiting art, and to beautify the town. The ultimate goal is for Hebron to have an arts center. Until that day, Collective members are working on projects to bring art to the community and develop a lively and engaging art scene in town.

One of the artists may already be known to residents. Judith Podell is a painter/writer who has lived in Hebron for 27 years. After retiring from serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission, she created The Town Center Project, which has brought us such events as Make Music Day, the Harvest Moon festival, the Summer Concert Series, as well as the painted Adirondack chairs and the SnoFolk. Together with Andrey Stolyarov, she also started the Hebron Community Chorus.

Stepping back from those responsibilities now allows her more time to paint and write.

HGTCF Grant Applications Due

The Hebron Greater Together Community Fund (HGTCF) is reminding people the deadline for grant applications is Oct. 1. Applications can be found on the fund website, www.hfpg.org/donors/ways-to-give/community-funds/hebron.

Here are some more examples of past projects that have been wholly or partially funded by a grant from HGTCF.

Diane Blume, who has masterminded and worked to create the gardens at the Food Pantry explained how grant funds were used this year. She said that, so far, volunteers have purchased the following: Metal raised beds from Vego to make 4 new beds and to extend another bed; four 8-foot cattle panels and one 16-foot cattle panel plus T posts for trellising; drip irrigation for new beds; rotating composter; delivery cost for donated soil.

Blume noted other financial donations have been received this year as well, and added, “As a result of these grants we have increased the garden growing area by 50% this year including irrigation and trellising. So far, we have harvested over 700 pounds of produce for the pantry with more coming! This is three times more than we produced last year! The grant expansion plus our gardening improvements contributed to this increase.”

Another beneficiary of a HGTCF has been the Hebron Pollinator Pathway committee. Michele Sinkez said that, thanks to the grant, Hebron Pollinator Pathway has successfully designed and installed the informational garden sign at the Raymond Brook Preserve Bird Garden located at the pond from the church street entrance to the preserve. This sign explains why birds need native plants specifically for food, shelter and nesting sites. The sign also identifies the blooming species in the garden.

“A second adjacent new sign, in the design process, will introduce the public to a woodland

Podell describes her work thus:

“Painting is my elixir. The very act of putting paint on canvas transforms me, my vision seems sharper, my brush takes on a life of its own, and my whole being feels vibrant and alive. A painting often starts as a memory of a dream. I paint as if possessed and when I step away, I marvel at what has emerged. The process is both frustrating and exhilarating as what emerges is so often completely unexpected, I wonder where did that come from? “

Besides abstract paintings, Podell paints “anything not moving,” which includes furniture, posters, toys, murals and other decorative objects. She also finds time to write charming and funny stories and has recently published her memoir, *Monkeyface*. Her work can be viewed at www.judithpodellart.com and www.monkeyfacememoir.com. Her art will be on display in the community room at the Douglas library for the month of December 2025.

The Hebron Creative Collective meets the first Monday of the month at 6 pm at the Senior Center.

path and the importance of native species and the dangers and harm of invasive plants to our local ecosystem,” she added. Identification signs of 12 invasive and native shrubs and trees are complete and ready for installation along the woodland path leading to the Pollinator Demonstration Garden. These signs were from a previous HGTF grant and will be installed this month.

Sinkez said the third part of the grant is the Demonstration Garden Sign which is currently being designed to inform the public of the landscape use of native perennial species, shrubs and trees that support local pollinator bees, moths and butterflies.

“Blooming seasons, flower shape, and color are key to attracting pollinators,” Sinkez said, “and this garden displays the four-season blooms that provide pollen, nectar, and larva, caterpillar, host plants for the Monarch and other butterflies as well as nutrition for native and honey bees.”

The two garden signs will connect the woodland path ID signs. The pathway will also add a new wildflower sign to the mix come spring.”

David Rose, who has mapped the town trails and open spaces, started the Hebron Paths and Trails Foundation a couple of years ago with a grant from HGTCF. This year, he said, the foundation has used the grant to “purchase equipment to help us maintain the trails and keep them open and accessible to the public. We have also been able to pay for public outreach and publicity for town events to educate the public about all the open spaces available to folks to use. We could not have done this important work without the funding we received.”

You need to be a part of a 501(c)3 or to have a local charity act on your behalf to receive a grant. For more information on the fund or to apply, check out www.hfpg.org/donors/ways-to-give/community-funds/hebron.



Grand Canyon of the East... The *Rivereast* traveled to upstate New York, with the Bates family, to vacation at Mt. Morris Dam (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dam) and Letchworth Falls State Park, commonly referred to as “Grand Canyon of the East.” David and Sandy Bates are pictured here.



Rivereast Goes Camping... Declan Kelley, Nathan Clark and Ryan Mendes of Portland recently spent a week at Green Mountain Conservation Camp on Lake Bomoseen in Castleton, Vt., learning about fishing, hunting, orienteering and more. They were sure to bring their *Rivereast* so they could keep up with what was going on in town!

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!



Alaskan Adventures... Members of the Colchester Senior Center and their guests recently returned from a 12-day Holland America land tour and cruise in Alaska. Pictured in front of Mount Denali, on right, in Talkeetna are Karen Swanson from Middletown, Kristen Warzecha (holding the *Rivereast*) and Joyce Sypher from Colchester, Susan Heinonen from Windham, Dan and Kathy Feldman from Lebanon, and Don and Lori Brennan from Westbrook.



Bulletin on Block Island... Jerry Plummer of East Hampton recently went to Block Island and brought the *Rivereast* as a great read at Paynes Wharf. While there he met Tony, who's a year-long Islander. Such friendly people!

Where in the World?

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

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

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

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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.

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. 22: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Seasonal Crafting, Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 11 a.m.-noon, fitness orientation by appointment; noon, Tech Time with Harry; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg, Bridge, Set Back.

Tuesday, Sept. 23: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 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. 24: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology

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.

by Appointment; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit; 10:45 a.m., Goodspeed Trip departs; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

Thursday, Sept. 25: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Card-Making; 11 a.m.; Yoga; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet; 2 p.m., Falls Prevention; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

Friday, Sept. 26: Senior Center closed for Town Staff Training Day.

Bacon Bit Buffet Wrap Party: Monday, Sept. 29, 10:30 a.m. All are invited to this Senior Center Month Wrap Party. Sign up to bring a bacon-flavored treat (sweet or savory) or pay \$3 to have a taste. The senior center will draw the winners of its Bacon Strip Drawing, share its Bacon Bits of Wisdom, and play bacon trivia. Registration is required.

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.

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.

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.

Veterans Coffee House

The next Colchester Veterans 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.

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

innovative 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.

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. Worship is in person at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Adult Sunday/Bible School: two classes, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study for Women: Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Sweet Aroma, Colchester.

Healing Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. prayer meetings – Thursdays, 10 a.m.

and Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Men's and Women's Breakfast: Meets once per month on Saturday mornings.

The church also has many other things to offer. Unless otherwise noted, all groups/studies are held at the church. Call the church office for more info on the groups.

For more information, call the church office at 860-537-3082 or visit AbundantL.com.

Youth Football Recap

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

Peewees: Had a bye week.

Micros: Defeated the New London Whalers 32-0, for their first win of the season. The defense dominated the field, containing the Whalers' run game. Sully King and Greyson Smith had a huge sack on New London's quarterback, forcing a fumble recovery. Colchester's focus on blocking over the last few weeks have paid off with Colton Goodwin and Cam Brodeur picking up the blitz on key plays leading to positive yard and touchdowns. The offensive line did

their job this week and paved the way for Ryker Mathers, Silas Constant, Cam Brodeur and Braden MacFarland to all find the end zone. The next game is against WPTP on Sunday.

Juniors: Lost, 21-13. The team got off to a slow start and wasn't able to recover even after an admirable second half defensive showing. The offense had its moments, though, with a pair of touchdowns by Brandon Hopkins and Xavier Smith.

Seniors: Lost, 40-19. The score doesn't reflect on how hard these boys and girls played, riddled with more injuries, the Cougars said. There were strong running plays by Jakob Sheehan, Garrett Berg-Johnson, and PJ Brodeur. Some players are coming back off injuries in time for the next game against WPTP on Sunday.

It's Shoebox Season!

All are invited to pack a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child – and shoeboxes will be available in Colchester starting Sunday, Sept. 21.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Its mission is to collect shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies and send them across the world to needy children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine and disease.

Empty shoeboxes will be available for pickup at Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Rd. Pick-up and drop-off of Items will be Sundays, 1-3 p.m.

For more information, call the church at 860-537-3082.

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.



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We are thrilled to announce that Paul Holden has joined the Holmgren Subaru family!

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We are very lucky to have him.

Please stop by and join us in giving Paul a warm welcome to Holmgren Subaru!





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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.; con-

tact 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.

Colchester Fire & EMS Open House

All are invited to the Colchester Fire & EMS Open House Sunday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Come on down and meet your local firefighters and EMS providers. Check out our equipment, fire prevention and safety information, and the headquarters station.

Among the many events and activities will be:

- Vehicle Extrication Demonstration
- Fire Extinguisher Training & Demonstration
- Fire Safety and Prevention Information Available
- Firefighter Gear Try On

- Antique Fire Truck Rides to the fire museum
- Blood Pressure Screenings & Ambulance Tour
- Touch-a-Truck
- Smoke the Bear Visit
- Gator UTV & Marine Units on Display
- CPR / Lucas Device Demonstration
- Department of Energy and Environmental Protection demonstrations.

Also, hot dogs will be available for lunch (while supplies last), and the Fire Museum at 100 South Main St. will be open for tours.

Westchester Church News

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

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

Scouts: The church sponsors Scouting America Troop 109. During the school year, Troop 109 meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knit-

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

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.

Meet Republican Candidates

All are invited to a Colchester Republicans fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1-5 p.m., at the pavilion at the Rec Plex in Colchester.

Connect with Republican candidates for first selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Board of Finance, treasurer, and Board of Assessment Appeals. A home-cooked meal will also be served.

Tickets start at \$25. Kids 10 and under are free. Advanced tickets are available for purchase at www.colchesterrepublicans.org.

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.

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.

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.

Fall Book and Bake Sale

The Friends of Cragin Memorial Library will hold its Fall Book and Bake Sale at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., from Oct. 3-8.

The sale begins Friday, Oct. 3, from 4-7 p.m., with a pre-sale admission of \$5 to pick the "cream of the crop." The sale continues with no admission charge on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Monday through Wednesday, Oct. 6-8, during regular library hours. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are also the \$5 special days – fill a box or bag for only \$5.

Pick up your winter reading selections and gifts for the family – including puzzles perfect for a snow day. All children's, teen, and young

adult books are 25 cents each.

There will be a variety of books, even large print books and books on tape. There will also be music, movies, puzzles and games. Baked goods for sale will be individually wrapped for safety.

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends. These programs include, but are not limited to, museum passes, adult programs, children's programs, summer reading programs, and other materials to benefit patrons of Cragin Memorial Library.

For more information, contact Noreen Bibee, president of FCML, at noreenbibee@gmail.com.

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. LoCicerowill 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.

Community Baby Shower

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) will host a free Community Baby Shower for Colchester residents who are expecting, or have an infant up to three months old, on Thursday, Oct. 23, from 6-7:30 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

The event will include free gifts, community resources, refreshments and games. Families should register at ColchesterC3.org.

President's List

Maddison Travaglino of Colchester made the summer 2025 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University.

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Gallery Night – ‘Autumn Colors’

The East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission will host its first Gallery Night, “Autumn Colors,” on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 6–8 p.m., at the Town Hall Community Room. All are invited.

This evening will showcase local East Hampton artists, celebrating the beauty and vibrancy of the season.

In addition, the commission is unveiling a

unique collection of artwork that had been stored away since the move from the old Town Hall. For the first time, these works will be on display throughout the halls of the new Town Hall – offering guests a rare opportunity to view pieces from the town’s cultural vault.

Refreshments will be served courtesy of Cured and Crafted as well as Wildcraft Herb Shoppe.

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 officehnc@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.

Traiblazers Walking Group: Monday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m., at Air Line State Park, 69 Smith St., East Hampton. All abilities welcome; walk at your own pace.

Moderate Level American Sign Language Class: Monday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m. Build on your ASL skills and boost your confidence in conver-

sation.

Chatham Health Chat: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 11:30 a.m., featuring a discussion on vaccinations.

The Pretend Cooking Show – Micro Cooking Class: Thursday, Sept. 25, 2:30 p.m., featuring pasta making. Cost is \$5. Sign up in person at the senior center.

Bike Rides for Seniors with Kim Clouser of AirLine Cycles: Friday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m., at the Northhampton Mass., Mass Central Rail Trail, Connecticut River Greenway State Park, 136 Damon Road, Northhampton, Mass. This will be a 20- to 30-mile ride, with a lunch stop on the trail. Bring your bike, helmet and water to the ride.

Friday Film & Fun: Friday, Sept. 26, 1 p.m. All are invited to this free afternoon of popcorn and a movie with a little trivia time. Features the movie *A Man Called Otto* with Tom Hanks. Free but preregistration is requested.

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.

Bingo at VFW Post

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

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

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.

Help Ducks Find Homes!: The church said the community has responded well to its ducks. Over 220 ducks have found new homes. The church has been hiding them around East Hampton with attached notes. The ducks come in various colors and designs. Be on the lookout for them, as there are only a few weeks left of this fun community project.

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 Needed: Volunteers are still needed to weed, water, and plant in the Pollinator

Grateful Gathering: After the 10 a.m. worship, there will be the Grateful Gathering luncheon. All are invited to share a light meal and fellowship.

Mission Sunday: On Sunday, Sept. 21, at 11 a.m., there will be a Seeds of Hope presentation and conversation with nine of the church family who traveled to West Boxford, Mass., in June to serve people of the Boston North Backyard Mission.

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.

Parks and Rec News & Notes

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

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.

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.

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

Scarecrows in the Park: At Sears Park Oct. 12-31; park open from sunrise to sunset. Enjoy a whimsical display of scarecrows created by local residents, businesses, and organizations. Vote for your favorites! There will be an **Opening Day Festival** Sunday, Oct. 12, from 11 a.m.-noon, with local cottage food and catering vendors, free raffles, and mini hayrides for kids. **Want to Join In?** You can enter a scarecrow or become a food vendor; there is a \$25 entry/vendor fee. Space is limited.

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

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.

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 proceeds 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.

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Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

Open Mic Night: Friday, Sept. 19, 6-8 p.m. Share your talent or just come and listen to some music. Depending on the weather, this performance might be held outdoors, so bring your folding lawn chairs. Call the library to register.

Turkish Mosaic Workshop: Saturday, Sept. 27, at 1 p.m. Learn to make a mosaic shadow-box. Cost is \$20, which includes all supplies. Call the library to register.

Readers Theater Presentation: *The Velocity of Autumn*, a play by Eric Coble, will be performed Friday, Oct. 3, from 7-8:30 p.m. Seating for this free performance is limited to 30 people. Call the library to register in advance.

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.

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.

Double Play: Featuring local favorites Cathy Kreger and Jon Swift. Sunday, Oct. 26, 2 p.m. Call the library if you are coming.

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

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

Saturday CommuniTea: Is on hiatus, but stop by during regular library hours and staff will put the kettle on.

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

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

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

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

Adult Programs: 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.

QPR Training: Three Simple Steps to Save a Life from Suicide: Monday, Sept. 29, 6 p.m. Learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. Sponsored by the East Hampton Prevention Partnership.

Teen Programs: 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: Tuesday, Sept. 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.

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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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.

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.

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.

Epoch Arts Game Night

Teens in grades six and up are invited to come hang out with their friends for the next Epoch Arts Game Night on Friday, Sept. 26, from 7-9:30 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

Play a mix of old-school games and new ones, including DDR, Xbox games, chess, cornhole and more, as well as arts activities. There will be free food and drinks all night long.

Admission is \$10. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

Open Mic Appleton Organ Concert

There will be an Open Mic Appleton Organ Concert Friday, Oct. 10, at 6 p.m., at Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Road (Rt. 151)

The concert will be performed by music students and musicians from area schools and colleges.

Admission is a free-will offering, and there will be refreshments after the concert. Parking is along High Point Road and in the church lot off High Point Road.

President’s List

Jamie Naughton of East Hampton made the summer 2025 President’s List at Southern New Hampshire University.

Markham Meadows Car Cruise is Tomorrow

Bring your antique auto, your hotrod, your souped-up truck or your tractor to Markham Meadows Campground at 9 Markham Road, East Hampton, for the 12th annual Car Cruise Saturday, Sept. 20, from 2-5 p.m.

The afternoon includes music, food, raffles, trophies and the coveted Driver’s Choice Award. Proceeds benefit local Wounded Warrior projects as administered through VFW Post 5095. As well, proceeds support Flags Across East Hampton and o K-9 police dog.

A \$10 donation per car would be appreciated. No pre-registration. No rain date. Call Melissa Engel at 860-267-9738 for more information.

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

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

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

Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing served over spinach

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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.

Plant for 10 Months of Color

All are invited to join the Belltown Garden Club on Monday, Sept. 22, for a program entitled "Plant for 10 Months of Color." The program 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 perennials 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 members are always welcome and encouraged to attend. The Belltown Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT and National Garden Clubs.

Call JoAnn at 860-267-4129 with any questions prior to the meeting.

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.

Class of '10 Reunion

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

Share your availability at tinyurl.com/4yux98x.

Welcome, Freshman

East Hampton's Payton Polsonetti has en-rolled at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., as a member of the Class of 2029.

Designer Purse Bingo

East Hampton High School Project Gradu-ation 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-projectgraduation.ludus.com/200468698. Tickets will not be available at the door.

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 3-9 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.

Troop 57 Bottle Drive

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

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

58th Class Reunion Coming

All 1967 Bellringers are reminded to save the date for the 58th class reunion coming up Sun-day, 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.



Historical House Tour... The circa-1780 Justin Sexton House, pictured here, will be part of the Chatham Historical Society's biannual Historical House Tour, taking place Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featured will be six homes dating from 1748 to 1817, plus the museum complex consisting of two buildings and a one-room schoolhouse. Tickets are now on sale at the library and town clerk's office at Town Hall, and will be sold at the museum on the day of the tour. For further information, call 860-705-0959.

Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

The Knights of Columbus St John Paul II Council 6190 at St. Patrick Church will hold its annual spaghetti and meatball dinner Fri-day, 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, cof-fee 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.

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"September is nature's way of reminding us that the year is still not over, but our summer goals definitely are."—Unknown

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From Portland Committee on Solidarity

As autumn is fast approaching, this time of transition is an opportunity for reflection, new beginnings, and positive change.

In taking time for reflection, this has been a heavy few weeks. Some may agree it's been a heavy few months, or even a heavy year. Many of us can't fully release the weight. Let's try. Whatever we can release, let it go. Process what's left by connecting in affinity to those who can empathize, relate, and mentor. What we still hold on to, let's talk about it. Most of us will find we can't put it all down. That's natural. Allow yourself and others to have the space and grace to process and move forward.

It is intentional that the events and issues that cause this heaviness are not named in this article. By doing so, the opportunity for common ground is presented. Let's create more opportunities for solidarity and for community.

Recently, our committee has enjoyed the growth of our community through the Voices of Portland event on September 6th which celebrated the book launch for "Voices of Portland, Volume 1: Celebrating the Voices of Black History." We've also tabled during the summer concert series at Riverfront Park sporting our new logo created by a Committee member and expanded our committee to include three new members, including two student reps from Portland High School. We are honoring Hispanic Heritage month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15) and recognizing National Recovery Month as well as National Suicide Prevention Month, among many other observances.

We look forward to connecting in solidarity as we move into the fall months. We welcome the public to join us by attending our regular monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Waverly Senior Center or on <http://www.portlandct.org/zoom>, Zoom B (ID: 352 700 8408, password: 113ct). Agendas, minutes, and general information can be found at portlandct.org/solidarity-task-force. To learn more about the committee, email portlandct-solidarity@gmail.com.

Our committee also welcomes your support for our goals. You can make a donation in cash or a check to "Town of Portland," with "Committee on Solidarity" in the memo line. Drop off or mail to Portland's Town Hall.

Portland Committee on Solidarity

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 '63 Gathering

The Portland High School Class of 1963 will hold its gathering luncheon at noon Saturday, Sept. 20 (note the change in date), at Farrell's Tavern, 245 Marlborough St.

Attendees will order off a limited menu; pay as you go. If interested in attending, call or text 508-274-3122, or email Bill at williammorganek@gmail.com as soon as possible.

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. 21, Pastor Judith Cooke will preach "Balm in Gilead," based on Jeremiah 8:18-9:1.

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. Infant through pre-K children experience care as they enjoy playtime and an age-appropriate lesson.

At 2 p.m. this Sunday, the church will celebrate the installation of its settled pastor, Judith Cooke. Following the brief installation, all are invited to attend an Afternoon Tea Party hosted by the Search Committee.

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

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.

Bats in Connecticut

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m., at The Waverly Center, the Portland River Valley Garden Club will welcome CT DEEP Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple, for a presentation on bats, their biology and value in the ecosystem.

Information will also be available on monitoring and conserving the bat population in Connecticut.

All are welcome to attend and light refreshments will be served.

Democratic BOE Candidate Drop-In

The Democratic candidates for the Portland Board of Education invite residents to join them for pizza and conversation at Melilli's on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 6-7:30 p.m.

Candidates Jody Grosso, Erin Livensparger, Kim Nagy-Maruschock, and Bethanne Vergean look forward to hearing from voters and discussing the issues that matter most to the community.

Zion Lutheran News & Notes

Zion Lutheran Church is located at 183 William St. All are invited to participate in worship. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

Worship Notes: Zion offers Sunday worship each week at 9 a.m.

Learning: Sunday School for children ages 3 through 8th grade meets the first and third Sunday of each month, from 10:15-1:15 a.m. For more information, call Sylvia LeShane at 860-342-0658.

The Adult Education group has been viewing and discussing the video series *The Chosen*. This group has been on summer hiatus and will resume in the fall. Look for details here soon, or contact the church.

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

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

St. Mary Church News & Notes

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

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

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

Bereavement Support Group: All are invited to attend. The group meets each month on the second Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall and every fourth Tuesday in the church library

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Come On Over 5K: Saturday, Sept. 27, at Riverfront Park at 10 a.m. Runners and walkers are welcome. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age category. Early bird pricing is \$27.50 for runners and \$22.20 for walkers.

Men's Drop-In Basketball: Tuesdays, September-June, from 7:30-9 p.m., at Portland Middle School. This program is free to Portland residents and has a one-time fee of \$20 for non-residents. Registration is required for all participants. The program does not take place on days when the school is closed or has early dismissal.

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

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

Dean's List

Portland residents Amelia Ciarleglio and Julia Nadolski each made the spring 2025 Dean's List at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

They are each members of the Class of 2027.

at 2 p.m. Call Susan Bongiorno at 860-685-1966 for additional information.

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

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

Holy Hour Benediction: First Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

Blessed Mother Mass: First Saturday of every month at 9 a.m.

Hours of Operation: Church hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

10:30-11:15 a.m.

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

Pre-Season Basketball Clinics (Grades 3-6): Friday, Nov. 7, at Portland Middle School. This will be a 90-minute clinic led by Coach Dave Vasquezna and the Wins for Life staff.

Rec. Basketball Clinics (Grades K-2): Wednesdays, Dec. 3-Feb. 25, at Gildersleeve School. This volunteer led program will introduce participants to the game of basketball.

Skyhawks Basketball Clinics (K-2): Saturdays, Jan. 3-Feb. 7, at Gildersleeve School.

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 Had-dam-Killingworth.

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 Ter-razza 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.

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.

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 pocketbooks 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.



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Senior Center News & Notes

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

Food Share Mobile Pantry comes to the Food Bank every other Monday; the next pantry visit will be Sept. 22.

Weekly Programs: Unless noted, all programs are free. **Monday, 9/22: Light Aerobics,** 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 9/23: Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – Help make fleece teddy bears for cancer patients. Bears on a journey are seeking donations of light fleece (one yard or more) for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. If you would like to donate, contact 860-342-0809; **Watercolor Class,** 9:30 a.m. – for more info, contact Bivenne at bivenne@yahoo.com; **Congregate Meal,** noon. Cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: stuffed pepper, garden salad and dressing, garlic bread, milk, banana. **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize,** 5-6 p.m.; fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 9/24: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30-11:15 a.m., \$5 – donation to instructor; **Bridge,** 12:30-4 p.m.

Thursday, 9/25: Tone & Stretch, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: roasted salmon, au gratin potatoes, pesto squashes, string cheese, roll and butter, box of raisins; **Mahjong (FULL),** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 9/26: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Mah Jongg,** 10 a.m.

Upcoming Events: Unless noted, all events are free. **Live Well, Age Well – A Free Diabetes Support Group:** Tuesdays, Sept. 23 and Oct. 21, 1 p.m. Retired physician Dr. Elsamma Chacko will focus on living well with diabetes and aging in place by bringing expert guidance and lived experience together in a supportive setting.

Vaccine Clinic: Thursday, Oct. 9, 9-11 a.m. Chatham Health partnered with Beacon Pharmacy will be holding a vaccine clinic at the center. Vaccines available will be various; more details to come. Registration required.

The Heart of Health & Community Wellness Series: Thursday, Oct. 9. This free event will run monthly on the second Thursday each month. This series will include the blood pressure clinic from 10:45-11:45 a.m. and Chatting with Chatham Health wellness presentation at 11:15 a.m. The health topic for October is Alzheimer's. Don't forget to sign up for the Congregate Meal at noon. (Must sign up by noon the day before to attend lunch, suggested donation of \$3 for meal, must fill out form)

Sweet Treats and Conversation with Community Leaders: Thursday, Oct. 9, 1 p.m. Come to the center for a sweet treat and chat

with leaders of the Portland community. This month's community leader is to be determined. Registration required.

Family History FUN with Ken Doney: Friday, Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m.

Holiday Closing: Tuesday, Oct. 13, for Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day.

Bingo with Sean from Ageless Insurance: Tuesday, Oct. 14, 1:30 p.m. Registration recommended.

Lunch at Griswold Inn: Wednesday, Oct. 22, leave the center at noon. There is a \$5 ride fee, and you pay your own lunch. Registration required.

Live Well Workshop: Monday, Oct. 27, 2-4:30 p.m. This is the first date of a free six-week workshop to gain the knowledge and skills needed to live well with ongoing health conditions. Connect with others weekly and explore planning and problem solving, working with providers, healthy lifestyle choices and more.

This workshop will run every Monday through Dec. 1. Registration recommended.

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

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

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

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East Hampton High School girls soccer captains (from left) Lilah Butson, Mia Wiesner, and Liv Correia are leading the way as the Bellringers have remained undefeated through the first four games this season.



(Left) East Hampton's Alexis Bailey competes with Valley Regional's Lyla Lopez for the ball on Sept. 15. The Bellringers beat the Warriors, handing the conference foes their first loss of the seasons. (Right) Sophomore Ava Ploszay scored a goal during the Bellringers 6-2 victory over Valley Regional on Monday.

★ *East Hampton Soccer, cont. from page 1*

cation every single day in practice.”

On the defensive side, East Hampton has only given up four goals through the first four contests. The team opened the season with a 2-0 shutout of Lyme-Old Lyme and held Valley Regional's normally potent offense scoreless in the second half of Monday's match.

“Everyone is covering for everyone and we're all talking,” said senior defensive captain Lilah Butson, who also had an assist in the win. “We are all putting in our best effort and not getting down on each other.”

Butson is heading a unit that is the last line of defense in front of sophomore goalie Cassie Owocki. Owocki is in her second year protecting the net for the Bellringers, also serving the starting role as a freshman a year ago.

Giuliano said that giving up a goal early in the game may have shaken Owocki's confidence a year ago, but it's a different story this season.

“She's able to stay composed,” noted Giuliano. “She's constantly talking to the defense, talking to the offense. That's key for a keeper; she's involved in entire game.”

The team's third team captain, Mia Wiesner, has transformed into an assistant coach for Giuliano.

Wiesner, a senior, suffered a season-ending knee injury prior to the season, yet has become a vocal and inspirational leader from the sidelines.

“That type of injury just before senior year can be devastating and tough to overcome, but she has taken that challenge on,” stated Giuliano. “She has embraced whatever role she can and taken it to the next level. You can't teach that. She has overcome it and developed her own way of

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Biblical tower

6 Lost traction

10 Farmiga of film

14 Smart speaker voice

15 Sushi staple

16 Apt anagram of vile

17 Exorbitant

18 List

20 Bully

22 Strike zones?

23 Doing a wall job

25 Vulnerability

28 " ____ Game" (classic sci-fi novel)

31 Depression-era agcy.

32 A quarter of four

33 Masked man with a stick

34 Skateboarding tricks

37 Handwriting style

38 Farm cooperative

39 Mineo of movies

40 Nancy Drew's guy

41 Quixote pal

42 Bounty hunters, e.g.

45 Rat Pack member

47 Some chessmen

49 Drove away

53 Pupil of Plato

55 Skirt

56 Word with arm or dish

57 Change direction

58 Use the on-ramp

59 Tribute poems

60 Tosses in

61 September bloom

DOWN

1 Strong fiber

2 Choir voice

3 Keg contents

4 Not subject to, as taxes

5 Jacket parts

6 Western hats

7 Semicircular window

8 Accustom

9 Flow stopper

10 Open-air porches

11 Epic Longfellow poem

12 Bar mitzvah, for one

13 Pub potables

19 "Sense and Sensibility" sister

21 2023 Joaquin Phoenix title role

24 Manage

25 Drooping drapes

26 Puccini work

27 Just about everywhere

29 Amazon, e.g.

30 Sows a field

35 Infuriates

36 Shocked

37 Airlines, for instance

39 At a standstill

43 The film industry

44 Jacks in a deck

46 Paired up

47 El ____, Tex.

48 Parched

50 Pucker-producing

51 Place for a fringe

52 Big game

54 Eggs, in biology

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

shape my life. I believe Portland deserves thoughtful, data-driven leadership that listens to residents and makes decisions for the long-term good of the community.

I've been a proud and active community volunteer currently sitting on the Long-Range Capital Improvement Commission and served seven years on the Portland Soccer Club's Board of Directors. I have coached both baseball and soccer and officiated high-level matches across Connecticut as a certified soccer referee.

If elected, I will bring energy and relevant real-world experience to the Board of Selectmen. I will work closely with the various boards, commissions, and residents to achieve our shared goals. I believe in smart growth while preserving the small-town charm we all cherish. I will be a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility so we can continue to invest in what matters most, especially our educational system.

I thank all those who have served Portland with dedication over the years. You've helped build the foundation we stand on today. But now it's time to invest in fresh ideas, forward-thinking leadership, and a better future for every resident.

Thank you once again for this incredible opportunity. I respectfully ask for your support this November. Let's move Portland forward – together.

**Vin Pitruzzello – Portland
Republican Candidate for
Board of Selectmen**

Help Stay the Course

To the Editor:

Nov. 4th is Election Day. I encourage every eligible voter to cast their ballot, to engage in the democratic process. Preferably, vote line A, to help ensure that Colchester continues on the path of consistent good government that we have experienced under the leadership of Bernie Dennler.

The current administration may not be perfect in everyone's eyes, but it certainly smoothed out the drama that our town experienced previously. Things appear to be running well and a Democratic slate will help to stay that course. Perhaps you disagree with me on this, but recall the glaring headlines of the past administration. Appreciate that Colchester is a bellwether of eastern Connecticut and the state as a whole. As such, we are a significant measure of democracy as it is meant to thrive. Our example of Yankee prudence and fairness is laudable and should be maintained, not ceded to reactionary ideas that would undermine temperate livability and resolute progress.

Please vote on Nov. 4th.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Bringing People Together

To the Editor:

Leading a town is hard work. Bringing people together makes it possible.

Having served on the East Hampton Town Council for the last two years, I think the reasons for our successes are these:

First, our town staff. Led by Town Manager Dave Cox, we are fortunate to have probably the finest departments our town has ever had. Their sound advice and enduring patience on the matters we face have been a Godsend.

Second, the dedication and hard work of our volunteer government, both elected and appointed. Every single day of every year, one or all of our elected officials are in contact with town staff, the public and each other, bringing public service to life. Our appointed commissions, over 20 in all, are brimming with more of our neighbors than ever before, and do the legwork in so many areas quietly and with a great love of our town. They are invaluable.

Lastly, the council has followed through on its promise of two years ago to bring civility, decency and respect back to town government. Without this, all else falls short. And this is why I choose to run one last time to serve East Hampton on its Town Council. Our town deserves much better than to be swallowed up in the noise of national politics and the intoxication of the internet. Like hydrilla, those things have “washed up” on the shores of Lake Pocotopaug and threaten the beauty and unity of our great town. This is our greatest challenge going forward, to be our better selves and expect that from each other.

Thousands of books have been written about leadership. I think you can probably sum them all up in one sentence, as follows:

“Leadership brings us together, and moves us forward, together.”

This is what East Hampton deserves, and what continues to be my commitment to you.

**Rich Knotek – East Hampton
Candidate for Town Council**

Supports Matthews

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Nicole Matthews for the Hebron Board of Education. Nicole has served on the board and done a stellar job, looking out for our kids and teachers and working to ensure we have the best schools possible.

I urge you to vote for Nicole Matthews for the Hebron Board of Education.

Mary J. Rose – Hebron

Celebrate Colchester

Dear Colchester Neighbors:

This Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1-5 p.m., our town will be buzzing with excitement as two wonderful events come to life. Colchester is an incredible community, and these gatherings are a chance to celebrate what makes it so special while also looking ahead to our future.

The first event, Celebrate Colchester on the Town Green, grew out of our historic 57 Fest. Back in July 2005, CNN's Money Magazine ranked Colchester the 57th best place to live in the entire United States – an honor we can all be proud of! This family-friendly celebration will feature local businesses, food trucks, a bounce house, face painting, games, music, and raffles. It's the perfect way to enjoy time together and show off our hometown spirit.

While you're out enjoying the day, I also invite you to stop by the Colchester Republican candidates' Meet-and-Greet at the RecPlex pavilion. There you'll find good food, great conversation, and an opportunity to share your ideas about how we can keep Colchester affordable and moving forward with common-sense solutions. And while the adults chat, kids can enjoy the playground right nearby.

Both events are about celebrating our community and building a bright future for generations to come. Why not make a day of it and enjoy both events?

For details on the Republican event—and to learn how you can get involved—visit ColchesterRepublicans.org.

**See you Saturday,
Michael Dubreuil, Colchester
Republican Candidate for Board of Finance**

Committed to Students, Community

Dear Portland Neighbors:

I am writing to announce my decision to run for a seat on the Portland Board of Education. As a lifelong advocate for children and families, I believe that strong schools are the heart of a thriving community, and I am committed to ensuring that every student in Portland has the opportunity to succeed.

For more than 20 years, I have worked in health care, early childhood education, and early intervention, to help families navigate the education system and supporting educators in their vital work. In addition, I have partnered with Connecticut state agencies to strengthen systems for families and children so that they can more easily access the important resources and assistance they need. Locally, I serve on the Portland Soccer Club Board, have coached both soccer and basketball, and lead children's programming at my church.

As a parent of a middle school student in Portland public schools, I understand both the opportunities and challenges that families face every day. Professionally, I serve as the President of the Connecticut Division for Early Childhood) and am the “Learn the Signs. Act Early” ambassador.

This leadership experience has strengthened my skills in collaboration, advocacy, and organizational change – skills I will bring to our school board. If elected, I will represent the interests of students, families, teachers, staff, and the broader community. I will listen to you and your children, communicate decisions clearly, and ensure that our community values are reflected in our schools. My priorities include fostering transparent communication, supporting our teachers and staff, and ensuring that every child – no matter their background, abilities or needs – has access to a high-quality educational experience.

I am grateful for the encouragement I have already received from so many of you. Together we can continue building a strong future for Portland's children.

I look forward to connecting with Portland residents over the coming weeks to hear your priorities for the school district and to earn your vote.

If you have questions or would like to connect about my candidacy, please reach out to me at bvergean@gmail.com

Bethanne Vergean – Portland

Committed to Hebron's Future

Dear Hebron Neighbors:

We are Toni and Chad Livernois, and we are honored to introduce ourselves as candidates in the upcoming municipal election. Since moving to Hebron in 2018, we have been grateful for the warm welcome of neighbors and the small-town charm that makes this community so special. As New England natives, with Chad's military service and Toni's background in teaching and coaching, we value service, hard work, and giving back to the place we proudly call home.

Toni is running for the Hebron Board of Education. With experience in elementary education, coaching, and healthcare management, she brings strong organizational and leadership skills. She has contributed to school fundraisers, student activities, and community cleanup efforts, and is passionate about supporting students, families, and teachers so our schools continue to thrive.

Chad is running for the Planning and Zoning Commission. A U.S. Navy veteran who served six years aboard a submarine, he gained the discipline and problem-solving skills that guide his work today. He is committed to ensuring Hebron's growth remains thoughtful, sustainable, and aligned with the values of its residents.

Together, we believe in preserving Hebron's character while supporting its future. We are committed to serving with integrity, collaboration, and dedication to the community we love.

We respectfully ask for your support this election season.

Sincerely,

**Toni Livernois – Candidate for Hebron
Board of Education**

**Chad Livernois – Candidate for Hebron
Planning and Zoning Commission**

Election Season is Here!

To the Editor:

Fall has arrived in Hebron! The Hebron Harvest Fair has come and gone and now we move into election season. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. For those of you whose schedules make it difficult to vote on Election Day, there are 14 days of Early Voting beginning on Monday, Oct. 20. Early voting is conducted at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron. As you read the letters to the editor and meet the various local candidates, this is a great time to make sure you are registered to vote!

You can check your voter registration status by going online to: portaldir.ct.gov/sots/Look-Up.aspx.

If you are not registered to vote, you have options. You may register to vote online: voter-registration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do. Or you can come into the registrars of voter's office at 15 Gilead St. and complete a voter registration card. If we are not in, our wonderful colleagues in the town clerk's office can assist you. Voter registration cards can also be found at the Douglas Library and for RHAM students who will be 18 years of age by Election Day, registration cards are available at RHAM High School.

Please register to vote! Make your voice be heard. In the past couple of years, we have had some very close local elections – a town budget passed by two votes and a tied race ended with a coin toss. Every vote counts!

We look forward to your participation.

**Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Michele May
Hebron Registrars of Voters**

Announcing Candidacy

To the Editor and the Residents of East Hampton:

My name is Corinne Clark Barney, and I am proud to announce my candidacy for Board of Education. As a lifelong resident who grew up and graduated from our local schools, my family has a long and cherished history here in East Hampton. This town has shaped who I am.

My professional life has been dedicated to education, serving our youth as a classroom teacher, special education teacher, principal, and chief of schools. This experience has solidified my passion for doing what is best for our kids.

If elected, I will focus on continuing bipartisan collaboration to provide quality educational programming for all students and utilizing data to build on our academic success. I will encourage strong community partnerships and support the arts and athletics that are vital to student development. Critically, I will serve as a fiscally responsible steward of our tax dollars, providing honest budget data and holding the state accountable for its financial commitments to East Hampton.

Sincerely,

Corinne Clark Barney – East Hampton

Clean Energy Opportunity

To the Editor:

The town's Clean Energy Task Force has obtained a grant which will allow each of us to reduce the energy use in our home and save money. The grant gives each of us access to consultants who will come to your home and make recommendations on how to save money and energy.

Everyone should take advantage of this opportunity which has just become available. You can email the Clean Energy Task Force at ehcetf@gmail.com.

**Jack Solomon – East Hampton
Candidate for Town Council**

Good Things Happening

To the Editor:

In the past two years, our town leadership in Colchester has secured \$5 million in grant funding (not through raising taxes) to improve our town. The money has supported rides for our seniors, improvements to the airline trail spur, the continuing work at Norton Park, and walkable streets downtown, to name a few.

I'm happy to see energy and resources being put toward applying for grants that fund these types of improvements, which make life in Colchester better for residents. Keep it up!

Susie Milner – Colchester

Pizza & Politics

To the Editor:

Please join the Hebron Republican Town Committee on Tuesday, Sept. 30th from 6-8 p.m. at Gina Marie's in Hebron. Your November Republican candidates will be in attendance to share their thoughts, experience, and mission. We welcome conversations, new viewpoints, and solution mindedness. Join us to be civically engaged in the community you live in and love. Democracy thrives on dialogue and the exchange of ideas strengthens democracy. Pizza, fountain beverages and salad will be served and a cash bar is available.

Advance individual tickets are \$10 and couples are \$20. Or purchase at the door for individuals at \$15 and couples for \$25. Use the link to make a donation for tickets: www.hebronrepublicans.org.

We look forward to conversations with you. This fundraiser is approved and paid for by the Hebron Republicans.

**Kim Hills, Vice Chair
Hebron Republican Town Committee**

Keeping Colchester Safe

To the Editor:

The safety of our town is something we can all get behind. Ensuring our roads, homes, schools, and businesses are safe is one of my top priorities as first selectman.

Having grown up in a family of firefighters, the fire service is close to my heart. One of my first acts as first selectman was to replace the SCBA equipment that helps our firefighters breathe in burning structures. I am excited to report that we have completed the replacement of the fire apparatus fleet. We have also started the hiring process for an additional full-time firefighter to support coverage in partnership with our many volunteers.

Our Fire & EMS and Police staff are working proactively on grants to help enhance their efforts to serve our community. Last week, we conducted our first emergency exercise in our new Emergency Operations Center at Fire & EMS HQ. The new EOC was funded completely by a state grant. The town has also received \$100,000 since 2024 for speed enforcement.

Road safety is one of the biggest concerns in Colchester. I pushed for increased visibility from our police and partnered with the UConn T2 center to get free speed feedback signs installed in several locations of concern. These signs encourage drivers to slow down and collect valuable data that helps us to direct enforcement presence by date/time. We have already recorded drivers slowing down in those areas.

We have witnessed too many tragic accidents on our state roads, particularly on routes 16 and 354 where there have been repeated accidents at intersections. I am seeking support from CTDOT to look at these dangerous areas. I am encouraged to report that DOT officials have agreed to meet with us in Colchester later this month.

The Board of Selectmen and I have also been working on a plan to renovate the former senior center building to update the veteran's room and rehab the rest of the building as the new, expanded home for the Colchester Police Department. A structural assessment has been

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completed and an engineered planset is being developed. Funding sources include ARPA and a generous donation from the Bendas Estate.

With your support in November, I will continue working on these and other efforts to make sure our town stays a safe place for us all to work and live.

Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler
Colchester First Selectman

Announcing Reelection Campaign

To the Editor:

It has been a privilege and honor to serve on Colchester’s Board of Selectmen for the past two years.

The collaboration shown between the existing 5 members of the current Board of Selectmen has delivered many successes for the Town of Colchester.

I intend to continue working with the Board of Selectmen for the good and wellbeing of all the citizens of Colchester.

Art Shilosky and I request the honor of your vote on Nov. 4th so we can continue to make Colchester affordable and a better place to live and raise our families.

Cliff O’Donal – Colchester
Current Member of the Board of Selectmen

Transparency Builds Trust

To the Editor:

One of the three pillars our Republican team is running on is transparency. Parents and citizens should feel confident in how decisions are made, how money is spent, and what our children are being taught. When families and community members have the freedom to ask questions, share concerns, and expect clear answers, we all win.

Transparency also means ensuring Colchester residents feel welcome at Board of Education meetings. Every parent, teacher, and taxpayer deserves the opportunity to voice concerns and know they are being heard. It means clarity in our curriculum and confidence that we are holding high standards for our students’ education.

That’s why I’d like to personally invite you to our upcoming event, Your Voice, Your Town, Your Future! This is more than just a fundraiser – it’s a chance to connect directly with the Republican candidates for Colchester, ask questions, and learn about our goals for the Board of Education and other town positions.

The event is Saturday, Sept. 20, from 1-5 p.m., at the pavilion at the Rec Plex in Colchester.

Come enjoy some food, meet our team, and see firsthand the positive, transparent vision we want to bring to Colchester. We are here to listen, to answer, and to work with our community.

Sincerely,
Olivia Duksa – Colchester
Republican Candidate for
Board of Education

Seeking BOS Seat

To the Editor:

I am Robert Fraulino. I’m running for Board of Selectman in Marlborough and would like to introduce myself and ask for your support.

About me and my experience, as a techy kid I chose the electronics technician field in the U.S. Navy spending 30 years in the Navy both active duty and reserve, at 9 commands, with 7 deployments, and every rank from seaman recruit (E1) through master chief (E9) before retiring. I was blessed to serve as command master chief for an overseas task group. In 2014, my wife Carey, our two kids, and I moved to Marlborough.

I earned my electrical engineering science degree using the GI bill as I worked as an electrician and contract engineering firms. For 22 years I’ve been at Eversource, balancing being a father and husband with two careers: full time and near full time in the Navy. Retiring from the Navy, I chose to redirect time supporting town boards and commissions. Learning that there were vacancies for positions, both Carey and I volunteered our time and eventually we got elected positions.

At 18, I registered as a republican and have libertarian values that our founding fathers constituted this nation upon. I am a humble and common-sense principled person with strongly held religious beliefs. These values coupled with my big family upbringing and 30 years in the Navy, I can assure you I know when to listen and when to speak up and stand strong on beliefs. From both experiences I learned that one never knows where a good idea comes from.

In the military I was counted on to make

tough decisions based on the guiding principles, documents, instructions, my experience and education, and the information available. I’ll make sound decisions even if unpopular or against my personal beliefs. I will not ‘double down’ on a bad decision or follow along because changing course is too difficult. When information around me changes, facts arrive, or the path is wrong, you will find me leading the charge for reassessment and if needed change. I don’t pretend to be an expert on all town matters; therefore, I will get informed to make sound decisions where I lack knowledge. If one disagrees with an ordinance (statute, law), then engage the process, petition for change.

Issues that motivate me: fiscal responsibility, operational transparency, town charter revisions; ask me my about these when you see me.

Robert Fraulino – Marlborough

Row C for BOE

To the Editor:

Donna Antonacci and I have been writing weekly letters to let you know about our accomplishments in cooperation with the other five Board of Education members during our four year term on the BOE. We have taken our school system and community in a positive direction. We have corrected the years of neglect to district buildings, from basic maintenance and painting to major repairs.

The roof at Bacon Academy is top on the list, and the roof on Jack Jackter is soon to follow. Our parking lots are in need of repair as well as many other projects. You can find all of these in our capital plan on colchesterct.org. Most recently the town boards have worked together to bring our high school athletic complex, tennis courts and pickleball courts at the rec plex to a standard we can all be proud of, and we can all safely use. The budget cuts and lack of responsible planning over the years is a major driver to the recent tax increases. Had the items been addressed before our tenure, we would not feel the financial pressure all at once. Arbitrary cuts serve no one. We must have sensible budgets.

With Bernie Dennler, our first selectman, Daniel Sullivan, our Superintendent of Schools, plus our three town boards and administrators all working together with the support of our community, we have made great strides improving our town; gaining financial stability; and improving our facilities. Donna and I are always interested in having constructive candid conversations with community members. We will continue to serve the Town of Colchester with honesty and integrity. Vote Row C for BOE!

Marguerite (Margo) Gignac – Colchester
Note: While Gignac is a current member of the Colchester Board of Education, she said is speaking as an individual.

New Future for Hebron

To the Editor:

As the campaign announcements and endorsement begin to fill the *Rivereast’s* Reader Forum, I grow more excited for a new future for Hebron. In the Sept. 5th *Rivereast* it was the announcement that Jan Lawrence is running for the Hebron Board of Selectmen. Last week, in the Sept. 12th *Rivereast*, it was the announcement that Selectwoman Tiffany V. Thiele is running for reelection. Both of these thoughtful candidates offer experience, integrity and a commitment to the community. I encourage Hebron residents to support Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Thiele and their election to the Board of Selectmen.

In his letter, Mr. Lawrence outlined the importance of high quality education and building a vibrant town center with “a practical mindset and collaborative spirit.” These are laudable priorities and a valuable attitude to bring to the table. I appreciated Ms. Thiele’s comments on creating a more transparent town government and her support of “our great schools.” But it was Ms. Thiele’s comments on “the Horton Property,” more accurately called 17 Kinney Rd., that really caught my attention.

Located on a small residential street and filled with active prime agricultural land, 17 Kinney Road is also an area of highly significant environmental and historical features. As stated by Ms. Thiele, “I believe we need to rethink the use of the Horton Property. The DPW question is settled and remaining at Old Colchester Road. How can we use the Horton Property to continue building our growing and vibrant town center? Let me know what you think.”

I urge Hebron residents to contact Ms. Thiele at tthiele@hebronct.gov and support the creation of an outdoor classroom and living history museum on “the Horton Property” at 17 Kinney Rd. This remarkable potential has been recognized by Professor John Demos of Yale University History Department, Professor Rob-

ert Thorson of UConn Earth Sciences, Professor Elizabeth Jockusch of UConn Biology and Connecticut’s State Archeologist, Sarah Holmes, who noted that the area may qualify for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This unique learning corridor will elevate Hebron’s educational system and engage the robust Outdoor Recreation and Tourism economies.

I also encourage Ms. Thiele, Mr. Lawrence, and all residents of Hebron, to visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook and read the documented information that details the environmental and historical significance of the landscape at 17 Kinney Road.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Running for ZBA

To the Editor:

I have lived in Hebron for 30 years, and my daughter went through the Hebron schools graduating from RHAM in 2009. After retiring from IT work in the insurance industry five years ago, I wanted to get involved in the community by volunteering. I joined a local non-profit as their Treasurer as well as the Democratic Town Committee.

I wanted to help elect candidates that share my values. This year, I decided to run for the Zoning Board of Appeals. I hope you will consider voting for me and our entire slate of wonderful Democratic candidates on Nov. 4.

Thank you,
Catherine McSweeney – Amston

An Introduction

To the Editor:

My name is Daniel Finn and I’m writing to introduce myself as a candidate for the East Hampton Board of Finance. I was convinced to run for BOF after I spoke up at several town meetings around the budget process over the last several years. My comments have always focused on the impact on people of the decisions made by the Town Council, Board of Finance and Board of Education. I have advocated for long term planning, increased advocacy at the state level and prudent development to grow the commercial grand list (and thereby reduce the tax burden on residents).

I am a financial adviser with 13 years of experience and small business owner here in the village center. I’m also a father to six children (ages 2-16) and have been married to my wife (who grew up in East Hampton) for almost 18 years now.

As a resident and business owner, I feel the pinch of taxes and understand the challenge that can be, especially for those with limited means and income. I also see the benefits for everyone of robust town services and an excellent education system. These seem like competing priorities but I don’t believe that they must be.

On the Board of Finance I will prioritize transparency, accountability and long-term financial planning. Thank you, East Hampton, for the opportunity to serve our community!

Sincerely,
Daniel Finn – East Hampton

Candidate for Town Council

To the Editor:

My name is Dean Markham. I am a Democratic candidate running for reelection to the East Hampton Town Council where I have had the honor and privilege to represent and serve our community.

Many friends and constituents have asked me why I would want to serve on the Town Council because it often seems a somewhat thankless job. Often the essence of the work and issues facing our town, or any community for that matter, is controversy. I’m sure to many it may seem that way. However, other than budgetary issues (and when isn’t money or taxes controversial?), the vast majority of issues dealt with and votes cast at Town Council meetings have been unanimous decisions.

When I ran two years ago, even if little else were accomplished, I was determined to restore civility amongst not only those elected, but by all citizens as we dealt with issues and sought solutions. Things had gotten out of hand in the previous council administration, especially during public hearings or public comment opportunities. A change was needed! I’m pleased to report that civility has been restored and is common practice throughout all our boards and commissions.

I am running again because I believe I still have much to offer to make this a wonderful community to reside. I’m a lifelong resident and my family ancestors were among the town’s first settlers. I know its history, which provides me with a great deal of insight on why certain

things have or have not been done and what alternative approaches could be successful. I also have a diverse career background. After graduating from Bryant University (was Bryant College then), I pursued a career as a CPA. I also represented East Hampton and neighboring towns as your state representative, as a member of the Board of Finance and Town Council, serving as Town Council Chair in these past two years.. I am proud of what collectively, regardless of political party affiliation, we have been able to accomplish. For the long-term viability of East Hampton, I intend to continue working for the establishment of a public water system, a modern fire station and restoration of Lake Pocotopaug.

I thank you and would greatly appreciate your vote on Election Day.

Dean Markham – East Hampton

Candidates for Portland’s Future

To the Editor:

I am writing to encourage Portland voters to support the Democratic candidates: Kim Nagy-Marushock, Jody Grosso, Erin Livensparger and Bethanne Vergean, for our Board of Education this November. At this critical moment for our schools, we need leaders who are committed to responsible decision-making, fiscal accountability, and the success of every student in our community.

Portland faces important challenges: managing the high costs of special education, planning responsibly for the future of our school buildings, and maintaining the strong academic and enrichment programs that set our district apart. The Democratic candidates bring the steady leadership, vision, and dedication we need to navigate these issues.

They understand the importance of curriculum that prepares our students for college, careers, and citizenship. They are committed to transparency with families and to listening to educators, while also ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. They also recognize the value of programs that go above and beyond the school day—whether in the arts, athletics, or community partnerships—that enrich student learning and strengthen our town.

We cannot afford to let divisive politics distract us from what matters most: the well-being and education of Portland’s children. By electing the Democratic candidates for the Board of Education, we are choosing collaboration, accountability, and a clear commitment to student success.

On Election Day, please join me in voting for Kim, Jody, Erin and Bethanne, the team that will keep Portland’s schools strong, inclusive, and forward-looking.

Sincerely,
Meg Scata – Portland

Note: Scata is the secretary of the Portland Board of Education, but is speaking as an individual.

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall
APPLICATION #Z-07-25 - Amendment of Article Six-B of Home Occupations to Permit Cottage Food Businesses
APPLICATION #Z-08-25 - Amendment of Article Four Definitions, delete "Lot Area, Minimum Buildable"
Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building/Land Use Department at the Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.
ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR
2 TB 9/19, 9/26

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

Obituaries

Hebron

Nancy Mizesko

Nancy Mizesko, of Hebron, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Sept. 9. She was born May 15, 1943, in Columbus, Ohio, to her parents, the late Alfred and Ellen Baumann; was the youngest of their 10 children.

After graduating high school, she attended Saint Elizabeth's School of Nursing in Dayton, Ohio. She dedicated herself to a 40-year life career as a registered nurse, marked by a commitment to caring for others; her compassion was unprecedented.

She devoted her life to her family; always being there for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed going to all events they were involved in; she was always their biggest fan. She liked going to the beach, crafting, and taking day trips, especially to Vermont to see the foliage.

Nancy will be sadly missed by extended family and friends; she will be always honored and remembered with love by her daughters, Kimberly Mizesko of Hebron; Michelle Mizesko of Hebron; and Dr. Melissa Mizesko and spouse Dr. Yu Fan of Corpus Christi, Texas; her brother, Rick Baumann; her sister, Carol Perkins; her grandchildren, Jason, Skylar, Johnathan, Joshua, and Michael.

Final care of Nancy has been entrusted to the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life is being planned for a later date.

To offer online condolences or to share with her family a heart-warming story about her, please visitwww.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Nancy Taylor

Nancy (Johnson) Taylor, 80, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully Friday, Aug. 15. Born Dec. 6, 1944, she was the daughter of the late Carlo Johnson and Mary (Flemke) Johnson.

Nancy was a lifelong Connecticut resident who spent the last 20 years living on Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton, where she found joy in hosting gatherings, cooking, and spending time with her beloved family. She retired from A&A Office Systems, where she worked as a secretary, and was well known for her love of crafts and her generosity in sharing her home and talents with others.

A woman of faith, Nancy recently became a deacon at Marlborough Congregational Church. She cherished her church community and the friendships she built there. She held her friends close to her heart, especially her lifelong best friend, Barbara Goff, with whom she shared a special bond since second grade.

Nancy was lovingly known as "Nana" to her family. She is survived by her son, Keith Taylor; granddaughter, Lindsey Taylor; and great-grandchildren, Luca and Josie Piatti. She was predeceased by her four sisters.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 11 a.m., at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., Marlborough.

To offer online condolences, find the obituary on Facebook at tinyurl.com/y69hr8p5.

Tri-County Memorials

Monuments • Markers • Mausoleums



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Portland

Carole J. Renca

Carole Joanne Renca, 74, of Chaplin, passed away Saturday, Aug. 9. At the time of her passing, she was receiving hospice care at Hartford Hospital. She is the daughter of the late Alphonse R. Renca and Frances (Parciak) Renca of Portland.

Carole was a UConn alumna and an enthusiastic fan of the men's and women's UConn Huskies basketball teams. In 2023, she retired from United Community & Family Services as a Licensed Professional Counselor and treasured her time at home. Carole enjoyed living near nature and observing the wildlife in her wooded backyard. During her younger years, she had an adventurous spirit. She raced motorcycles in the 1990s, operated an exercise business, and pursued a modeling career. She was an outstanding baker who always surprised her family and friends with an array of sweet desserts for every holiday. Her signature cheesecake was a family favorite.

Carole's sister, Judith Nocera, passed away in 2022. She is survived by her brother, Robert Renca and his wife Carole (Rizzo); brother-in-law, Edward Nocera; and four nephews. These include Robert Nocera, his wife Samantha, and two daughters, Cassandra and Isabella; Jason Nocera, his wife Basia, and their daughter Maia; and Robert and Carole's sons Dylan Renca and his wife Martina, and Devin Renca and his wife Kayla.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, at Saint Mary Church in Portland. The interment will be in the Saint Mary Cemetery in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Carole Joanne Renca's memory to the Ron Foley Fund for Pancreatic Cancer, located in West Hartford: www.ronfoleyfoundation/donate.

Moodus

Ruth Harriet Kulpa

(Aug. 7, 1928 – Sept. 10, 2025)

Ruth Kulpa, widow of Robert H. Kulpa of Moodus, passed away peacefully Wednesday morning. She was the daughter of Roger L. Goff and Mildred (Hall) Goff of East Hampton.

Ruth is survived by her daughter, Roberta "Bobbi" Shorthouse and husband Denys Shorthouse of Moodus; granddaughter Victoria and husband Rich Fielding, great-grandchildren, Owen, Evelyn, and Whitney of East Hampton; grandson Alex and wife Sarah (Luchenbill) Shorthouse of Hebron, great-grandchildren Abigail, Lily, and Jacob.

Ruth was a past member of the Moodus Methodist Church and enjoyed spending summers reading under the trees at their home and real estate office on the lower Moodus Reservoir. She was a past member of the Nathan Hale chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Services at Biega Funeral Home will be private. Ruth will join her husband at the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

Ruth's family is profoundly grateful to the nurses, aides, and staff at Chestelm Health & Rehabilitation Center for their years of unfailing care and compassion. Special thanks and deep gratitude to Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Brian Keldsen, Hospice Chaplain.

In lieu of cards or flowers, the next time you are at the East Haddam Free Public Library or East Hampton Library drop in a donation to the Friends of the Library.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

ADVERTISERS

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

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more than a family can afford."

Portland

Emil Louis Tobler

Passaic, N.J. May 16, 1929 - Chester, Conn. Sept. 6, 2025

Born with a curious and industrious nature, Emil lived a long, interesting life. Growing up as an only child, he spent a lot of time outdoors, fishing, hunting, trapping and playing with his loved dog, Pontiac. During frequent trips to Switzerland to visit family, he was doted on by his many relatives and developed a deep love for the food, music, landscape, and people of his ancestral country; throughout his life, he returned often.

After graduating with a degree in economics from Rutgers University, he joined the Marines and served in the Korean conflict, but fortunately for him, as his platoon was sailing across the Pacific, the armistice was signed. After discharge, he worked for the Prudential as an underwriter for some time and in 1967, moved to Glastonbury, working for the Hartford Life Insurance Company, where he ascended to an assistant vice president position of Life Underwriting and raised two daughters. In his free time, Emil tended his productive vegetable garden, enjoyed taking his fishing boat out on the Atlantic Ocean and built a weekend home, "Le Chalet d'Emil", in Vermont.

He was a lifelong stamp collector and turned his hobby, which he started at age 7, into a full-time business as a highly respected stamp dealer after his retirement from the corporate world. At 92, he moved from his home in Rhode Island to an independent living facility in Chester. There, he participated in weekly poker games, played with the therapy dogs, spent hours by the fire in the common room and had the company of other residents each night at dinner. He enjoyed frequent visits from his eldest, nearby daughter, and occasional visits from his youngest, far away, daughter.

Emil died peacefully, after what he once described as "a more than satisfactory life."

Emil is survived by his children, Chantal Foster of Portland and Janet Tobler of Covington, Ky., and his grandchildren, TJ Foster, Zachary Foster and Hue Tran. He was predeceased by his son-in-law, Rainer Kahlmeyer.

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

Andover Youth
Basketball Program

Registration for the 2025-26 youth basketball season will be held Tuesday, Sept. 23, and Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 5-7 p.m., in the Community Room of the Town Office Building.

Registration forms were sent via email from the elementary school and are also available on the town website, andoverconnecticut.org. Please submit a completed two-sided form and fee at time of registration. Fee can be paid in cash or by check made payable to Town of Andover.

Thursday
Afternoon Storytime

Andover Friend of the Library Ellen Repay will offer a themed storytime and craft every month during the school year. The first session will be held after school (3:10 p.m.) on Thursday, Sept. 25, with a fall-themed story and craft.

All ages are welcome. Call or email the library with any questions, at 860-742-7428 or andoverctpubliclibrary@gmail.com

Note: Toddler/Preschool storytime is offered Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

Colchester

Christos N. Alevras

The pillar of our family, Christos N. Alevras, 83, passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Born July 20, 1942, in a beautiful village, Sophiada, Greece, he was the son of the late Nikolas and Georgia Alevras.



As a young man, Christos served in the Greek military as a ships mechanic (third rank). He married the love of his life, Vassiliki Gionis, in 1966. In 1970, Christos and Vassiliki and their first little girl, Georgia, immigrated to the United States, for a 60-year-long journey that took them on various adventures across the U.S. during which time, they had two additional little girls, Ourania and Christina.

Together, Christos and Vassiliki built their life in Colchester, as respected business owners in their community and loving parents to their three girls, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Our dad always put everyone's health and needs before his own, often risking his own life to save others physically, financially, and emotionally. Christos took any and every opportunity to love on his family, take his little ones fishing, enjoy his love of soccer and particularly, Olympiakos, and truly and always supporting us all as we grew and found our way.

Our Dad and Papou, Christos, our family's foundation, will be deeply missed and forever remembered with love by his loving wife and lifelong partner, Vassiliki; his children, Georgia, Ourania, and Christina Alevras; his grandchildren, Christos Stravoravdis, Yiannis Politis, Vasiliki Brodeur, Stefanos Stravoravdis, Stamatina Politis, Vasileios Politis; his great-grandchildren; his siblings, Zisis and Ariadni Alevras, Zisis' wife Angie and children Nick and Alex and grandchildren; his brother-in law, George Gionis and family; many extended family members and friends.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Sept. 18, at the St. Sophia Church in New London. The burial was in St. Andrew Cemetery in Colchester directly following the service.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home. To share an online condolence or a memory of Christos with the family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

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.

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF PORTLAND

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 157 of Public Act 17-2 (2017) of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, that copies of Portland Board of Education current collective bargaining agreements with the following administrators are available for public inspection at the Portland Town Clerk's office, 33 East Main Street Portland, CT and posted on the Portland Board of Education website.
Municipal Employees Union Independent, Local 506, SEIU (Nurses)
Dated this 11th day of September 2025
Michael V. Tierney
Portland Town Clerk

1 TB 9/19

TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the September 4, 2025 meeting, the following actions were taken:
Approved Application #24-24: Proposed Amendments to the Portland Zoning Regulations. Proposed change to section 9.16 to allow multiple dwelling units of up to 3 per acre in the RR zone and to allow these on septic and well water. This would also allow for 6 units per acre in the RR zone if 25% of the units are affordable. Application of EO Associates.
Dated at Portland, CT this 10th day of September 2025
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1 TB 9/19

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

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 Ex-

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.

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

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

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

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 Wednesday, 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. Wil-limantic on Sept. 23, and Manchester on Sept. 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.

plorers 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 andovercpublicli-brary@gmail.com.

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

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

Strong & Steady – Resistance Band Work-out: 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. 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. Call the senior center for movie titles for the month or to make suggestions. For transportation, contact Linda at 860-498-2326.

Hair Care with Helen: Monday, Sept. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Need a trim? Sign up for a dry haircut with Helen. Each 30-minute session is \$20. Hair must be clean and dry before your appointment. Transportation is available if needed. Space is limited; call Haley at 860-798-6862 to reserve a spot.

Kids' Cuts with Rebecca: Check back for October schedule.

Setback & Snacks: Monday, Sept. 29, 11 a.m. Come for cards, conversation and sweet treats. 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.

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. Fee: \$75/residents, \$105/non-residents.

Pal Program: Will resume in October. This is an intergenerational partnership with Andover Elementary School. Contact Tess Grous to participate. For more information, call 860-798-6862.

Travel in Time Club: Friday, Oct. 17, noon. Based on *Travel in Time in Connecticut*, by local author and teacher Dan Blanchard. This is an ntroduction to another intergenerational partnership with Andover Elementary School. This program follows the school year calendar. Call Tess Grous to participate or for more information, at 860-798-6862. Light fare provided.

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.

History Museum Open Saturday

The Andover Historical Society will open its Museum of Andover History this Saturday, Sept. 20, from 4-6 p.m. New items are continuously being added to the display.

The museum is located in the Old Town Hall on Monument Lane.

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF DECISION

Please be advised that the Andover Planning and Zoning Commission took the following action at their Regular Meeting held September 16, 2025: Application of Michael Heckler, 71 Bausola Road, Andover. Application for a Special Permit to construct a 2 car attached garage per section 7.0.3 of the Andover Zoning Regulations, conversion of an existing 2 car garage to a workshop, and a home occupation per section 7a.0.6 of the Andover Zoning Regulations, in the Andover Lake District. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.

Further information is available on the town's website (andoverct.org) or at the Building and Land-Use Office, Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road, Andover, Connecticut.

Wayne Kasacek
Zoning Agent

MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission, at its meeting on September 4, 2025, took the following action:

APPLICATION APPROVED:
APPLICATION #Z-06-25 – 52 Jerry Daniels Rd, Nicholas R. Delisle (Applicant/Owner) Detached Garage.
CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING:
APPLICATION #Z-02-25 – 216 E Hampton Rd (Applicant) James Marino Jr Construction LLC (Property Owner) 11 Units of Residential Townhouses.
Scheduled public hearing for November 6th: APPLICATION #Z-09-25 – 11 Old Cider Mill Ln, Jeffrey Popham and Jennifer Carini (Applicant/Owner) Addition.
ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, September 25, 2025 6:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:

Application 609 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Cathy Ann Clark of 71 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam, to erect trellises on path to post office and to install a fence on the southern property line.

Application 610 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Michael and Denise Scranton of 15 Schoolhouse Lane, Middle Haddam to build a 20- by 36-foot, two-story addition to an existing garage with stick frame construction, vinyl siding to match existing siding and roof singles to match those on existing garage and house. The foregoing application is available for public review at the East Hampton Town Hall. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

TOWN OF PORTLAND OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR LEGAL NOTICE

Portland Business Owners, Declaration of Personal Property are DUE November 3, 2025

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute, 12-40, all Portland business owners and residents liable to pay taxes on tangible personal property belonging to them on October 1, 2025 are hereby notified, declaration of personal property must be filed on or before November 3, 2025 with the Assessor. Non-filers, omissions and late declarations are subject to estimated assessment and a 25% penalty. Various exemptions are explained within the declaration and available if filed on time. If you have closed, terminated or moved your business out of town as of the October 1, 2025 assessment date, a business-closing affidavit with supporting documents attached must be submitted to the assessor for review and removal from future Portland tax rolls.

Public act PA 490: Applications for farmland and forestland classification must be received by October 31, 2025.

Veterans: Honorably discharged Veterans that have served at least 90 days during a time of war must have their DD214 filed within the land records on or before October 1, 2025. Disabled Veterans and/or low-income Veterans over 65 years of age must bi-annually file to the Assessor on or before December 31, 2025 to receive additional exemptions. Veterans with service-related, permanent & Total 100% disability ratings must annually apply for tax exemption on or before January 1st.

The Assessor's Office is open to receive the above lists and applications Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30AM to 4:30PM, Tuesday 8:30AM to 7:00PM and Friday 8:30AM to noon.

ALL FORMS AND APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
<https://www.portlandct.org/assessor>

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

The Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on October 1, 2025, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Town Hall Meeting Room at 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT to hear and consider the following application(s):

PZC2025-012 Wizard of Paws, 155 Westchester Rd – Application to modify existing Special Permit to allow grooming services for animal rehabilitation patients. Zoning District: Rural Use (RU) (PUBLIC HEARING POSTPONED FROM 9/17 PZC MEETING).

PZC2025-011 Downing Park, LLC – Special Permit and Site Plan application for proposed 26-unit multi-family residential development on 6.02± acres located on Wall Street (MBL 10-00-007-000). Zoning District: Town Center (TC) and Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone (APZ).

At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of these applications is located in the Land Use Department and Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday). Application materials are also available on the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission webpage at <https://www.colchesterct.gov/planning-zoning-commission>.

Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

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)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://meet.goto.com/487821133>
You can also dial in using your phone.
Access Code: 487-821-133
United States: +1 (646) 749-3122
Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://meet.goto.com/install>

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 9th day of September 2025.
Frank Zitkus, Chair

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

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

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

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

WANTED JUNK CARS: and unfinished projects. Contact 860-216-8144.

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

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

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CTI-112-23

ST. JUDE NOVENA: O Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. St. Jude pray for us all who invoke your aid. Amen. PSM.

MIRACLE PRAYER: Dear heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked many favours. This time I ask you the special one (mention favour). Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your own favour not mine. Amen. PSM.

PET TRAINING

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



EMPLOYMENT

MOHAWK MANUFACTURING COMPANY: in Middletown is looking for someone to join our team and learn how to set up and run metal stamping power presses, how to inspect the parts produced and how to perform other associated jobs. Mechanical skills are a plus but not required. Looking to train the right candidate. We work 10-hour days MiTh. Starting pay is \$20/hour. Requirements: HS diploma or GED; basic math, writing & reading skills; detail oriented and able to stay on task; able to stand for most of the day; able to communicate and work well with others; able to lift 30 lbs.; and able to perform all job functions safely and efficiently. Apply at Mohawk Manufacturing, 1270 Newfield St, Middletown; Monday thru Thursday between 9:00AM and noon or 1:00PM and 3:00PM. Or email us at secretary@mohawk-mfg.com.

DRIVER WANTED: for Saturday and/or Sunday, 9:30am-12:30pm. Call 860-228-0809. If no answer, please leave a message.

GLASTONBURY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB: is accepting applications for PT seasonal wait staff, weekends required, days/evenings shifts, exp. helpful but will train. Fast pace. 860-633-5253 option 2.

PART-TIME AFTER-NOON RECEPTIONIST: needed for Rocky Hill CPA firm. Must be dependable, organized with very good computer and phone skills. Background check required. Send short letter of interest and resume to cpas@crandg.com

See More Employment, page 30

Assistant to the Collector of Revenue

The Assistant to the Collector of Revenue provides essential support to the Collector of Revenue in managing and administering the Town's tax collection processes. This role is responsible for assisting with the preparation and reconciliation of tax bills, including the collection of current and delinquent real estate, motor vehicle, personal property and sewer use tax revenue. Responds to taxpayers' inquiries in a courteous and professional manner. Must have strong computer proficiency, including Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Outlook). Must have experience processing financial transactions, including cash and check handling and have the ability to manage sensitive information with a high level of confidentiality and professionalism. Must possess excellent organizational skills, attention to detail, and verbal and written communication abilities. Experience with Quality Data Services software and prior work in a municipal Tax Collector's Office preferred. Must be willing and able to attain the Connecticut Certified Municipal Collector (CCMC) Certification within three (3) years of appointment. This is a full-time bargaining unit position with a 35-hour work week. The starting hourly rate is \$27.90, with an additional stipend available if the Tax Collector Certification is currently held or when obtained. Benefit package includes paid time off, health insurance, 401 retirement plan, and paid life insurance. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and an employment application by October 3, 2025, or until filled, to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/M-F. www.easthamptonct.gov

EMPLOYMENT

AUTO BODY TECHNICIAN: Looking for an experienced worker to come join our team. High volume collision shop. Monday-Friday. Contact us at 860-633-0869.

CAREGIVER OR THERAPIST TRAINEE: to help gentleman with aquatic therapy, once a week. Able to swim. Possible transportation. Call 860-537-4657.

POSITION WANTED

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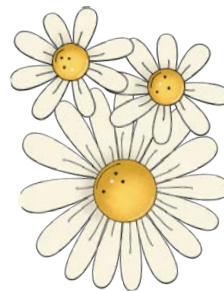
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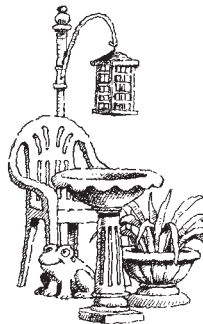
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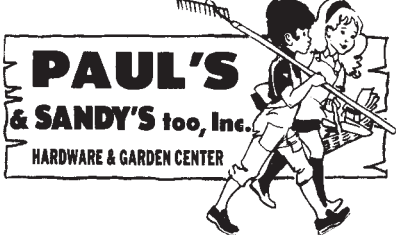
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TAG SALE: Saturday 9/20/25. 8 AM to 6PM, 106 Dowd Street, Newington, CT 06111, Furniture, tools china, among items for sale.

TAG SALE: 9/20, 9am-3pm, 118 Mill Hill Road, Colchester. Cabinet hardware, heavy duty drawer slides, hinges, glass backsplash, curtains, bedspreads, \$0.50 clothes, and free pile.

TAG SALE: Sat, 9/20, 9am-4pm, Park Ave, Colchester. Clothing, costume jewelry, housewares, shoes, holiday décor, and much more.

TAG SALE: Saturday Sept 20th, 9:30-2:30, 8 Spruce St, Wethersfield.

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