

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 36

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

September 26, 2025



Great Golfers... Pictured are the winners of the 11th Annual Driving for Drafts tournament: Bryce Cote, Brian Dinnis, Tyler Bordonaro and Timmy Donoghue. The tournament was held Sept. 13 at Portland Golf Course, to benefit the horses at Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue. Tournament co-chairs Sheri Spaulding and Maureen Morin said there was a record number of golfers this year, and that over \$18,000 was raised to help feed and care for the horses at Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue. Thanks to area businesses, volunteers and online donations, the day was a huge success, Spaulding and Morin said. CDHR is located on Chestnut Hill in East Hampton.

‘Celebrate Colchester’ Brings Together Town

By Toriana Williams

Colchester’s town green was filled with music, laughter and the hum of conversation on Saturday as residents gathered for the annual Celebrate Colchester event.

What began nearly two decades ago as the “57 Fest,” a nod to the ranking Colchester received when named one of the nation’s best places to live, has evolved into a daylong celebration of community pride, small businesses and local talent.

For families like Tom Hockdorfer’s, the festival was a chance to soak up sunshine and spend time together.

“My whole life,” Hockdorfer said when asked how long he had lived in Colchester, noting he spent a few years in Manchester but has always considered Colchester home. He attended the festival with his daughter, son, his sister-in-law and niece. His children, Hannah, 10, and Rowan, 9, had their own highlights. “DJ Montez,” one said quickly when asked their favorite part of the day. Spinning wheels for prizes was also high on the list.

For the younger generation, these moments of fun help make memories that anchor them in their hometown. For adults, the festival is about connection and discovery.

“We invited as many businesses in town to come get the word out that they’re here, because a lot of people don’t know all the businesses,” said Brenda Kniska, chairperson of the Colches-

ter Recreation Commission. “We’re trying to get a sense of community in town, which is huge. A huge thing with our commission is ... trying to get people together.”

The origins of Celebrate Colchester go back to 2005, when the town was ranked in a CNN/ Money Magazine poll as among the best places to live in America. To mark the occasion, Colchester launched a “57 Fest,” which turned into an annual event. It retained the “57 Fest” moniker for several years, before eventually morphing into “Celebrate Colchester,” Parks and Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn explained.

“This is a celebration of all the great things that are in Colchester,” she said.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler said the event reflects the town’s spirit.

“I think that it’s a great tradition in town and helps highlight a lot of the things that make our community special, which is a combination of small businesses and community organizations,” he said.

Dennler added that he loves “to see the passion in town,” and praised the turnout.

“It’s a good opportunity for people to come together, and again, enjoy what makes Colchester special.”

Quinn said the annual event brings in both local organizations, small businesses and artists from the town, all of which set up booths

See ‘Celebrate Colchester’, page 31

Stamped Dollar Bills and Slower Streets

By Toriana Williams

The installation of speed cameras along North Main Street in Marlborough has generated a good bit of controversy in town – but the cameras are so far doing their job.

Town Manager David Porter said in an email the town’s decision to install speed enforcement cameras along North Main Street was driven by years of safety concerns and repeated resident complaints, not by revenue.

“For many years, the town struggled to encourage motorists to travel at speeds safe for residents,” Porter explained. “Additional signs and freshly painted crosswalks made little difference. Radar boards that show drivers their speed but do not issue tickets had a limited short-term impact.”

He added that when local police would directly monitor the area, the result would be slower speeds – but only for a short time.

But worst of all? Pedestrians were often outright ignored.

“Residents routinely shared that motorists often would not stop – or even slow down – when a pedestrian attempted to cross the street,” Porter said. “Years ago, one woman was killed by a

speeding motorist while she retrieved her mail.”

The Connecticut Department of Transportation required a formal speed study before granting permission to implement the speed cameras. The study demonstrated both high traffic volume and significant speeding along North Main Street, according to Porter. After reviewing the findings, the DOT approved Marlborough’s application to place cameras. Two devices were ultimately installed in the 200 block of North Main Street, one in each direction.

According to Porter, the impact was nearly immediate.

“Within two weeks of issuing tickets, the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit by at least 10 [miles per hour] decreased 65% when compared against the pre-camera data,” he said.

The number of speeders has continued to decline since then.

So, as far as the town is concerned, the cameras are a success.

“The town measures success exclusively on safety improvements,” Porter said. “Substantially fewer vehicles exceed the speed limit than before the cameras were installed. As a result,

motorists can more easily see and make eye contact with pedestrians. Residents can more safely back out of their driveways.”

Despite the positive results and good intentions, not all residents have been pleased. Some have argued that cameras are nothing more than a cash grab, and a small protest even circulated stamped dollar bills urging boycotts of local businesses.

Porter pushed back against those claims.

“The cameras enjoy broad support from Marlborough residents,” he said. “During the first two weeks, slightly fewer than 10% of the tickets were mailed to Marlborough residents. Today, that figure is less than two%.”

As for the dollar bills, Porter dismissed them.

“The stamped dollar bills do not merit a response,” he said. “One disgruntled non-resident stamped a few \$1 bills and then used them to pay his ticket. Our small business owners overwhelmingly support the cameras and appreciate the efforts to improve safety near their businesses.”

Porter added that no local business owners

See Stamped Dollar Bills, page 27

Inside...

Regional	
<i>Athletes of the Week</i>	pg 3
East Hampton	
<i>Council Meeting Recap</i>	pg 12
Marlborough	
<i>Annual Muster a Success</i>	pg 13
Colchester	
<i>Turning Silence Into Strength</i>	pg 18
Colchester	
<i>Soccer Rallies to Victory</i>	pg 23
Regional	
<i>Obituaries</i>	pg 30

Crossword Puzzle...Pg 26
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RE9-26-25

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



RHAM High School girls soccer took down Southington, 1-0, on Sept. 19 thanks to a goal from Liana Fox. The team is back in action this Saturday in Enfield.

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts of the Week for the week of Sept. 15 - 21:

Liana Fox - RHAM High School (Soccer): Fox scored the game's only goal as the Raptors traveled to Southington High School and blanked the Blue Knights, 1-0, on Sept. 18. Fox, a junior, was assisted on the game-winner by El-lie Sementa as RHAM won their second game this season. The Raptors next travel to Enfield High School this Saturday, Sept. 27 for a game at 1 p.m.

Rowyn Kootz - Portland High School (Volleyball): Kootz tallied a game-high nine kills, adding two aces and had a pair of blocks as the Highlanders took down Haddam-Killingworth in four sets (25-22, 9-25, 25-19, 25-12) on Sept. 19. Kootz, a sophomore, led the charge near the net, while junior setter Molly Reilly had 16 assists, 12 digs, and three aces. Vivian Letitia posted a team-high four aces in the victory, which was Portland's first this fall. Next up, the Highlanders return to PHS on Monday, Sept. 29 when they host Lyme-Old Lyme at 5:30 p.m.

Ethan Hall - East Hampton High School (Soccer): Hall scored a pair of goals as the Bell-ringers blanked Valley Regional 3-0 at on Sept. 16. Hall, a senior, ignited an offense that also got a goal and an assist from Luke Davidson. Colin Marshall and Sebastian Woodson also had helpers in the win, which was the Bellringers third victory in the first four games this season. Next up is an away game against Haddam-Killingworth this Saturday, Sept. 27 at 11 a.m.

Boden Paul - Bacon Academy (Cross-Country): Paul finished as the runner-up, placing second overall at the 37th Going to the Sun Invitation at Coginchaug Regional High School on Sept. 18. Paul, a junior, finished with a time of 16:54, placing behind only the event's winner Benjamin Schildgen of Litchfield and ahead of 83 other runners at the annual race that featured Bacon Academy and 10 other running programs from across the state.

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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REG-26-25

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

The Big E seemed to really fly by this year. It’s wrapping up this weekend, so if, like me, you haven’t checked it out yet, now’s the time!

As always, some of the treats being sold at The Big E sound absolutely exquisite. And while there are some interesting savory options (from a “sloppy dough sandwich” – which is a sloppy joe but with fried dough for the bun – to lobster nachos), my eyes always go to the sweet treats. Here, courtesy of *USA Today*, are some of the new desserts sure to tickle your taste buds this year:

Amy’s Sweet Treats (located on Commonwealth Avenue) is offering a pickle sundae and a pickle shake; Cinnamon Saloon (Hampden Avenue) is selling a salted caramel cinnamon bun; Fluffy’s Hand Cut Donuts (New England Avenue) has a hot honey jalapeño popper donut; Kora’s Cookie Dough (Hampden Avenue) has a deep-fried cookie dough sundae; and, not to be outdone, Piche Concessions (New England Avenue) has deep-fried strawberry shortcake.

Want a little bacon with your sweets? You’re in luck: Moolicious Farm (at Springfield Road & West Road) is selling something called MooNugs, which consist of maple ice cream and applewood-smoked bacon dipped in white chocolate and rolled in frosted cornflakes.

Want to knock out all of the sweets at once?

You’re in luck here too. Top The Crust (located in the Food Court) is selling a “candy bar pizza,” and well, hold on your hats, folks. It consists of a chocolate cookie crust with vanilla cream frosting, topped with crushed Snickers, Heath Bar, Butterfingers, Reese’s peanut butter cups and M&M’s, and finished with caramel and chocolate. I love candy but....holy cow.

To be honest, of all the new treats being offered this year, the most appealing one to me is The Crookie, which is being sold at Sweet and Salty on Springfield Road. According to *USA Today*, it’s a buttery croissant filled with chocolate chip cookie dough. Sounds *amazing*.

So definitely bring your appetite when you head to The Big E, prepare to loosen (or remove) your belt – and by all means, don’t tell your dentist. What happens in West Springfield, Mass., stays in West Springfield, Mass.

As the weather cools, the thought of cozying up next to the fireplace with a good book starts to sound pretty appealing. In nearby East Haddam, there’s a book sale coming up next month, to help give you some options on reading material for those chilly nights.

The Friends of the East Haddam Free Public Library will hold its annual book sale Fri-

Editor’s Desk continued on page 5

Bulletin Board

I was watching Antiques Roadshow on PBS the other night and some guy showed up at one of their appraisal days with a Rolex watch he’d bought while serving overseas with the army back in the 1960s. He said he’d paid a few hundred dollars for it at the time. He knew Rolex watches had become quite collectible and wondered what it might be worth today.

The guy literally fell on the floor when the appraiser told him it was worth over \$70,000.

This intrigued me as I once owned a Rolex.

Well, sort of a Rolex.

My wife bought it for me years ago for 25 bucks from some street corner entrepreneur in New York City. Apparently, the guy had a whole box full of the things and they were going like hotcakes.

It was a fake of course. And, as you probably know, the authorities frown on this sort of thing because of the dire financial impact on struggling high end companies that cater to rich show-offs. Like some mobster or crooked politician is going to walk around with a “Rolex” made in Taiwan and hawked on a street corner for \$25—or that some peon such as myself is going to run out and buy the real thing if the fakes are no longer available.

[If I sound bitter, it’s because my wife forced me to spend the money I was saving for a yacht on my kids’ college tuitions. They then showed their appreciation by moving out of state, leaving me to shovel my own driveway in the winter.]

My Rolex was made of real gold-colored metal with a heavy metal-link band and it said Rolex right on the dial, lest there be any confusion about it being the genuine article. If I had any particular complaint about the thing, it was that they could have made the word Rolex bigger so people could read it from across the street. Nevertheless, when I strapped that sucker on I felt like Aristotle Onassis (the live version) or a public official from Chicago or something. The world was my oyster, baby.

Well, it was my oyster temporarily at least. I was soon taken down a peg or two by an acquaintance who actually knew something about expensive watches. He glanced at my Rolex and sort of smirked and shook his head.

“What?” I said.

“Rolex, huh?” he snickered.

“What?” I said again, a little more uneasily.

He then proceeded to explain to me that the seconds hand on a genuine Rolex watch sweeps around the dial in a continuous motion. The seconds hand on my “Rolex” made its way around the dial with tick-tock jerks. Also, he pointed out, the genuine gold case was beginning to lose its luster as the cheap finish wore off. “Probably water-soluble,” he opined a bit more sarcastically than was really necessary.

I came away from this encounter with a bit more knowledge about high-end watches and considerably less personal swagger than when I began. In any case, my effort to masquerade as one of society’s special people ended of its own accord shortly thereafter when my Rolex simply fell apart on my wrist. Still, I enjoyed my show of false affluence while it lasted, though it might have been more convincing if I’d had a better haircut.

While this was my only acquaintance with anything associated (even very peripherally) with Rolex, I’ve owned a variety of watches over the years. One of my favorites was a watch I paid \$8.50 for at a flea market in Florida. It lasted me two and a half years and while you wouldn’t want to coordinate a military campaign with the thing, it kept pretty good time. Also, it relieved me of any concerns that I might be mistaken for a corrupt politician.

My last watch was a \$40 Timex with a button that lighted up the dial if you wanted to know what time it was when nature called in the middle of the night or you got caught in a solar eclipse or something. I really liked that watch, but the band finally broke and it now resides in my bureau drawer.

It wasn’t quite the same as losing your favorite dog and finding it difficult to buy another, but after that watch broke I started to use my phone to tell time and never went back.

It is possible, I suppose, that one day some grandchild or great grandchild may take my old Timex to whatever passes for Antiques Roadshow in the future and find it is now a collectible worth a small fortune. Possible, but unlikely. First the poor thing will have to survive my wife’s periodic “get rid of all (his) unnecessary junk” sweeps, which make Germany’s World War II blitzkriegs look like a polite knock on the door. In other words, its future looks grim.

The good news is, if the worst happens, at least I won’t be reduced to screaming (as the trashman drives off down the road and into the sunset), “What happened to my \$70,000 Rolex?!”

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.



Champion Coyotes... The Colchester Coyotes U11 boys team started its season in a big way! The Coyotes went 4-0 at the Madison Tournament, coming out as tournament champions. Pictured are players Ryan Griffin, Finn Stahl, Bryan Poresky, Anthony Szewczyk, Julian Norige, Cole Pennella, Camden Pariseau, Max Dean, Austin Wilinski, Connor Parsons, Ryder Hlasyszyn, Porter Winters and Jude Billiott. Coaches pictured are Bryan Poresky, Paul Norige, Adam Griffin and Rob Hlasyszyn.

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Real-World Experience

Dear Hebron Residents:

Two weeks ago, I shared the exciting news of my candidacy for the Hebron Board of Finance. Since then, I’ve been humbled by the conversations I’ve had with many of you about the future of our town.

As a small business owner, I know firsthand what it takes to carefully manage budgets, plan for the long term, and stay accountable to the people you serve. Running a business has taught me the value of balancing priorities, making thoughtful investments, and ensuring that every dollar is used wisely. These are the same skills I will bring to the Board of Finance.

My family and I have proudly called Hebron home for more than 20 years. Like many of you, I care deeply about keeping our town affordable, maintaining the quality of life we enjoy, and preparing for a strong future. I want Hebron to remain a place where families, seniors, and businesses can thrive.

With your support, I will bring discipline, common sense, and financial accountability to every decision before the board. Together, we can keep Hebron strong, affordable, and moving forward.

Sincerely,

Brian O’Reilly – Amston
Candidate for the Hebron Board of Finance

Financial Excellence

To the Editor:

For 13 consecutive years the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded the “Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Town of East Hampton.”

Each year Finance Director Jeff Jylkka and his awesome team develop the comprehensive financial report (CAFR). “The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting...” Copies of the CAFR are available at the town hall.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Finance for several years witnessing the hard work and diligence of the finance department. Jeff is always patient, knowledgeable, honest and forthcoming with answers to my questions. Sometimes I don’t like the answers, in which case we find a solution to the financial dilemma.

The finance team has made my service a pleasure. They not only deserve the excellence award for accounting, but for a good old-fashioned “job well done.”

Alannah Danaher Coshow – East Hampton
Note: Coshow is vice chairman of the East Hampton Board of Finance, and is also a candidate for East Hampton Town Council.

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Published Every Friday by The Glastonbury Citizen
87 Nutmeg Lane • Glastonbury, CT 06033
Telephone (860) 633-4691

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

Letter Writers: Letters must be 400 words or less, and must be submitted by Tuesday at noon. Email is preferred; send to bulletin@glcitizen.com. 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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Blood Drive Thank You
To the Editor:
The Red Cross and the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard thanks everyone who came to the St. Joseph's Polish Club on Sept. 16 to donate blood. The Red Cross said that their daily goal for this event was exceeded with 31 pints collected. The Colchester Veterans Honor Guard and Red Cross will endeavor to sponsor another drive in the future. Those who donated this time are eligible to donate again after Nov. 11.
In the intervening time, please note that the St. Joseph's Polish Club will host other blood drives nearly each month. Your continued support of the Red Cross by donating blood when you are able is sincerely appreciated.
Alphonse Letendre
Deputy Commander

Supports Sousa
To the Editor:
I am proud to support David V. Sousa for reelection to Hebron's Planning and Zoning Commission. David is a lifelong resident who, along with his wife Jan, has raised a family here and invested more than 40 years into our community. He understands what makes Hebron special and is committed to keeping it strong for future generations.
Over the past four years as vice chair of Planning and Zoning, David has worked hard to make the permit process easier and more efficient. He has helped open doors for affordable housing and economic growth, while also protecting the character of our town. His leadership was key in reviewing and stopping the DG Market proposal, ensuring development in Hebron matches our long-term vision.
David brings unmatched expertise with more than 46 years in urban planning and community development. He has used this knowledge to give back directly to Hebron, even offering pro bono design work for The Town Center Project.
David believes in a balanced approach – supporting local business, improving housing options, and making our Town Center a lively and welcoming place, all while protecting natural resources.
Hebron is stronger with David Sousa on Planning and Zoning. Please vote for David Sousa in November.
David Rose – Hebron
Member, Hebron Democratic
Town Committee

You Will Regret...
To the Editor:
...not registering for the "Universal" house tour offered by the Portland Historical Society. You will be missing a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience extraordinary residential living.
It is the finest living space we have ever encountered. Period!
The two-hour tour will amaze you. How did the owners design and construct a home that is so incredibly comfortable, energy efficient, totally accessible, spacious and beautiful?
The owners will lead the tour and explain how they accomplished this astonishing undertaking.
You must register for tour tickets before Oct. 1. No tickets will be sold at the door. Go to Portlandhistsoc.com for tickets.
Joan Giesemann and Elwin Guild
Portland

Hoping for Howell
To the Editor:
I am writing to support Davis Howell as the alternate for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Davis has lived in Hebron for many years and cares about this community. He will work to help develop Hebron sympathetically to its history while meeting the needs of a modern community.
You should vote for Davis Howell, Planning and Zoning alternate, this November.
Mary J. Rose – Hebron

Support Ockman for BOF
To the Editor:
I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Adam Ockman as a candidate for the Hebron Board of Finance. With an impressive 23 years of experience as an actuary and a master's degree in mathematics, Adam brings a wealth of financial expertise to the table.
Adam has also demonstrated his commitment to our community through his service on the Charter Revision Commission from 2024 to 2025 and his regular volunteer work at Hebron's "swap shack." His dedication to both his profession and our community makes him an ideal candidate for the Board of Finance.
Thank you for considering my endorsement.
Catherine McSweeney – Amston

A Fresh Perspective
To the Editor:
I am honored to write this letter in support of my lifelong family friend, Vinnie Pitruzzello, as a candidate for Portland Board of Selectmen. Our families have shared a bond our entire life. Over the years of our friendship, I have witnessed firsthand Vinnie's commitment to his family, friends and community, and his sense of honesty and integrity.
Vinnie is one of the most organized, hard-working, and intelligent individuals I know. What truly sets him apart, however, is his ability to listen. He brings people together and understands diverse perspectives. A quality that will serve him well on the Board of Selectmen. His approach is exactly what Portland needs.
I've seen Vinnie hold himself to the highest standards both personally and professionally, and I am confident he will bring these same values to his work on the board. I encourage everyone to support Vinnie Pitruzzello this November. He is someone who will bring a unique perspective and make a meaningful difference in our town.
Laurie Webster – Portland

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Asking for Support
To the Editor:
I'm writing to ask for Marlborough residents' support in my campaign for a full seat on the town Zoning board. For the past four years, I've served as an alternate member, working alongside fellow members and residents in a non-partisan approach to thoughtful development in our town. I have gained valuable experience and contributed to decisions that directly affect the quality of life in our community.
In my role on the board, I've worked alongside fellow members and residents to ensure that zoning decisions balance the rights of property owners with the interests of the broader community. Whether it was refining lakefront regulations or addressing development proposals like the townhouses on North Main Street, I've listened carefully, asked the right questions, and worked to ensure that residents' concerns were heard and addressed.
Professionally, I've spent the last 15 years managing diverse IT teams at a large insurance company. This role has prepared me well for service on the Zoning board. I've worked with individuals having various communication styles and professional backgrounds, and have collaborated with contractors, vendors, and internal stakeholders to solve complex problems. I bring that same practical, solution-oriented mindset to zoning issues: one that respects both our town's rural character and our reality as a bedroom community for Hartford.
Zoning discussions are not always easy, but

they are essential to preserving the unique rural character of our town while also recognizing that thoughtful growth is both necessary and inevitable. Zoning decisions must respect this balance.
If elected, I will continue to approach each issue with a deep respect for the values and voices of our residents. I'd be honored to have your vote.
Sincerely,
Erik Stomberg – Marlborough

Will Be Valuable Asset
To the Editor:
I am writing in support of Nancy Nelson, who is running for a position on the Colchester Board of Education. Nancy's employment and educational backgrounds make her an outstanding candidate, and the BOE will benefit greatly from her many contributions. Nancy has been employed in a variety of positions in public school settings, including as a teacher, test coordinator, and math specialist. As an independent contractor from 2005-2014, she organized and led workshops in mathematics and further applied her instructional skills when she volunteered to tutor students who were struggling with online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Nancy has shown her dedicated commitment to the youth of Colchester with her volunteer positions which include small class instruction at Lisbon and Vergennes schools, school
See Letters, page 6

Editor's Desk continued from page 4
day, Oct. 10, from 4-7 p.m., and Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Grange Hall located at 488 Town St., East Haddam.
According to the Friends, this year there is a "fantastic collection of antiquarian and leather-bound books," as well as classics and a large assortment of novels. The mystery book selection features many favorite authors, and there will also be books on history, travel, prose and poetry, sports, nature and "coffee table" books. The children and young adult section is bursting full of wonderful titles, the Friends said, and there will also be a collection of new and gently used puzzles.
Also, local artisan Wendi Laban MacNeil will sell her handcrafted and painted birdhouses, along with her bakery goods.

Proceeds from the book sale are used to benefit the needs of the library and to sponsor various programs for children, young adults and adults throughout the year.

Lastly, Visiting Nurse and Home Health Services is looking for hospice volunteers. If you are interested, please contact John Roush at jroush@ech.org or 860-682-3405. Hospice volunteers visit patients that live in your area to provide companionship and support.
Visiting Nurse and Home Health Services is also looking for certified pet therapy teams, and Reiki volunteers.

See you next week.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 1*

superintendent at Versailles United Methodist Church, support for the Bacon Academy fields project, as well as serving on Colchester’s Coalition for Youth Committee and as chair of Colchester’s CORE Commission. As an active volunteer, she currently works as a substitute administrative assistant at the Colchester Senior Center and served as an EMT for the Lisbon Fire Department.

Nancy is a thoughtful communicator who uses her analytic skills to encourage collaborative and strategic problem solving. Her goals for the Colchester school system include supporting transparent communication between BOE, administrators, and the community; empowering students for success academically, emotionally, socially, and physically; supporting a curriculum that prepares all Bacon Academy graduates for success in the 21st century workforce; and fiscal responsibly by managing our town’s resources with foresight and effective planning.

She has proven her commitment to Colchester through her many volunteer activities and has demonstrated her understanding of fiscal responsibility as a former small business owner. She will prioritize rigorous classroom instruction by attracting, supporting, and retaining outstanding teaching staff while at the same time maintaining responsible budgeting with transparent accountability.

I have every confidence that Nancy will be a valuable asset to the Colchester BOE and I encourage our residents to provide her this opportunity to once again share her gifts of enthusiasm and leadership with our community.

Cindie Friedman – Colchester

Our Priorities

Dear Colchester Residents:

As candidates for Colchester’s Board of Education, we wrote a letter to the RiverEast last week outlining our priorities for Colchester schools. In the next few weeks, we will explain our priorities. In depth, starting with the first three today.

Students are always the first Board of Education priority. Meeting their needs through a variety of programs and supports are the BOE’s first concern. To maximize resources available to students, responsible budgeting is the top priority. If the BOE implements programs but can’t fund them sufficiently or there are unanticipated consequences, then time and effort is wasted, and students are shortchanged. As new

student programs are designed, their success must be continuously evaluated to identify our student’s further needs. We will ask questions to ensure that new initiatives have their intended impact before and after they happen.

Accompanying this focus is the clear communication and collaboration between BOE, administrators, staff and community. The community needs to know how students benefit from tax dollars. Staff and administrators need to share successes as well as target growth areas with the community. Our schools do a good job of communicating with parents, and this communication must be extended to the broader community. Notifications and invitations to school events and news concerning the schools needs to be extended to all citizens. The BOE used to set aside time for celebrations at every meeting. This is something we would love to see come back.

Advocating for rigorous classroom instruction that challenges all students is the backbone of our educational system. We, as a system, need to provide instruction that reaches all students and pushes them toward growth in their learning. Strong curriculum, ongoing professional development and support for the staff in all areas allowing for personalization of instruction to meet student needs. As retired teachers, we have the expertise to deeply explore the execution of the strategic plan and provide feedback with every student in mind.

We ask for your support and vote on Nov. 4th to help build the best Colchester school system possible for all students.

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

Thank You, Rep. DeCaprio

To the Editor:

I would like to extend my thanks to our state representative, Mark DeCaprio, for attending the Sept. 11 meeting at the Colchester Senior Center. His participation provided valuable insight into recently passed legislation benefiting seniors, and he took the time to field questions on issues affecting older residents, as well as other community matters.

Rep. Mark Decaprio’s presence and engagement were greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Rich Tanner – Colchester

Collaborative, Transparent

To the Editor:

I am proud to support Kim Nagy Marushock for re-election to the Portland Board of Education. I have enjoyed working with Kim, who brings thoughtful and knowledgeable insight to every discussion. She serves on several committees and draws on her many years of experience as an early childhood educator.

Kim is collaborative, transparent, and committed to keeping students at the center of every decision. She supports teachers, listens to families, and ensures fiscal responsibility. Portland’s schools are stronger because of her service.

Please join me in voting for Kim Nagy Marushock this November.

Sincerely,
Meg Scata – Portland
Note: Scata is secretary to the Portland Board of Education but said she is speaking as an individual.

Gratitude

To the Editor:

The Colchester Garden Club has a lot to be grateful for this year. We received a generous donation from Colchester Cares. A wonderful organization that supports so many worthy causes in the community. We are very fortunate to be one of them.

Next, we had a successful “Plants and More” sale on September 21st. So many individuals stopped by to say hello and talked about their plants on a beautiful day. We are thankful for the customers who bought perennials, houseplants, birdhouses, books, a birdbath and more.

The Colchester Cares donation and our customer purchases at the sale will help us to continue our community beautification programs, our youth activities, our senior center programs, our Colchester Farmers’ Market booth, and so much more.

We are also grateful for our members who donated the items to sell and their time, Treefort Naturals who donated houseplant cuttings, and members of the community that donated items for our sale.

Finally, we are thankful to the Colchester community for its support of our organization.

Mary Spalter, Co-President
Colchester Garden Club

Dennler Delivers

To the Editor:

It is great to see how quickly the pedestrian footbridge on Norwich Avenue was repaired. Not long ago, problems like this could sit for months or even years. This time it was fixed right away, thanks to the leadership of First Selectman Berner Dennler in making it a priority, and to the Public Works team for carrying out the job so well.

Just as important, the town also organized proactive collaboration between Youth Services staff and the police to help keep students safe during the closure. That kind of teamwork shows real care for the community.

This responsiveness makes a real difference in everyday life. It shows pride in the town and a commitment to keeping things moving forward. Thank you to First Selectman Dennler, Public Works, and all the staff who stepped up to get this done.

John Farrell – Colchester

The Future

To the Editor:

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Nancy Nelson for the Board of Education in Colchester!

Nancy brings with her a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to community service. She dedicated many years to teaching where she made a lasting impact on students and colleagues alike. Beyond the classroom Nancy served on many committees working tirelessly to improve curriculum and ensure the needs of all students were met.

Her dedication to academic excellence is evident in her efforts of support for teachers with the tools and resources necessary to deliver rigorous instruction for all students.

Nancy is also very involved in our community; she is a substitute administrative assistant at our Senior Center, is on the Coalition for Youth in Colchester and is the chair of the CORE Commission.

Please join me in supporting Nancy Nelson for Board of Education!

Our schools and our community need leadership like hers.

Thank you,
Catherine Ryan – Colchester

Save Seventeen

To the Editor:

Farms, trees, land, water, wildlife and quiet may sound trite, but they play a huge role in our lives in Hebron and on the Raymond Brook Watershed, in fact, they are our life. For some residents, this has been true their entire lives. We have no doubt their futures feel as uncertain, as ours do, especially when we consider that Hebron is not a right-to-farm community. There are no safeguards. But there could be, especially if the public demands them. The future is now and Open Space is an important part of our future.

Recently we talked about saving farms and sustainability, in Hebron, and if further development is even feasible. While many consider development to mean buildings and pavement, new developments can also mean a new product or idea. The idea of turning, at least, the Town’s portion of this high-functioning watershed into an open-air classroom is interesting. By carefully clearing out the laneways we could begin to share the property while continuing to farm its landscape and protect groundwaters. This idea could turn a thorn in Hebron’s side into another wonderful space to be proud of. We’ve lost one hayfield on Kinney Road. Let’s not lose another.

Multiple college professors expressed great enthusiasm about this hidden parcel of land. UConn professor Elizabeth Jockusch said she would like to conduct biology classes here. Another, Robert Thorson, the leading expert on stonewalls in the country, was blown away by the laneways. Other professionals were astonished by the bird population and the profound energies emanating from this soggy farmland. I guess you could say, folks of higher learning understand the intrinsic value, ecological significance, and historic contribution of keeping this old Horton property undisturbed.

But saving this land isn’t up to them, it’s up to us. The March 7, 2019 meeting explained perfectly the land’s location and that the public gets to decide the fate of this fertile property known, predominantly, as 17 Kinney Rd. Preserving this land, intact, supports Hebron’s quest for higher learning and the sustainable philosophy found in the 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development. Sharing the history, beauty, and wildlife will mean a great deal to the next generations. If we cannot save the land for ourselves, save it for them, as previous generations once worked so hard to save open spaces for us. Write to your local politicians. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

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Supports Nelson

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Nancy Nelson who is running for the Board of Education in Colchester. Nancy is a person who is responsible, willing to listen to others, is capable of looking at both sides of a situation and come to a decision on facts and the need of students and teachers.

Although she is a retired teacher, she still stays up to date on what is needed in schools and how best to help prepare students for the future. It is important to her that each and every child has the best education experience possible.

Nancy not only has the ability to look at the students’ needs but also the educators’ when assessing what is needed in schools, classrooms, and the community. Her background both in her own academic history and her work with students and teachers makes her an excellent candidate for the Board of Education. She has the background that is needed to look at education from the stand point of a parent, educator, and as a member of the community supporting the school system.

I am lucky enough to be her sister and I am also an educator. I have always been proud of all that she has done for the children and the educational system of the town she worked in. Her concerns for education have always gone beyond her own classroom and town which is seen in her keeping up with what is needed for the education of all students.

Joan Seidel – Colchester

Clarification

To the Editor:

The tone of my recent letters perhaps sounded too vitriolic. Although I castigate Republicans as potentially vile to democracy, I know that I painted with too broad a brush. Not all Republicans are fascists, just as not all Democrats are socialists. Most of us are a blend of socio-political views. I apologize to any conservative who feels their character was unfairly misrepresented. I know many conservative-minded folks who are good and decent. However, this does not deny my fear that ultra-conservatives may want to diminish civil society by rolling back centuries-old liberal progress, town by town and state by state. The news is full of such attempts by the rabid right.

With this in mind, please consider voting for the Democratic ticket on Nov. 4. Vote for Jillian Vinci, Sean Gillespie, Krista Kardys, Denise Turner, Eric Jackson, Dave Koji, Gussie Gilberti, Nancy Nelson, Rosemary Coyle, Bernie Dennler, and Andrew Cournoyer. This team will maintain consistency, fiscal stability, quality infrastructure, educational integrity, and professionalism in our town government.

If you must vote your conservative conscience, please ask yourself if your candidate represents traditional conservative values or regressive and repressive values of the far right. Thank you.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Running for ZBA

To the Editor:

My name is Mattie Walton and have has served the community of East Hampton since the 1970s, when I helped with my children's Little League teams. Over the next five decades, I devoted my time to eight boards and organizations, including the Fire Department, where I volunteered for 18 years and ended my tenure as assistant chief. After hanging up my fire gear, I served on the Board of Fire Commission (five years), including as vice chairman. I am currently running to be on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The decisions of the ZBA are based on the hardship presented by the land owner and the hardship must arise from the condition of the function of the land and not by the landowner.

I have been a Rotarian for the past 18 years (a past president) and have held the position of president within the Old Home Days Committee (member for 18 years). Most recently, I have served on the following boards: Middle Haddam Library (five years, former president), Planning & Zoning Commission (four years, alternate), and Zoning Board of Appeals (four years, former chairman). I am a lifelong resident of East Hampton.

I worked as a quality engineer at Pratt & Whitney (42 years), where I was among the first to be trained in the company's use of Japanese Kaizen strategy. Kaizen translates to “change for the better” or “continuous improvement,” and I embrace this methodology as a key role in my volunteer efforts.

All this experience aids in the decision-making process of serving on the ZBA board.

Mattie Walton – East Hampton
Candidate for Zoning Board of Appeals

On Our Seniors

To the Editor:

The population of seniors in East Hampton is growing and their needs are increasing. We have formed a steering committee on Senior Center and Senior Services (<https://www.east-hamptonct.gov/commission-aging/pages/modernization-senior-center>).

The Commission on Aging has created a remarkable collection of services for the seniors in East Hampton through the Senior Center and other ways for example the East Hampton Community Cares (<https://www.easthamptonct.gov/commission-aging>).

The Housing Authority has now finished executing a grant installing heat pumps and new windows and doors with benefits to all residents.

If you need help or want to help others, contact the Commission on Aging and or the Senior Center. To volunteer go to [ttps://www.east-hamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center/pages/volunteer-opportunities](https://www.east-hamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center/pages/volunteer-opportunities).

Jack Solomon – East Hampton
Candidate for Town Council

Why I’m Running for BOS

To the Editor:

For years, I’ve admired the dedication of Hebron’s volunteers who serve on our local boards and commissions. Their work is often quiet, sometimes thankless, but always essential. What I appreciate most is the spirit of cooperation and the absence of the political divisiveness that too often affects neighboring towns. It’s a reflection of the kind of people who step up to serve—and it’s that same spirit that led me to accept the nomination to run for the Board of Selectmen.

My name is Rob McLaughlin. Some of you know me as Coach Rob, others through my work with local volunteer organizations or my career in commercial insurance. Many simply know me as Julie’s husband and the proud father of Ryan and Jake. For those I haven’t met yet, I look forward to connecting with you in the coming weeks—whether at community events or through door-to-door conversations.

Hebron is a special place. I believe in our future, and I believe that when we work together, we can continue to make this town thrive. I’m asking for your trust—and your vote—to serve on the Board of Selectmen. If you have questions about my candidacy, or just want to say hello, feel free to reach out at robforhebron@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Rob McLaughlin
Candidate for Hebron Board of Selectmen

Supports Leon

To the Editor:

I am writing as a neighbor and longtime resident to enthusiastically support Joelyn Leon for East Hampton Town Council. She has consistently shown her dedication to our town – none more evident than her leadership in the “EHHS Renovate to Educate” movement that led to the successful 2013 high school renovation referendum.

That project was not just bricks and mortar. Joelyn helped mobilize community understanding and support for a \$51 million plan that addressed critical needs: safer, more modern science labs, ADA accessibility, energy efficiencies, and a reimagined space for students.

Joelyn listens, collaborates, and acts with both intelligence and integrity – values we so badly need now as East Hampton confronts challenges of affordability, preserving open spaces, supporting our seniors, and making sure our schools serve all students well. I believe with Joelyn on the Town Council, we will get leadership that cares deeply, refuses easy shortcuts, and works for all of us.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Paluska – East Hampton

Celebrating Colchester

Dear Colchester Neighbors:

Last weekend, the Colchester community came together to celebrate all the things that make this town special. In that spirit, I want to share a bit about what our town means to me and how it shapes my work as first selectman.

I was born and raised in Colchester, out on Brainard Road off Route 354. As a kid, I’d roam the woods behind my dad’s barn with my walking stick and check my wildlife cameras to watch the deer and other animals. It’s one reason I care deeply about land preservation, like the Sablitz Preserve and its new trails we opened this year, and why I encourage everyone to get outside and enjoy our parks and fields.

My grandmother lived in an old house on the Green. I’d walk to her place after school, or we’d visit spots like the old Colchester Bakery. Those memories fuel my push to expand sidewalks and trails -- to make it easier for residents to walk, bike, and support local businesses.

Colchester’s strong public schools shaped me. From kindergarten through Bacon Academy, I had teachers who inspired me. I’m the fourth generation in my family to graduate from Bacon, and I want today’s students to have the same opportunities I had. My dad taught in the alternative education program there, working with kids at risk of dropping out. He taught me

the importance of meeting young people where they are. That’s why our Youth Services programs and the upcoming Youth Center renovation are so important to me.

There’s so much more I want to say about our town that won’t fit in this letter but one thing stands above all: our people.

After college, I returned home to Colchester and started volunteering on the Economic Development Commission. Everywhere I turned, I met people eager to lend a hand, step up, and make a difference. Their passion made me want to do more. That spirit is what makes Colchester not just a great town but a true community.

So to all of you: thank you for what you do to make Colchester such a special place. I’m proud to serve, and even prouder to call it home.

Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler
Colchester First Selectman

Thank You, Bernie Dennler

To the Editor:

Anyone who resides in Colchester knows of the far too many serious motor vehicles that have occurred over the last few years. As a resident that lives off of Route 16, I cringe every time I need to turn onto Gillette Lane to reach my home. Additional measures that could have been easily implemented had gone ignored for too many years. The prior admiration stated that “It’s a state road. We can’t do anything.”

Thank you to Bernie Dennler, First Selectman of Colchester, for his unending advocacy for the safety of our residents with the state and SECOG. Electric poles have been reduced increasing visibility and important solar speed signs have been installed in sections that are hazardous and unfortunately have proven deadly.

Mr. Dennler doesn’t just talk the talk – he has proven that actions speak louder than words.

Jo-Ann Holmes – Colchester

Working Together

To the Editor:

Residents of our town demonstrate what a strong community we are, that we come together to remember and celebrate, and that we work hand in hand to solve problems and move our town forward. As a member of Colchester’s Board of Selectmen (BOS) for many years, I often participate with hands-on dedication and I’m always willing to help.

I see the commitment and dedication that is demonstrated by our volunteers and employees as shown on Sept. 11. The fire department holds a ceremony in memory of those lost on 9/11 and

See Letters, page 27

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Parks and Rec News & Notes

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

Dog Park Grand Opening!: All are invited to the grand opening of Hebron's new dog park, located at 52 Kinney Rd., on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 9:30 a.m.

Youth Basketball: Registration is open for

Christ Lutheran Church News and Notes

Christ Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center (daycare) is located at 330 Church St.

Worship Service with Pastor Matthew Hardaway: 9-10 a.m. Sundays. All are welcome. Those unable to attend in person can join online at www.facebook.com/clchebron/live.

Adult Bible Study: Sundays at 10:30 a.m., following service and fellowship time. All are welcome.

Early Childhood Center (Daycare): Offers childcare, preschool, and before/after school

Hebron Lions Winter Storage Available

As the seasons change and residents begin preparing to store their recreational vehicles, the Hebron Lions Club has prepared its fairgrounds on Route 85 and is ready to announce the availability of limited indoor and barn storage, along with virtually unlimited outdoor space, for cars, boats, trailers, and campers.

The initiative is part of a fundraising effort to support the Lions' ongoing charitable programs, which include youth services, local aid, and community development projects.

Indoor, barn, and outdoor spaces are avail-

United Brethren Synagogue News and Notes

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

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

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

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

In keeping with the holiday season, all who attend services are asked to bring a bag of food for the Hebron Interfaith Human Services

TTCP Upcoming Events

The Town Center Project (TTCP) has announced the following upcoming events. For more information, email ttcp@thetowncenter-project.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

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 Rocznik, who has been practicing mindful meditation for 17 years. To register call 860-228-1700.

Yoga: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m., through Oct. 1. 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.

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, 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

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.

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

required. All applications must be received by Sept. 26.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Bereavement Support Group to Start

The Grief Journey: A Bereavement Support Group will be held Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Oct. 1, at the Church of the Holy Family Parish House, 185 Church St. The group will be facilitated by grief educators Michael Glazier and Stephanie Haines.

All grieving adults are welcome, whether your loss is recent or past and you may come to one session or as many as you would like. This support group is non-denominational and is a collaborative effort of the Hebron faith communities. There is no registration.

Election Day Info

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. This year, there will be 14 days of Early Voting beginning on Monday, Oct. 20. Early voting is conducted at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St.

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

If you are not registered to vote, you have options. You may register to vote online at voter-registration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do. Or you can come into the registrar of voter's office at 15 Gilead St. and complete a voter registration card. 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.

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Upcoming at the Library

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

Adult Programs: Poetry Group: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Bring one of your own poems to share for discussion and critique. Open to all ages.

Friday Films: Fridays, Sept. 26 and Oct. 3, 1 p.m. *Friendship* (rated R) will be shown Sept. 3, and *The Life of Chuck* (rated R) on Oct. 3. There will be free water and freshly made popcorn.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Wednesday, Oct 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Carve out a new tradition and give blood. For an appointment, visit redcross-blood.org.

Access Health CT: Thursday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Have questions about insurance? Turning 26 and will soon be uninsured? Come in and speak with Jessimar and Sabrina about enrolling in Access Health CT Insurance.

Art History Film Series: Monday, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m. Celebrate National Arts and Humanities month by learning about art and artists with movies every Monday in October. This program made possible by a grant from the National Gallery of Art.

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

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

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

Children: Storytime is Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Tuesday is ideal for ages 15 months to 3 years old. Thursdays are geared to ages 3-5 years old as they learn letters, numbers and colors. Siblings are always welcome at either session.

PJ Storytime: The first and third Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m. There will be stories, songs, and crafts.

Lego Club: Every Monday, 4-5 p.m. Come build some Lego creations.

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! ‘Pumpkin-Carving’: Friday, Oct. 3. All middle school and high school youth are invited for food, a lesson, and pumpkin-carving. Kids are welcome to come either at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and the whole event, or arrive at 8 p.m. for dessert and activity. Pick-up is at 9:30 p.m.

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

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

Kingdom Men: Men’s Breakfast: Saturday, Oct. 18, 8-10 a.m., at the church. All men are invited to come have a hearty meal. Feel free to invite others.

Fall Chili Fest Luncheon- Sunday, Oct. 5, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Come after the service for charcuterie boards and a variety of chillis. All are welcome; no need to bring anything.

Church of The Holy Family News

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

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

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

“Neighbors Feeding Neighbors”: The Social Outreach Committee collects breakfast cereal on the second Sunday of each month for the benefit of the Covenant Soup Kitchen (CSK) in Willimantic. The next collection date is Oct. 12. However, cereal is most welcome any time. Place bagged donations in the oak collection box near the Robing Room.

Meatloaves for CSK: The parish also provides meatloaves to CSK each month. Parishioners are asked to deliver a cooked meatloaf to the freezer in the garage (use side entrance) closest to the Parish House or the freezer in the St. Columba church hall by the fourth Tuesday of the month. Meatloaves are delivered the next day. The next due date has been extended to Sept. 30. Call Diane (860-508-9959) for more information.

Youth Ministry: Welcomes all parish teens in grades 8-12. The group meets in the St. Columba Youth Center at 6:30 p.m. every second Saturday from September through June (except for the third Saturday in May), for an evening of games, food, and discussions centered on growing in faith in today’s society. Safe environment-certified adults are always present to ensure compliance with Diocesan Safe Environment Guidelines. See the parish website for more information.

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

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

Conversation with Democratic Candidates

All are invited to a Community Conversation with local Democratic Candidates on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m., at Russell Mercier Senior Center, 12 Stonecroft Drive.

Board of Selectmen candidates Tiffany Thiele and Jan Lawrence, Board of Finance candidates Adam Ockman and Ryan Herrick, and Planning & Zoning Commission candi-

dates David Sousa and alternate Davis Howell will all be present.

This is your chance to learn more about the candidates’ visions for Hebron, ask questions, and be part of the conversation about the community’s future.

For more information, visit hebrondems.com

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.

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, 9/27 – no yoga today; Saturday, 9/27 – Trunk ‘n’ Treasure Tag Sale at 9 a.m., Gilead parking lots (Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 28, 1-4 p.m.); Sunday, 9/28 – Worship Service with Youth Birthday Cupcakes at 10 a.m. (in-person in the sanctuary, as well as online and livestreamed); Sunday, 9/28 – Coffee Hour at 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Sunday, 9/28 – Communion Workshop for fourth grade and up at 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary; Sunday, 9/28 – “Finding Steady Ground” support group at 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall classroom; Monday, 9/29 – Bible study at 9:30 a.m., online via Zoom; Tuesday, 9/30 – AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 10/1 – Yoga at 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall.

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.

Card-Making with Gayle: Create unique, seasonal greeting cards for \$15 with part of the proceeds benefiting the Connecticut Food Bank. The next class, a special fundraiser for the ‘Hebron Rocks Alz’ Walk to End Alzheimer’s team, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 5:30 p.m.

Fall Save the Dates: 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.



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank you to the 48 golfers who played in the tournament personally making it happen and having a great time.

The veterans of Hebron thank the many businesses and individuals who supported the scholarship golf tournament held at Chantclair golf course on September 13th. All profits from the event will be used to fund scholarships awarded to RHAM High School seniors who will attend a college or technical school and are descendants of a US veteran.

The veterans thank the following for their monetary support:

Platinum- Oconnell Wealth Management, Beacon Light-Manchester, Hebron Ace Hardware, Ted’s IGA, Hebron Durable Roofing, Charlie Luchini, Jim Celio and Adell Martin. Gold- Hebron Veterinarian, Hebron Travel, Douglas Library, Highland Park Market-Manchester, Susan Comorada, Joe Fetta, Ron Parkyn and Joe Barret.

Thanks to the following Benefactors who donated various prizes:

Georgias Restaurant and Pizza, Wicked Slice, Tallwoods Country Club, Georgina’s Restaurant-Bolton, Gina Maries, China Panda, Blackledge Country Club, Country Roads Wine and Spirits-Marlborough, Broadway Wine and Spirit-Colchester, Village Green Pizza-Marlborough, Hebron Wine and Spirits, Marlborough Pizza, Wild Bills and Rick Letts Sr.

Thank you cart sponsors:

Hydro Pure Water Treatment-Colchester, Jim Celio Century 21 and Bart and Garrie Bartholomew.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped run the tournament. Thanks to everyone who helped make the tournament a success. The veterans could not pull it off without all your energy and support.



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Famous BBQ Chicken Takeout Event

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is hosting a BBQ Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru Takeout Event on Saturday, Oct. 4, by reservation only. This is the famous barbecue chicken sold at the Haddam Neck Fair for over 40 years. The dinner includes a barbecue thigh/leg chicken quarter, baked beans, coleslaw and dinner roll for \$15; cash only please. Make your reservation with the church of-

fice by email at officehncc@gmail.com or call 860-267-2336 and indicate your pick-up time: 12-1 p.m., 1-2 p.m., 3-4 p.m., or 4-5 p.m. Order deadline is September 30. Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Road in East Hampton, the road to the Haddam Neck Fairgrounds. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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. **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. **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.

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). **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 water-color 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. **Haunted History & Rumors Walking Tour:** **Saturday, Oct. 25.** The tour will begin at Mateo’s Taco & Cantina Restaurant, 87 Main St. 10/25. Two tours to choose from – 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Journey through the shadows as Parks and Rec. uncovers some of the most formidable buried secrets and almost-forgotten tales in town. Mateo’s Taco & Cantina is brewing up some Halloween cocktails and specials just for the occasion. This one-hour walking tour covers about two miles of thrills and chills. Guests must be 21 and over, and costumes are encouraged but not required. Cost is \$10.

EHMS Basketball and Cheerleading

East Hampton Middle School student/athletes who are interested in trying-out for boys’ basketball, girls’ basketball or cheerleading teams can register online through Arbiter Sports Registration. Athletes must have a physical within a 13-month period in order to try out. The deadline for registration is Sunday, Nov. 26. For further information, call EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

Free Paper-Shredding Event

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding its last free paper-shredding event of the year on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Chester Fair Grounds, 11 Kirtland Terrace, Chester. This event is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes Portland & East Hampton. Please note that this event is intended for shredding confidential papers, not for things that can be regularly recycled such as birthday cards, magazines, and envelopes. Visit www.rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

Senior Bowling League

Calling all seniors in the nine *River**east* 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.

Lions Raffle for Scholarship Program

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

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

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 need-

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. 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 Thursday, Oct. 2, from 1-3 p.m., at Mary’s. **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.

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. **All-Ages Program: Cardboard Arcade: Community Open Play:** Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The East Hampton Public Library Cardboard Arcade will open for business. The community is invited to play the games and marvel at the ingenuity and skills of the design teams. Winners of the superlative awards will be announced. **Adult Programs: 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. **Cookbook Club:** Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m. This month’s theme is Pumpkins. Bring a prepared dish, 12 copies of the recipe to share, and come hungry. Food should arrive ready to eat; the library will provide the plates and forks. Register or drop in. **Teen Programs: 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. **Cardboard Arcade: Planning & Design:**

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

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.

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6 p.m. Design teams will gather in the Library Community Room to choose a game, work on the design, create an inventory of supplies and plan for the building of the game. **Cardboard Arcade: Build Day:** Friday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. Design teams will work to build, test and finalize their games. Teams will have a chance to test the games of other participants. **Children’s Programs: 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. **Halloween Costume Swap Drop-Off:** Drop off costumes for all ages any time during normal library hours, from now through Oct. 3. Please only bring in items that are in good condition, or that you would want to bring home. **Halloween Costume Swap Shop:** Saturday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Come “shop” for this year’s Halloween costume. This event is open to everyone; you do not have to donate to take items from the swap. Items are first-come, first-served. **Lego at the Library – Halloween Edition!:** Grades 4-6: Tuesday, Oct. 7, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Come build Halloween-themed Lego creations.

Turkey Dinner Save the Date

The Haddam Neck Congregational Church Ladies Aid will hold a Fall Turkey Take Out Dinner Saturday, Nov. 1, at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck. Cost is \$15 for turkey and all the trimmings and apple or pumpkin pie. Pre-orders required by calling 860-993-5311 or 860-267-9836.

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.

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 information, call Dan DiStefano at 860-978-0489.

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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 Friday, Oct. 3, from 4:30-7:15 p.m., at the church parish center, located at 47 West High St. Takeout and dine-in meals will be offered.

Meal prices are \$15 for adults and \$14 for seniors. Children 5 and under eat for free. The meal will include a salad, bread, dessert, coffee or tea and a punch/iced tea drink. Canned soda

and bottled water will be available for \$1.

Proceeds will support local charitable programs. 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 Naughton, Jr.

Contact Jim Pedersen at 860-716-9629 for more information.

Foreign Exchange Program Volunteers Needed

Rotary is seeking volunteers from across the community to participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. The Rotary is looking for students ages 15–18 who want to study abroad, as well as families interested in hosting an exchange student here at home.

Applications are open now for both long-term academic year exchanges and short-term summer exchanges. Opportunities are available in 19 European countries, six Asian countries, seven South American countries, as well as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Mexico. The earlier you apply, the better your place-

ment options. Learn more and apply at www.exchangestudent.org

Also, Rotary is seeking host families for students arriving in East Hampton this year and in both Colchester and East Hampton in future years. Host families provide room and board for a defined period and, in return, build a lasting bond with a student from abroad. The host family application is always open at www.exchangestudent.org.

For more information, email youthexchange7980@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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

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.

Class of ‘10 Reunion

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

Share your availability at tinyurl.com/4yuex98x.

Class of ‘80 Reunion

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

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

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

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.



Historical House Tour Saturday... The Chatham Historical Society's biannual Historical House Tour will be Saturday, Sept. 27, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Featured will be six homes dating from 1748 to 1817, plus the museum complex consisting of two buildings and a one-room schoolhouse. Tickets are now on sale at the library and at the museum located at 6 Bevin Blvd. Pictured is one of the homes on the tour, The William Bevin House.

Quilt Project to Benefit the Food Bank

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

The quilt depicts 12 sites in East Hampton. The quilt depicts 12 sites in East Hampton. The raffle tickets sell for \$10 each or 3/\$25. Buyers can pay cash or use Venmo. Tickets are being sold until mid-November at Paul's and Sandy's

Too, East Hampton Public Library, Old Bank, and The Hairitage. The quilt will be displayed at various times at the library.

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

For continuous updated information on when and where tickets will be sold, visit sites.google.com/view/easthamptonquiltproject/home.

Police News

9/11: Benjamin Smith, 58, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, operating a motor vehicle under suspension and violating conditions of release, East Hampton Police said.

9/12: Lisa Kaye, 51, of Bristol was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, East Hampton Police said.

9/12: James Ross, 44, of Middletown, was arrested and charged with larceny of a motor vehicle, evading responsibility – property damage, illegal operation of a motor vehicle with a sus-

pending license, and failure to drive right, police said.

9/19: Jonathan Atkins, 46, of East Hampton was arrested and charged with criminal violation of a protective order and criminal violation of a restraining order, police said.

9/21: John Reynolds, 69, of East Hampton was arrested and charged with violation of probation, police said.

From Aug. 25-21, officers responded to 77 medical calls, 11 motor vehicle accidents, 9 alarms and 23 traffic stops, police said.



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Council Talks Firehouse, School Admin Contract

By Anne Lilburn

At a wide-ranging Town Council meeting Tuesday, council members discussed the Board of Education's collective bargaining agreement with school administrative staff, voted to establish a steering committee to consider options for building a new fire station and took steps towards getting more electric vehicle charging stations in town.

The council also heard from the town manager about a potential homestead property exemption and considered how to proceed with a proposed noise ordinance that generated concern and feedback from residents and business owners.

The discussion around the Board of Education's collective bargaining agreement with school administrators in particular generated questions about the town's ability to further negotiate the contract. Council member Ted Hintz Jr., a Republican, expressed concern about the contract, indicating that he viewed it as overly favorable to the administrators, particularly with regards to annual salary increases and vacation and sick days.

Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tasel explained to the council that the collective bargaining agreement had been reached according to a process mandated by state law, which also sets minimum standards for sick days, and explained that some terms in the contract could not be renegotiated.

Council member Jordan Werme, a Democrat, warned that rejecting the agreement was a "dangerous game" and cautioned that rejecting the

deal could lead to additional arbitration costs that might offset any gains that the town might negotiate.

Several council members expressed concern that they had not had sufficient time to look over the new agreement, which they were seeing for the first time that night. The council voted to table the issue and hold a special meeting to discuss and vote on the topic on Oct. 7.

Another item that generated some controversy concerned the town's plans to potentially build a new firehouse to replace the existing fire stations, which are in need of replacement in order to meet operational, safety and regulatory standards.

At this meeting, the Town Council was considering a draft resolution, submitted by Hintz at the previous meeting, which would establish a Firehouse Steering Committee. Prior to the meeting, Council Chairperson Dean Markham, a Democrat, made changes to the language in this resolution and some of the discussion at the meeting involved these changes and the procedures in place for making such changes.

Particularly of concern to some members was the proposed makeup of the members of the steering committee. With an election approaching, the Republican members of the council, Hintz and council member Tim Feegel, expressed concerns that there would not be an opportunity for any newly elected council members to serve on the steering committee. In the end, the amended resolution was passed.

The Town Council also passed a resolution authorizing the town to pursue participation in a state-wide clean energy program that would result in the town getting two new electric vehicle charging stations at no cost. The program, administered by the state Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), involves a partnership with Voltpost, a company that installs charging stations on existing light poles.

Jonathan Searles from the town's Clean Energy Task Force briefed the council on two possible locations for the new chargers: one at the Town Hall and another at the library. Several council members sought clarification that the charging stations would not cost the town in any way, and the Voltpost representative reassured them that the town would not incur any costs for electricity charges or maintenance on the charging stations. Town Manager David Cox confirmed that the council would have the opportunity to review any contracts or agreements signed with Voltpost and provide final approval.

The council also heard from Cox about the potential adoption of a homestead property tax exemption, modeled on a similar proposal currently being considered in New Milford, which

would provide an exemption from property taxes for owner-occupied dwellings. The discussion among council members concerned the consequences, both intended and unintended, of implementing such a change.

Werme cautioned that you "have to be careful" with property tax changes and worried that shifting tax burdens away from one group could make things harder for other groups. The council eventually decided to revisit this issue at the next regular meeting on Oct. 14.

Lastly, the Town Council heard several public comments from residents and business owners expressing concern about a draft noise ordinance that was developed by Feegel and Council Democrat Karen Wanat. At issue were concerns about how hunting and shooting sports would be impacted, worries about the homebuilding and development industries being negatively affected, and fears that residents could use the ordinance to "weaponize" the police against neighbors.

In the end, Wanat and Feegel said they would consider the feedback and revisit and revise the draft ordinance to accommodate community requests.

The next regular Town Council meeting will be held Oct. 14.

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.

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The event will include a cocktail hour, three-course meal, music, dancing, wine pull, bourbon blackjack as well as various raffle and auction items. There are still tickets available for purchase, at a cost of \$85 per person. For more information regarding the banquet or to donate, visit tango2banquet.raiselysite.com or email kasha.morris@tango2research.org.

Bingo at VFW Post

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

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

'The Velocity of Autumn'

Readers Theater presents *The Velocity of Autumn* by Eric Coble, directed by Richard Kamins and performed by Anne Cassady and Nat Holmes of the Dramatists Play Service Inc., on Friday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m., at Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam.

This family drama swirls around Alexandra, an 80-year-old artist in a showdown with her family over where she'll spend her remaining years. She barricaded herself in her

Brooklyn brownstone with enough Molotov cocktails to take out the block. The clash, illuminated by the author, reveals the may seemingly no-win debates across America over what's best for an aging relative no longer at her sharpest.

A free will offering will be collected. Seating for the performance is limited so register in advance by calling 860-267-9093 or middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com.

VFW Lobster Fest Fundraiser

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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—Winnie the Pooh

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How To Prepare Your Car For Fall

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

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

1. Check The Belts & Hoses

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

2. Check The Fluid Levels

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

3. Check/Replace Tires

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

4. Check Your Heat

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

5. Check The Brakes

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



Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

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Car Cruise Check... The East Hampton Republican Town Committee presented VFW Post 5095 Commander Ted Turner with a \$250 check at the recent annual Markham Meadows car cruise. From left are Eric Peterson, Joey Guest, Darin Hurne, Jim Radavich and Tim Feegel; front row: Ted Hintz, Alannah Dannaher Coshow, Bridget McLennan and Ted Turner.

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.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

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

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

St. Patrick Church News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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Marlborough Lions’ Masquerade 5K

The Marlborough Lions will hold their annual Masquerade 5K Road Race Sunday, Oct. 26, starting promptly at 10 a.m.

This 5K will feature runners in costume and will follow the same course around Lake Terramuggas as the Lions’ Memorial Day weekend race. The race will utilize electronic timing with computerized race results and the course is now a certified 5K.

The entry fee is \$30 per runner for pre-registration and \$35 on the day of the race. Shirts will be provided to those who pre-register by Oct. 13, with additional shirts being available on race day subject to availability. There is also a \$60 package price (\$65 on the day of the race) for families of up to four (immediate family members only) participating in the race. Same-day

registrations are accepted. Runners will start near the entrance to Blish Park on Park Road and will proceed on a course which circles Lake Terramuggas.

The Lions Club supports programs which address various issues including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness in addition to supporting local organizations such as the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks and providing vision screening for students at Marlborough Elementary School.

To register or for additional information, contact Lions Club President Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054 or jpabolduc@icloud.com. Registration forms are available online at runsignup.com/Race/CT/Marlborough/Masquerade.

Voting Information

In Marlborough, the general election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4. Voting will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

All registered voters in Marlborough are eligible to vote at their polling place on Election Day or during Early Voting.

Those who are not yet registered to vote but are eligible to do so may register to vote and vote via Same Day Registration during Early Voting and on Election Day.

The last day to register to vote online, via DMV, or by mail (postmarked) is Oct. 17. The registrars of voters office will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the 18th day before Election Day registration session.

Connecticut allows residents to vote in person before the election. Early voting will be available from Oct. 20 to Nov. 2 at one location: the Town Hall Conference Room, 26 North Main St. Please use the main entrance of Town Hall.

Early Voting hours of operation are: Monday, Oct. 20, through Sunday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., with extended voting hours of 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28, and Thursday, Oct. 30.

When you arrive for Early Voting, you will check in and be verified as an eligible voter. You will then receive your ballot with an envelope. You will complete your ballot at a privacy booth and seal it in the approved envelope. Before you leave, you will place the sealed envelope in the secure receptacle as instructed by the election officials. Ballots will remain unopened until Election Day, Nov. 4.

On Election Day, Nov. 4, voters should go to their regular polling location, Marlborough Elementary School. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.

to 8 p.m. To check your voter registration, visit the secretary of the state’s website or call the registrars of voters at 860-295-6166.

On Election Day, Same Day Registration will be available in the registrars of voters offices at Town Hall.

Connecticut law allows voters to receive an absentee ballot if they cannot appear at their assigned polling place on election day because of active service in the military, absence from the town, illness, religious tenets forbidding secular activity on the day of the election, duties as an election official at a polling place other than your own during all of the hours of voting, or physical disability.

To request an absentee ballot for the Nov. 4th election: First, obtain an absentee ballot application online, in person, or by mail. A Connecticut-issued DMV ID is required for online applications. Then, return the completed application to the Town Clerk’s Office. The voter will then receive an absentee ballot.

Next, cast your vote using the absentee ballot.

Lastly, return the ballot to the town clerk’s office by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4, by USPS mail, in person, or deposit it into the secure drop boxes located at Town Hall.

For more information, contact the Marlborough registrars of voters in Town Hall in person: Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by calling at 860-295-6166 or emailing dem-registrar@marlboroughct.gov or rep-registrar@marlboroughct.gov. You can contact either registrar regardless of your party affiliation. To reach the town clerk’s office, call 860-295-6202.



The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps hosted its 47th annual “Muster by the Lake” at Blish Park last weekend. From left are Color Sergeant Myra Seremet, Drum Sergeant Charlotte Morganson, Board of Selectmen members Betty O’Brien, John Rizza, Louise Concodello and Joe Asklar, and Fife Sergeant Beth Limmer.

Annual Muster a Success

The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps hosted its 47th annual “Muster by the Lake” at Blish Park last weekend. The muster started off with a “Twilight Tattoo,” a small set of performances the evening before a muster. In addition to the host corps, the Marlborough Jr. Ancients, a corps from Delmar NY, the Adams-vill Ancients as well as a collection of musicians called the Muster Bunch entertained the Friday evening crowd just before dusk.

On Saturday, the event kicked off with a parade of all of the visiting units down North Main Street, followed by the opening ceremony for the event, an American flag from each attending unit, escorted on to the muster field by the host corps for the National Anthem. The Marlborough Jr. Ancients started the muster performances with a debut of their newest medley of tunes which they will play at musters for the next year. Prior to exiting the field, they were presented with a flag by the members of the Marlborough Board of Selectmen. The flag, which displays the town seal, is a replacement

for the older town flag that the Marlborough Jr. Ancients have been proudly carrying for more than 30 years in performances across the county.

Each year the muster is dedicated to a person who has made an impact to the corps or broader Fife & Drum community. This year, the muster was dedicated to Town of Marlborough. The write up noted that support from resident volunteers, town leaders, and town employees including staff from the recreation department, public works, town police, fire department, etc., all play a huge role in ensuring a safe, successful event for residents and guest corps to enjoy. The Board of Selectmen members present received a plaque on behalf of the town from the new corps director, Amy Limmer.

The weather cooperated and the young performers of the Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps were pleased that their hometown muster was considered to be a huge success by all in attendance. They are looking forward to hosting the 48th annual muster on Sept. 19, 2026.

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!





On Top of Mt. Fuji... Colchester resident Jason Griffing went to Japan in July to go to the 2025 World Expo in Osaka. While there, he took a trip to Fuji to climb to the top of Mt. Fuji and he made it to the peak. It was an 11-hour hike up and down.



Back to Their Roots... The Karabetsos family recently traveled to Greece to explore and experience Greek culture, as the family originally immigrated from Greece to the USA in the 1950s. They said the journey allowed them to connect with their heritage and better understand their family's cultural roots.



Red Rock Rivereast... Avery Suroviak of Amston brought the *Rivereast* with her on a recent trip to Red Rock and climbing up Pikes Peak.



Southwest Adventure... The Kokus family of East Hampton (Nick, Mallory, Thomas, Ia, Adrian) brought along the *Rivereast* on their recent trip to the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion national parks.

Where in the World?

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Business Marks One Year of Community Building

By Toriana Williams

The Colchester office of Senior Health and Retirement Services celebrated its one-year anniversary recently, marking a year of growth, outreach and community building.

Founded by Kristin Pitarra, with her husband John as partner, the agency has grown from a small family operation into a thriving team of 26 agents across two offices. Together with Colchester office partner Mark Macrina and agent Brian Lisner, the team reflected on their first year in town and looked ahead to the future.

Kristin Pitarra first entered the Medicare field two decades ago, in 2005, working alongside her parents who built a small agency rooted in community service. John joined her in 2015 after leaving a 20-year career in banking, attributing the change to his wife.

“I saw how much she helped people, the relationships she built and the need ... for seniors out there to have a trusted advisor,” John Pitarra said.

The couple’s three sons have also joined the business, making the agency’s family ties three generations strong. That family-first philosophy has carried over into the growth of the agency. What began as a small, mom-and-pop-style office, claimed John, has expanded into a network of two offices and more than two dozen agents. For the Pitarras, expansion never seemed to be about size alone but about staying true to the values of education, integrity and trust.

The Colchester office was born out of those values. Partner Mark Macrina, who spent years in banking as well, transitioned into Medicare after witnessing how complicated the system was for many seniors. Born in Marlborough and now living in Colchester, Macrina saw an opportunity to bring trusted local expertise to the community.

“I grew up in this direct area,” shared Macrina, calling the area his “stomping grounds.”

Macrina started the office with Lisner, and together they built the foundation for growth. Within the first year, the office expanded from just two agents to six, becoming a hub for seniors seeking guidance. Clients quickly grew to recognize not just the professionalism of the team, but the welcoming atmosphere – even Simba, the office’s unofficial dog mascot, has become a familiar face.

What sets the agency apart is its commitment to being visible and accessible in the community. The team has made it a priority to meet

seniors where they are- whether at local fairs, farmers markets, libraries or senior housing communities. They host education seminars and Medicare dinners designed not to sell, but to explain and educate.

Macrina noted that the office focuses on education first, explaining that many seniors are wary of scams, robocalls and pushy sales tactics. By showing up in trusted local spaces, the agents reassure people that they are there to build long-term relationships, not make quick sales. Many clients, he noted, have returned years later for help or have even encouraged their children to reach out when figuring out their own insurance needs.

The team sees these moments as proof that trust pays off over time. Lisner emphasized that community members value honesty and transparency, and the office strives to meet those expectations consistently.

Medicare remains at the heart of the agency’s work. The Pitarras and their team know that the program’s rules and offerings are constantly shifting, and that seniors often struggle to make sense of the changes. This year has brought especially significant challenges, with certain plans being discontinued and benefits shifting in ways that leave many unsure of what coverage will best fit their needs. The agents emphasized how crucial it is to stay ahead of those changes so they can guide clients toward the right decisions.

In addition to Medicare, the agency also works with clients on under-65 insurance, life insurance and retirement planning. Still, Medicare education and support remain a strong focus, as they see how deeply it impacts the financial and personal wellbeing of the community they serve.

Inside the office, the culture mirrors the values the team promotes outside it. With roots as a family business, the agency has cultivated a workplace that feels supportive and ethical. Training new agents is a major priority, and the leadership stresses the importance of integrity and doing right by clients.

Challenges exist, particularly when it comes to earning trust in an industry that is often met with skepticism. Many seniors have had negative experiences with misleading advertisements or pushy telemarketers. The Colchester team counters this by doubling down on education, knowing that transparency builds trust over time.



Agents, their families and Colchester First Selectman Bernie Dennler stand in front of the Colchester office of Senior Health and Retirement Services – alongside the office’s mascot, Simba the dog.

As they enter their second year in Colchester, the team is focused on what they call slow and steady growth. Rather than rushing to expand, they plan to deepen their community connections, continue training news agents and prepare carefully for Medicare’s annual enrollment period that is upcoming.

The Pitarras said their long-term vision is to empower more agents to follow in Macrina’s footsteps – opening local offices that serve as

trusted community hubs. At the same time, they remain committed to their roots: building relationships, the foundation on which the entire business sits.

The first year of the Colchester office has been one of growth, learning and building trust. What began as a small family agency has grown into a team making a tangible impact on seniors’ lives, offering clarity in a confusing system and comfort in knowing someone is in their corner.

Youth Football Recap

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

Peewee: Lost, 48-20. The Cougars Peewees started the game off with a bang: 70 yards to the house for Jacob Martin followed by a two-point conversion by Braxton Engle. WPTP answered with a 70-yard scamper of its own, and the onslaught continued until halftime. The Cougars showed some resolve as they out scored WPTP in the second half 14-13 behind two additional touchdowns by Jacob Martin. The Cougars get

a second chance this weekend as WPTP volunteered to travel to Montvill, since Montville is without a Peewee team.

Micros: Lost, 27-0. After some adjustments at half time the Cougars were able to stop WPTP from scoring any further in the second half; however, they were not able to make it into the end zone themselves. The Cougars will take on the Montville Wolves this Saturday.

Seniors: Put up a fight but ultimately lose. This weekend, the Seniors will face off against Montville in Oakdale, and will battle again with a healthier team.

Ahavath Achim Schedule

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

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

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

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

Ham and Bean Dinner Oct. 4

Westchester Congregational Church in Colchester will host a takeout-only Ham and Bean Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m., at 98 Cemetery Rd. in Colchester.

For \$17, you will receive a dinner of church-made baked ham and beans, coleslaw, and more. No advance orders or reservations needed.

For more information, email westcong-church@gmail.com.

Pumpkins & Pooches are Coming!

Pumpkins & Pooches, hosted by the Colchester Dog Park, will be held Oct. 4, from 1-4:30 p.m., at Hop Culture Farms & Brew Co., 144 Cato Corner Rd. All are invited – including dogs!

There will be pet-related vendors, raffles, treat bag decorating, and other activities for the kids – all while supplies last. There will be dog costume contests at 3 p.m.

Dogs must be vaccinated and on leashes. No retractable leashes please. Also, organizers are still accepting pet related vendors. Contact tag-nobark@gmail.com for info.



Six community volunteers were recognized for their contributions to the Town of Colchester. From left are Michele O’Neill, Brian Marvin, Melissa Deacon, First Selectman Bernie Dennler, Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn, and Mary Emerling.

Volunteers Honored at Celebrate Colchester

Six community volunteers were recognized for their contributions to the Town of Colchester as part of Celebrate Colchester on Saturday, Sept. 20. First Selectman Bernie Dennler and Parks and Recreation Director Tiffany Quinn thanked the volunteers and presented them each with certificates of appreciation.

The volunteers honored were:

Melissa Deacon: Deacon volunteers at camp every summer, teaching gardening activities. She has been instrumental in planning the Memorial Garden at the RecPlex as well.

Michele O’Neil: O’Neil helped blaze the trail at the new Sablitz Preserve creating a new trail to enjoy this roughly 70-acre property along Pine Brook.

Charlie Dutch: Dutch donated his time and expertise to lay out the new trail at the Sablitz property.

Brian Marvin: Marvin lends Parks and Rec. a

shed to use on the Town Green every year.

Mary Emerling: Emerling serves as the veterans’ affairs municipal representative and has organized monthly meet-ups to help keep local vets connected and informed.

Tony Tarnowski: Tarnowski served as chair of the building committee for the new senior center, which opened in December, dedicating substantial time, effort, and knowledge over many years to bring the project to completion.

“These volunteers have made a lasting impact on the Colchester community with their generous time and support,” said Quinn.

“Colchester is a better place because people care about what happens and will put in the work to make a difference,” said Dennler. “The Town of Colchester appreciates all these volunteers have done and thank them for being ‘the Best of Colchester.’”

Community Convo with Dennler

First Selectman Bernie Dennler, who is running for reelection in November, will host a community conversation at Oz N Bones BBQ, 43 Hayward Ave., on Thursday, Oct. 9, from 6-8 p.m.

This is an opportunity for all to meet Dennler, ask questions, and share ideas about how he can keep Colchester moving forward. Dennler will be joined by other Democratic candidates.

All are welcome to stop in.

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.

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Turning Silence Into Strength

By Toriana Williams

When Colchester resident Sue McGann first picked up the phone, her warmth came through immediately. She laughed, asked if she could be heard clearly and spoke with an ease that belied the weight of her story. At 75, she carries the voice of both a neighbor happy to chat and a seasoned advocate determined to be heard.

For two decades, McGann has been a driving force behind the Connecticut chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA).

Huntington's Disease (HD) is a rare, inherited condition caused by a genetic mutation. It is progressive, fatal and affects both mind and body. Often mistaken in earlier generations for mental illness, alcoholism or clumsiness, HD can manifest as involuntary movements, mood changes, difficulty swallowing or cognitive decline. Because it is a dominant genetic disorder, every child of a parent with HD faces a 50% chance of inheriting it.

The stigma around the disease is as devastating as the symptoms themselves, McGann explained. In past decades, families avoided talking about it, fearing judgement from neighbors, employers or even doctors unfamiliar with its presentation. "There's a stigma," she said, relating it to the possibility of how unknown the disease is compared to other neurodegenerative diseases, like Parkinson's or Alzheimer's. "It kept people silent."

The silence ended for McGann when her sister-in-law passed from the disease, which is the reason she attributed to the beginning of her volunteer work. In 2006, McGann joined a handful of volunteers working to form a Connecticut chapter of HDSA. At the time, there were no local support groups, no fundraising walks, no organized network for families living with HD. With determination and what she modestly calls "a lot of learning by doing," the group built something from scratch.

In 2009, her husband, then 56, tested positive

for the gene as well. He had been symptom-free at the time. It was not until his 60s that the disease began to affect his daily life. Now 73, he has stopped driving but is otherwise managing well.

McGann calls herself "blessed," knowing full well how different the disease progresses for others.

Today, the local chapter offers support groups, education days and even a medical equipment loan program that provides families with wheelchairs, shower chairs and other costly necessities. The chapter has also forged partnerships with Hartford HealthCare's Center of Excellence and a regional long-term care provider to ensure patients have access to specialists who understand the disease.

Despite their hard work ethic, it has not always been easy. Volunteer recruitment remains a challenge, and fundraising can feel like an uphill climb compared to large, better-known causes.

"I wish I could find a mini-me," McGann admitted, noting that she still manages most of the administrative tasks herself, from walk registrations to raffle logistics.

Along the way, there have been bright moments of recognition. In June, at HDSA's national convention in Indianapolis, the Connecticut chapter received an award for its impact, being named the Chapter of the Year for 2025. McGann recalled the shock and pride of realizing it was her group's chapter that won. "This means our chapter went above and beyond to improve the lives of everyone affected by Huntington's and their families by providing support, advocacy and education," she said.

The chapter has also built a tradition of events that bring families together in joy as well as solidarity. One of the most successful is Music on the Vine, an event which will be hosted at Heartstone Farm and Winery in Columbia this year on Sunday, Sept. 28. The family-friendly fundraiser features a live band, food trucks and kids' activities. Dogs are welcome too, and a



Members of Connecticut's chapter of Huntington's Disease Society of America, as well as some society officials, stand smiling with their award that named them the nation's best chapter for 2025. Photo contributed by Sue McGann.

\$20 donation supports the chapter's work. The event, which won national recognition in its early years, remains a cornerstone of the group's efforts.

McGann is quick to point out the contributions of others, from high school students in Greenwich who organized a \$10,000 fundraiser to Fox61 reporter Tim Lammers, who has become the chapter's unofficial mascot by emceeing walks and lending his voice to their cause. "We love him," she shared.

Still, the work carries a constant reminder of the disease's toll. Huntington's remains incurable, and only a small percentage of at-risk individuals choose to undergo testing to see if they inherited the genetic mutation.

"I'd say only 10% of people at risk ... get tested. They have to be ready to accept the results," McGann stated. If they're not ready, McGann explained, suicide becomes the alternative.

"There's a 25% suicide rate," McGann claimed.

McGann's two adult children, now in their mid-forties, have not yet been tested. "It's up to them," she said. "You can't make that choice for anyone."

That balance – between hope and realism, activism and caregiving – defines McGann's journey. She has turned grief into purpose, silence in a network of support and a devastating diagnosis into a mission.

"We're small but mighty," she said with quiet pride.

For those who attend Music on the Vine this Sunday or participate in the chapter's upcoming education day on Nov. 15 at Hartford HealthCare in Norwich, the impact of that mission will be clear. Behind every raffle ticket, donations or song is a family living with Huntington's – and a woman whose warmth and persistence have helped ensure they are not living with it alone.

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.

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

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

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

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

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His wealth of experience, deep knowledge of the brand, and unwavering dedication to customer care make him a tremendous asset to our team — and an even greater resource for our customers.

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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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.

Vendors Sought for Fall Market

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

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



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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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AARP ‘Meet the Candidates’ Forum

The Colchester-area chapter 4019 of AARP will hold its annual “Meet the Candidates” forum Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 1:30 p.m., at the Colchester Senior Center, located at 15 Louis Lane. Candidates from both parties running for first selectman, Board of Selectman, Board of Finance, and Board of Education in Colchester have been invited to attend.

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

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

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

Dean’s List

Colchester residents Nikkia Jones and Michael Dwyer made the summer 2025 Dean’s List at Southern New Hampshire University.

are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship tab. Updated information is on the church’s Facebook page.

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

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

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.westchestercongregationchurch.org for login information. Sunday School for children meets during the worship service.

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

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

Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knitting

Group meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. Many knitted, crocheted, and quilted items have been sent to Native American reservations, hospitals for babies, and other places to help those in need. The Blessings Box is at the end of the church parking lot and contains donations of non-perishable food, personal care, and other items for those in need. Take what you need; donate what you can. Also, the church sponsors the Wounded Warrior Project, a donation opportunity to help veterans.

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

Foreign Exchange Program Volunteers Needed

Rotary is seeking volunteers from across the community to participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. The Rotary is looking for students ages 15–18 who want to study abroad, as well as families interested in hosting an exchange student here at home.

Applications are open now for both long-term academic year exchanges and short-term summer exchanges. Opportunities are available in 19 European countries, six Asian countries, seven South American countries, as well as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Mexico. The earlier you apply, the better your placement options. Learn more and apply at www.exchangestudent.org

Also, Rotary is seeking host families for students arriving in East Hampton this year and in both Colchester and East Hampton in future years. Host families provide room and board for a defined period and, in return, build a lasting bond with a student from abroad. The host family application is always open at www.exchangestudent.org.

For more information, email youthexchange7980@gmail.com.

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.

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BOS Approves Opioid Settlements, Weighs Cultural District

By Toriana Williams

At the Sept. 18 meeting, the Colchester Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to join two national opioid settlements, potentially bringing significant funds into town for prevention and recovery programs. First Selectman Bernie Dennler said opting in was the most practical choice.

“Municipalities throughout the country are participants in a series of class action lawsuits related to opioid manufacturing and sales,” Dennler explained. “By opting in, we agree to the settlement. The town receives the payment, which can then be used for purposes related to drug prevention and work and drug recovery.”

He added that rejecting the settlements would leave Colchester with no funding and only the costly option of pursuing its own lawsuit.

“I don’t believe that the town has the resources to bring its own individualized lawsuit against the opioid manufacturers,” Dennler said.

Board members agreed, with one asking about the expected payout. Dennler replied that Finance Director Val Morano was still reviewing the figures but promised it would be more than in the past, noting that Colchester has already received “over six figures collectively” from prior settlements. He said the Youth First Coalition has guided spending of those funds.

Two separate motions passed unanimously – one covers Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family, and the other covers eight additional manufacturers including Alvogen, Amneal, Apotex and Mylan.

Infrastructure and Development Updates

Dennler’s First Selectman’s Report highlighted progress on several long-term projects. He began with the Norwich Avenue pedestrian bridge, which had been abruptly closed after a state inspection on Aug. 27 revealed structural deficiencies.

“That’s the main route for kids walking home from [William J. Johnston Middle School] down to the downtown or the youth center,” Dennler spoke. “So it’s a huge problem to not have that pedestrian infrastructure there.”

Public Works ordered steel beams and installed replacements within weeks. Since reporting, the bridge has reopened to the public.

He thanked Public Works, Colchester Police and the Youth Center for stepping up to keep students safe in the meantime.

The town also applied for a state Community Connectivity grant that would fund a long-term replacement as part of broader Norwich Avenue streetscape improvements. Awards are expected in November.

On Norton Park, Dennler reported that after failing to attract bids earlier this year, the town’s re-bid for Phase Three engineering yielded three proposals ranging from about \$70,000 to \$220,000.

Medium at Polish Club

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

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

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

For more information, call 860-537-2550.

CBA Haunted Hayride

The Colchester Business Association will host a Haunted Hayride Saturday, Oct. 4, from 5:30-9:30 p.m., at Schuster Park, 21 Mill Hill Rd.

The family-friendly event is made possible with the support of local sponsors and community members. Organizers expressed their gratitude to those helping bring the tradition to life and noted that volunteers are still being accepted. Those interested may contact hauntedhayride25@gmail.com for more information.

The Haunted Hayride is intended to provide a fun seasonal gathering for residents of all ages with a hayride, kids’ activities, food trucks and more.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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.

“There’s a big spread there,” he said. Public Works will evaluate the submissions and may interview the two lowest bidders.

The selectmen also heard that the Athletic Complex Building Committee is now weighing cost estimates and deciding what features are affordable enough to bring to referendum.

“They need to decide what’s most important to them, what needs to be trimmed back,” said Dennler.

Planning for Downtown Cultural District

One of the more forward-looking discussions involved the possibility of establishing a state-recognized cultural district in Colchester’s downtown.

“We recently did an assessment with the Connecticut Main Street Center,” he said. “Some really interesting stuff came out of it.”

Dennler described meetings with the Bacon Academy Trustees about using their building as an arts hub once renovations allow public events again. Coupled with existing activities on the Town Green – farmers markets, live music and Celebrate Colchester – he said Colchester could meet the state’s cultural district criteria.

Dennler explained that while “it doesn’t necessarily have to come with funding,” adding a state-recognized cultural district could potentially open that door. He said cultural districts in other towns often help attract grants, manage public art projects and coordinate events.

Dennler suggested the Economic Development Commission could take on the role of overseeing such a district, a model used successfully elsewhere.

Other Updates

The board discussed ongoing renovations of the former Senior Center building, which is being repurposed to house the Youth Center, Colchester Police and the VFW. Dennler said structural engineers have returned to the site and an architectural plan will be needed before finalizing structural changes.

“Because of the way we want to use this building, they’re asking that we find whoever is going

to do the architectural plan before we finalize a structural plan,” he explained. Meanwhile, bids for additional structural work on the Youth Center building are due in October, with the goal of awarding a contract by mid-October.

Dennler also took time to praise Public Works for quickly addressing issues across town, from the pedestrian bridge to facility bids, and noted continued challenges at the RecPlex splash pad. Replacement options may be considered if parts remain hard to source.

Liaison Reports

Selectmen shared highlights from their committee assignments. Conservation approved remediation and soil removal at Norton Park, as well as

selective timber harvest and walkway applications. Parks and Recreation reviewed strategic plans and attended Athletic Complex discussions.

Selectman Rosemary Coyle reported that the Agriculture Commission is planning its annual pumpkin recycling program and may invite 4-H and Future Farmers of America students to present in the spring. She also noted that the Commission on Aging hosted an ice cream social for Senior Center staff and will sponsor a low-vision workshop on Oct. 9.

The Youth First Coalition, she added, is preparing for its Harlem Wizards fundraiser on Oct. 10, and anticipates renewal of its federal prevention grant for another five years.



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Bobcats Claw Back to Victory



Bacon Academy girls soccer team captains Mia Hageman, Alyssa Blanchette, and Lanie McIllduff have led the way as the Bobcats won the first six games this fall.

By Josh Howard

After spotting Woodstock Academy two goals, Bacon Academy girls soccer rallied to defeat the visiting Centaurs, 3-2, on Sept. 18.

Junior Maddy Ives scored the decisive goal in the 72nd minute as the Bobcats improved to 5-0 this fall.

Bacon Academy head coach Matt Rafala was impressed with the resiliency of his team following a “slow start,” crediting Woodstock Academy with capitalizing off his team’s “tactical errors.”

On paper, the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) matchup looked like a mismatch as the Centaurs entered Colchester winless and hadn’t scored a goal all season.

But less than seven minutes into the game, Lily Mioduszewski provided Woodstock Academy’s first points of the season when she sent home a free kick.

Kaitlyn Teal then scored off a corner kick at the 27:36 mark of the first half, upping the lead to 2-0.

Bacon Academy senior captain Alyssa Blanchette said it was about staying “composed”, adding, “We had a lot of time left in the game, so we didn’t have to rush.”

In the 28th minute, Blanchette cut the deficit in half when she headed home a perfectly placed cross from sophomore Quinn Guntulis.

Blanchette is capturing the team with fellow seniors Mia Hageman and Lanie McIllduff.

Hageman said despite the early deficit, there was no panic between the players.

“We just needed to pass more and keep our

cool,” explained Hageman, a returning all-conference forward. “We needed to take advantage of our chances because we were in their half for a lot of the game from the beginning.”

Bacon dominated possession in the second half and had several chances to tie the game, including a shot that hit off the right post and another that ricocheted off the crossbar.

In the 64th minute, Guntulis tallied the equalizer when she headed in a cross from senior Arianna Elliott.

With 7:04 left in regulation, Ives netted the game-winner after booting in a rebound.

The Bobcats defense then shut the door on the comeback victory.

Following the rough start, the home team was stellar on the back end the rest of the day, holding Woodstock Academy without a goal for the final 67 minutes of regulation.

McIllduff, a returning all-conference defender, said it came to execution and “communicating.”

“We had confidence that we could come back,” added McIllduff. “[These games] are only going to make us better. It lets us know that we can do it and, even if we go down, we’ll never hang our heads.”

McIllduff is heading a unit that is the last line of defense for freshman goalie Gabby D’Atri. D’Atri is replacing all-state keeper Liz Glover, now playing at St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC).

Rafala, who previously coached against D’Atri in club soccer, said first-year high school keeper has taken command in net, adding, “You never



Sophomore Quinn Guntulis scored a goal and had an assist as Bacon Academy rallied from a 2-0 deficit to secure their fifth win this season.

know how a player is going to be as a freshman coming in, but she has passed every test so far.”

Coming into the season, Rafala’s club was looking to stack on the success of the last two seasons in which they won a state championship in 2023 and an ECC title a year ago, beating Woodstock Academy to capture the conference crown in 2024.

The team lost three all-conference players to graduation, yet welcomed back Blanchette, who missed the entire 2024 season with a knee injury.

In her return to the field this fall, Blanchette has been a scoring machine, including netting four goals in her first game back — a 9-0 season-opening 9-0 victory over Waterford at Bacon Academy on Sept. 3.

Blanchette called her teammates and coaches “family”, adding, “I just love all these girls, and it’s been so fun to play with them again. I’m just so happy to be back.”

Prior to her injury, Blanchette was an all-conference player on the 2023 team that won the Class M state championship.

Rafala referred to his prolific scorer as, “The best player in the ECC.”

“There are a lot of really talented kids, but she

has proven time and time again why she is deserving of that title,” added Rafala “She has done everything she can and has put in the hours to get to this point.”

Following the win over Woodstock, the Bobcats defeated East Lyme 2-0 — thanks to goals from Blanchette and Hageman — as Bacon Academy remained undefeated through the first six games.

The team is back in action at Bacon Academy tonight (Friday, Sept. 26) when they host Norwich Free Academy at 4 p.m.

It will be the second meeting between the conference rivals this year with Bacon blanking the Wildcats in Norwich, 2-0, on Sept. 6.

With several new faces in the lineup, Rafala said it has been his trio of team captains that have helped blend the experiences of the past with the promising talent of the future.

“The leadership from the three of them is unmatched,” added Rafala. “They have made it look easy from anyone outside the group, but they are demanding in practice and demanding of the players. But they are also compassionate when they do it, and those are the traits of great leaders.”

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.

It’s Shoebox Season!

All are invited to pack a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child – and shoeboxes are now available in Colchester.

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.

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; Firefighter Gear Try On; Antique Fire Truck Rides to the fire museum; Blood Pressure Screenings & Am-

balance Tour; Touch-a-Truck; Smokey Bear Visit; Gator UTV & Marine Units on Display; CPR/Lucas Device Demonstration; Department of Energy and Environmental Protection demonstrations.

Fire safety and prevention information will also be available.

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.



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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 through 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

Zion Lutheran Tag Sale

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., is having a tag sale Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m.-noon. An assortment of baked goods and a lemonade stand will also be available.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Sunny Hill Preschool Scholarship Fund. The tag sale will be held rain or shine.

PHS 60th Class Reunion

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

For more information, email sueanderson06480@aol.com.

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballots

Portland's municipal election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4, at Portland Middle School. Early voting will occur from Oct. 20 through Nov. 2 at Town Hall.

Applications for an absentee ballot are now available from the town clerk's office. The first day to issue absentee ballots is Friday, Oct. 3. Call 860-342-6743 or stop in for details. Residents can also apply for an absentee ballot or register to vote on the secretary of the state's website: portal.ct.gov/sots.

Residents can also complete a voter registration form in the town clerk's office. For a list of candidates, visit the town clerk's office or www.portlandct.org/town-clerk.

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., and Saturdays, 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 Haddam-Killingworth.

President's List

Portland residents James Amodio, Brooke DeFrance and Femary Rodriguez made the summer 2025 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University.

PHS Class of '67 Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 1967 will hold its 58th reunion the weekend of Oct. 3-5.

As it has in the past, the class is inviting other PHS graduates to come any time after 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 3, to Farrell's, for a Meet-and-Greet. This is a casual get-together where people can catch up and share memories of their time at PHS.

For the 1967 classmates, there will be a social hour and dinner at Campagna on Saturday, Oct. 4, beginning at 5 p.m.; and on Sunday, Oct. 5, the class will meet for breakfast any time after 10 a.m. at Sarah's on Main.

For more information or questions, contact Karen at kayo4321@hotmail.com or Bev at 949-697-1253.

Blessing of the Animals

In remembrance of Patron Saint of the Animals, St. Francis of Assisi, the Blessing of Animals will take place Saturday, Oct. 4, at 11 a.m. (weather permitting) on the rectory lawn of St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave.

All pets – furry, scaly, feathery – as well as stuffed animals are welcome to receive a blessing from the Rev. John Antonelle. This gathering is open to all members of the community.



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

Portland Fair Returns in October

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

The Craft & Community Tent will host many traditional displays and also bring in new and exciting events. Organizers will also be adding the Trashion Show and the Triple Crown of Baking. The Pull ring area is getting dressed up and ready to host a full weekend of activities.

Also, Portland Fair introduces its new mas-

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 Oct. 6.

Weekly Programs: Unless noted, all programs are free. **Monday, 9/29: Light Aerobics,** 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 9/30: 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: baked potato, veggie chili, sour cream, broccoli, cheddar biscuit, yogurt fruit parfait. **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **Synco-Cize,** 5-6 p.m.; fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 10/1: 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, 10/2: Tone & Stretch, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: meal to be announced; **Mahjong (FULL),** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 10/3: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Mah Jongg,** 10 a.m.

Upcoming Events: Unless noted, all events are free. **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.)

Cooking for One with Marilyn: Monday, Oct. 6, 11:45 a.m. There is a \$10 fee. Registration required.

Sweet Treats and Conversation with Com-

munity 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 Dave Kuzminski. 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.

Walking Club: Wednesday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m. The walk is about a mile and a half and there is parking adjacent to the trail. The group will meet at the trail crossing by Breezy Corners Road.

Live Well, Age Well – A Free Diabetes Support Group: Tuesday, 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.

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.

Exchange Club to Hold Pulls

The Portland Exchange Club will have its Tri-Pulls Weekend coming up this weekend, Sept. 27 and 28, at the Portland Exchange Grounds.

On Saturday, garden tractors will be pulling in the late morning/early afternoon, then the truck pullers will be starting around 5 p.m. Sunday morning will have the antique tractors pulling.

Halloween Concert for Police Union

Tony Rome with The Peacemakers will perform a Halloween Extravaganza at Concentric Brewing, 91 Main St., on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m., to benefit the Portland Police Union. Bring a costume if possible.



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St. Mary Church News & Notes

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

Little League Golf Tournament

The tournament will feature an 18-hole, four-person scramble format, with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at 10:30 a.m. The \$150 entry fee includes golf with a cart, lunch on the course, and light snacks at the conclusion of play. The day will wrap up with raffles, prizes, and more.

In addition to golfer registration, sponsorship

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.

opportunities are available. A tee sign sponsorship is \$100; a \$500 sponsorship includes the tee sign as well as recognition on golf carts, website, and social media; and a \$1,000 sponsorship includes the tee sign, recognition, and entry for a team of four.

The league is also accepting raffle prize donations from businesses and community members. Payments and registration can be made online at pll-golf-tournament-2025.cheddarup.com. Checks made payable to Portland Little League may also be mailed to PO Box 91, Portland, CT 06480.

For more information, contact Kristen Furtak, fundraising director, at ksbelieve@gmail.com.

Let's Celebrate Aging To
By Sarah Elliott-Caratasios, LMSW
Director & Municipal Agent, Portland Waverly Senior Center

Let's Celebrate Aging Together

September is National Senior Center Month, and here at the Portland Waverly Senior Center, we have so much to celebrate. Our center isn't just a place to pass the time — it's a true community where older adults come together to learn, laugh, and thrive. We are proud of our members and the many healthy aging programs that bring life and energy into each day.

At Waverly, you'll find Syncosize exercise classes, chair yoga, art and crafting classes, educational workshops, card games, and day trips that keep us moving, learning, and connecting. These programs give our members opportunities to build friendships, stay active, and discover new passions.

Still, even with all the good happening here, there remains a challenge: the stigma surrounding aging. Too often, society frames getting older as decline, something to dread or avoid. At

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. The pastor is Judith Cooke.

This Sunday, Cooke will preach “Crossing the Chasm,” based on Luke 16:19-31.

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.

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

Bake, Bling & Bag Sale

The St. Mary Ladies Guild will host a Bake, Bling & Bag Sale Saturday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Parish Hall at 45 Freestone Ave.

Baked goods, gently used jewelry and pocket-books will be available for sale.

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

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

Trinity Episcopal News

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

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

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

Free Paper-Shredding Event

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding its last free paper-shredding event of the year on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Chester Fair Grounds, 11 Kirtland Terrace, Chester.

This event is free to residents of the River-
COG region, which includes Portland & East
Hampton.

Please note that this event is intended for shredding confidential papers, not for things that can be regularly recycled such as birthday cards, magazines, and envelopes.

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

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Accumulate

6 Auto pioneer

10 Medic or legal starter

14 Summary

15 Rom-com writer Ephron

16 Cassini of fashion

17 Prickly plants

18 Like exciting movie scenes

20 "Quantum Leap" co-star Dean

22 Prone to sulking

23 Seehorn of "Better Call Saul"

24 Writer Uris

26 Cipher system

28 Like some campaigns

34 Fall birthstone

35 Oui's opposite

36 Cinnamon tree

37 Coffee server

38 Kind of city election

40 Make an attempt

41 Like some profiling

43 Graveyard letters

44 Honey bunch?

45 M. Night Shyamalan film of 2004

47 Prefix with China

48 What's more

49 Cupid, to the Greeks

51 "Leave me ____!"

54 Period of truce

59 Like some courtroom questions

61 Egypt-Sudan region, once

62 Spicy stew

63 Shepard in space

64 Wooded hollows

65 Dieter's desire

26 Trait carrier

67 Cunningly

DOWN

1 Circle segments

2 Spam or lamb

3 Agreement

4 Pitching legend Paige

5 Sudden increase

6 ____ and for all

7 Hang loose

8 Army exercises

9 Classic TV bartender

10 Pennsylvania peaks

11 Like a certain sax

12 Kansas City Chiefs coach Andy

13 CIA part: Abbr.

19 Unprincipled

21 Funk's collaborator

25 Ones that got away

26 Pickleball venue

27 The "O" of the OWN network

29 Scheider of "Jaws"

30 Best Picture Oscar winner of 2024

31 Seemingly

32 Out of gas

33 Approval

38 Sent by USPS

39 Fix, in a way

42 Sir Walter Scott classic

44 Eco energy source

46 Setting

50 Tears apart

51 Truant G.I.

52 Disney's "____ & Stitch"

53 Elevator pioneer

55 Actor McGregor

56 Green Gables girl

57 Small brook

58 Effortless

60 Cleaning cloth

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

B	A	B	E	L		S	L	I	D		V	E	R	A
A	L	E	X	A		T	U	N	A		E	V	I	L
S	T	E	E	P		E	N	U	M	E	R	A	T	E
T	O	R	M	E	N	T	E	R		L	A	N	E	S
			P	L	A	S	T	E	R	I	N	G		
S	O	F	T	S	P	O	T		E	N	D	E	R	S
W	P	A			O	N	E		G	O	A	L	I	E
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P	A	W	N	S		A	L	I	E	N	A	T	E	D
A	R	I	S	T	O	T	L	E		E	V	A	D	E
S	I	D	E		V	E	E	R		M	E	R	G	E
O	D	E	S		A	D	D	S		A	S	T	E	R

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Free Developmental Screenings, Home Visits

The AHM Family Resource Center (FRC) offers free developmental screenings and home visits to anyone with a child or children from ages Birth- 3 years in the towns of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia.

Screenings: Using a questionnaire called Ages and Stages, FRC staff will look at your child's progress in different domains of development (communication, motor, and social-emotional skills) through activities and talking to you and your child. Instruction on how to use the free Sparkler App from the Office of Early Childhood is provided. Sparkler has information on Child Development, Parenting tips,

and screenings. Screenings can be done in your home or at Gilead Hill School in Hebron. After the screening, you will get a copy of the results as well as a sheet with ways to encourage your child's development in different areas.

Home Visits: Visits – which can be in your home or the FRC room at Gilead Hill School -- are structured to include you and your child in conversation and play. FRC staff will bring an activity, talk about your child's development, and discuss parenting successes or concerns you may have (for example, sleep, feeding, discipline, or other issues).

For more information or to schedule either a screening or a visit, contact Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org, Ashlee Parks at ashleep@ahmyouth.org, or call the Family Resource Center at 860-228-0871.

See the full list of offerings through the AHM Family Resource Center at ahmyouth.org/programs-services/family-resource-center.

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.

Fall Into Art

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 date of Sunday, Oct. 19.

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.

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★ *Stamped Dollar Bills, cont. from page 1*

have reported any decline in customer traffic or sales as a result of the controversy.

Local business owner Kevin Haggerty, who has run Sadler's Restaurant on North Main Street for more than three decades, agreed. He had one bad encounter related to the speed cameras – and it wasn't a customer.

"I had a [visitor], not even a customer, interrupt me during conversation with other customers ... complaining about having been caught by the camera speeding. His wife has also been caught speeding," Haggerty told the *Rivereast*. "He told me he had been to Town Hall berating the town manager about his breaking the law and getting fined for doing it. Sort of petty and out of, what I would call, normal behavior for a public eating establishment."

Haggerty added, "He assured me he was never coming to my restaurant again because of the speed camera. I recommended three of my favorite restaurants in Glastonbury where he lives and suggested he could try those as friends of mine own them."

Haggerty said that, from his perspective, the cameras have improved day-to-day safety for his patrons.

"Cameras and speed limits bring a sense of civility and order to our neighborhood," he said. "We have quite a bit of traffic leaving our parking lot and most of them are seniors entering onto a road ... so we appreciate the slower traffic."

Although revenue was not the motivation, the cameras have generated income. To date, the town has received approximately \$36,000 net of fees. That total includes the period when only warnings were issued, during which Marlborough paid vendor fees but did not collect fines. Additional funds collected by the vendor are expected to be transferred to the town.

The Board of Selectmen has already earmarked some of the revenue for improvements. One project will install a pedestrian crossing signal with rapid flashing beacons near the North Main Street and West Road crosswalk, to make it safer for CT Transit bus riders crossing to the commuter lot. Another state-funded sidewalk extension project will include a pedestrian signal at the intersection of North Main and Chapman Road.

Looking ahead, Porter stated the town does not plan to rely on the revenue for ongoing expenses.

"We do not yet know how much revenue the speed cameras will generate," he said. "Our hope is that everyone slows down and drives safely. Since future revenue is uncertain, my recommendation will be to use the revenue for one-time road maintenance and traffic safety expenses."

Drivers who believe they were wrongly tick-

eted have a two-step appeals process, Porter said.

"Drivers can appeal their ticket online by following the instructions on their ticket," he explained. "A law enforcement officer who was not involved in issuing the ticket will review it alongside the information provided on the online form. Drivers can further appeal their ticket to a citation hearing officer appointed by the Board of Selectmen and not associated with the police."

To make the process convenient, hearings can be conducted virtually through Microsoft Teams.

Failure to pay does not affect a driver's record with the DMV or insurance companies. However, unpaid tickets are sent to collections and can negatively impact a person's credit score.

Looking beyond North Main Street, some residents have suggested that the cameras be relocated closer to the town's beach associations, where drivers are said to accelerate once past the existing devices.

Porter acknowledged those concerns but said the data does not support moving the cameras.

"Speed on North Main Street – including the area closest to the beach associations – has decreased markedly," he said. "There are no plans to move the cameras to any other location on North Main Street."

He noted that the town had studied three roads when first considering cameras: North Main Street, Jones Hollow Road and Saner Road. Of those, North Main had the strongest data to justify the devices. Still, Porter is open to revisiting the idea. "I am open to future studies of those and other roads to determine if conditions warrant additional cameras."

In the meantime, the town continues to explore other strategies. Recent steps include restriping part of Saner Road to encourage slower speeds before a sharp bend where the guardrail has often needed replacement.

The BOS also conducted a walk along North Main between Jones Hollow and Pettengill, an area near the beach associations, to discuss future road design improvements. That stretch is expected to be repaved within the next couple of years, providing an opportunity to implement traffic-calming measures.

"We continue to listen to community feedback and look forward to designing that stretch to encourage drivers to slow down and remain aware of pedestrians as they drive through that area," Porter said.

For Porter, the message remains clear: the cameras are not about punishing drivers or raising money but about saving lives. The decline in speeding is proof, he believes, that the approach is working.

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

★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

those first responders who were lost or injured. They were joined by the Colchester Honor Guard for a moving tribute of remembrance.

This day has significant meaning for me as I was serving as president of the Connecticut Education Association at the time. Many teachers lost spouses and family members, and many students lost their parents. For months my job included ways to support our teachers and students through this terrible event bringing people together.

This past weekend was "Celebrate Colchester," a town-sponsored event. How wonderful it was to see all the businesses, town organizations and community groups, our police and fire departments and our residents on Colchester's Green talking, asking questions and learning about the wonderful opportunities and services our town has to offer. I personally enjoyed some great conversations. Thank you to Parks and Rec for sponsoring this event.

While we remember and celebrate, as a town so much hard work continues through the efforts of our dedicated staff and Town leadership. The BOS plays an important role in moving projects forward from contracts to policy decisions to approving members of our volunteer committees. Under First Selectman Bernie Dennler's leadership and with my colleagues, the current bipartisan members of the BOS (Denise, Art, and Cliff), Colchester is addressing so many issues that were ignored from the Bacon/Athletic Complex to Norton Park to the Lebanon Avenue Street Scape to the Sewer/Water projects to the Youth Center to our roads to name a few.

Let's keep Colchester a community that is working together by re-electing First Selectman Bernie Dennler and his entire Democratic team found on Row A on Nov. 4th. Some are incumbents and some are new candidates, but we all bring knowledge, experience, passion, and dedication to serving Colchester residents.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

Row C for BOE

To the Editor:

You get what you pay for! There is a narrative going around that Colchester Public Schools is top-heavy, yet there doesn't seem to be evidence of that. This week let's talk central office and administration.

Let's stick with the facts. Since our election four years ago to the Board of Education, central office has downsized. In the 2022-23 budget a payroll/employee benefits manager (70% BOE and 30% town budget) was cut with savings of \$52,796. Then in the 2023-24 budget a communications office professional .25 FTE (full-time equivalent) position was cut with savings of \$17,251. In 2025-26 a central office professional position was cut with savings of \$63,141.

Administration was also cut in 2024-25 - the Special Education Supervisor position with savings of \$123,000. In 2025-26 a Bacon Academy Assistant Principal was cut to 205 days, saving \$26,088.

Do we spend more on a superintendent's salary today than we did when we were elected to the BOE four years ago? Yes! Absolutely! Did we expand the role of Director of Teaching and Learning to Assistant Superintendent? Yes! Absolutely! This streamlined the function of the central office, the accountability of the administration and strengthened the leadership team making a more efficient and effective model of leadership. This is all in line with the BOE philosophy to pay every position the median of similar school districts. The reality is that the central office staff and administrators make up less than 3% of the school budget, and their value cannot be measured to the teachers, support staff and students.

As a town we get what we pay for. Experience, knowledge and competent leadership from the top down creates a positive environment, accountability, and responsible spending across the school system and in the end benefits the taxpayer. In November, vote experience: Vote Row C for BOE!

Marguerite (Margo) Gignac – Colchester
Member and Candidate,
Colchester Board of Education
See Letters, page 28

HEALTHCARE SERVICES



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

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



Better Dental HEALTH



by George M. Mantikas, DMD

SUPERNUMERARY TEETH

Children have 20 primary teeth that are later replaced by 32 adult teeth. Supernumerary teeth are extra teeth that grow in a person's mouth because of a condition called hyperdontia. These teeth can grow anywhere in the dental arches (the curved areas inside the mouth where the teeth attach to the jaw). Supernumerary teeth are not painful, but they can put painful pressure on the jaw and gums and may cause overcrowding or crooked teeth. The causes of hyperdontia are unknown, but the condition often occurs in combination with several genetic conditions. It's not always necessary to remove supernumerary teeth, but if they are causing pain or affecting other teeth or oral hygiene, the dentist may recommend extraction.

Improving the look, health, and function of your smile is our primary focus. Too many teeth? Too few? From general family dentistry to cosmetic dentistry and preventive care, we are dedicated to working with our patients toward the goal of achieving the healthiest, most attractive smiles possible. Are you curious how today's dental procedures can virtually change your life? We'd be glad to tell you about the many ways we can help make your smile a dazzling one.

P.S. Supernumerary teeth usually grow in adults rather than in children and are twice as common in men as they are in women.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC
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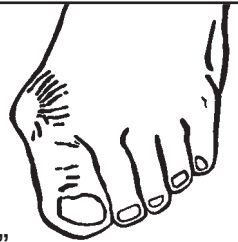
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RE9-26-25

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 27*

Transparency and Fiscal Responsibility

To the Editor:

It is more important than ever during the troubling times that we elect to office people that understand and care about transparency and fiscal responsibility. Democratic candidates Anthony Bratz and Susan McFarland bring these important elements of government to the table in a way other folks cannot. From my experience these two are very easy to talk to about these issues.

Anthony has discussed transparency multiple times both in private and on the public forum of Facebook. He wants to make it easier for residents to understand and see what their town is doing. With more transparency we residents will gain more autonomy and ability to voice our concerns and steer the town in a direction we are all satisfied with. Susan McFarland has extensive experience with management and following budgets. Electing her to our Board of Selectmen will guarantee that any financial decision made, from repairing the senior center to clearing brush, will be done responsibly and save us money.

Transparency and fiscal responsibility go hand in hand. We cannot have one without the other. If we are to make sure that our money is being spent responsibly and with every intention to save money while properly carrying out the duties of the Board of Selectmen. If they were to serve on multiple boards, there would be a conflict of interest that could cause needless spending, less transparency, and more control in the hands of a few.

We’ve seen what happens when an administration doesn’t value transparency. When there are conflicts of interest and a lack of transparency, things get much worse and we all suffer for it as is happening with the Trump administration. Join me in supporting these two candidates so that we can restore transparency and fiscal responsibility to our little town.

Finally, I have heard rumors that our town’s current board has some issues with regards to transparency and accountability and I will be looking into and reporting back next week with my findings on the subject.

Rob Barstow – Marlborough

Hebron Challenge Accepted

To the Editor:

Thank you, Matt Warren, for sharing your compelling challenge to Hebron residents in last week’s Letter to the Editor. I enjoyed the description of your late night/early morning adventures to recline in the dark, gaze into the night sky and appreciate the magic that surrounds us. We are indeed so fortunate to have the ability to literally see the edge of the Milky Way and become enveloped by summer’s night noises. Mr. Warren also clearly articulated the reasons why so many of us have chosen to make Hebron our home, “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.”

It has been well established by several public surveys taken of Hebron residents that our historic rural character is one of the most important reasons why people live here. In April 2021, Hebron’s Racial Justice and Equity Committee survey reported the quality of life in Hebron received an 8 out of 10 rating. That survey also reported that 78% of responses identified the rural setting is what drew them to town and keeps them here. This was confirmed in January 2022 by Hebron’s Affordable Housing Plan Working Group, which reported the most important reason why residents “moved to Hebron or continue to live in Hebron today” is the “rural characteristics,” receiving 58% of the votes. The second reason people live in Hebron is the “public school system,” receiving 48% of the votes. There is no doubt that people like living in the Hebron of today because of its historic rural character and high-quality education.

I happily embrace Mr. Warren’s challenge: “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 we can maintain it. We may need to prioritize these values so that they are enduring. What is worth the cost to protect?”

I enthusiastically recommend that the town owned property at 17 Kinney Road, also known as the Horton property, be preserved as an outdoor classroom, living history museum and learning corridor. This prime environmental, historic and agricultural location combines a tremendous educational, tourism and preservation potential right in the very center of town. For more information please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

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

Dementia Talks No. 32

To the Editor:

I was recently at an Age-In Place expo, hosting a table for my day job.

At the end of the event, a gentleman came up to my table to ask about care at home and what the options were. I gave him my “one two on what we do.” He paused. Then looked at me and asked if we did “this too”?

In his hand was the Alzheimer’s hotline postcard. I looked in his eyes and knew what he was asking. His eyes were sad, but resolved that he knew he needed help. Even if it was to be heard. I knew he didn’t want sympathy; he wanted truth. Sometimes that is all that we want, especially when the journey ahead can be such a mystery that we scare ourselves to the point that we are afraid to seek help. He is being courageous, brave, vulnerable.

It was the end of a long day on my feet, and I truly hope that I was able to adjust my demontor to meet him where he was. In doing so, I shared that the hot-line is there to help. And that the business I was representing does help those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias. And that he was not alone, and to call any time with questions – that we were here to help.

Earlier in the day, a woman came up to my table asking about services. I don’t recall how we got there, but she then shared that her mom moved in with her and husband; then her husband up and left; now she was alone and didn’t know what to do. She is the solo caregiver. In looking at her, I asked if she needed a hug. She said she might cry and I said that is ok. Then embraced a stranger that just let tears flow.

Why do I share these stories?

Because you are not alone. There are ears that will listen. There are arms that will embrace. There is no judgment in decisions made, because at times it is just for survival.

Build your “Alz” community, one person at a time, one resource at a time, one support group at a time.

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

Advocate for Change

Dear Portland ... Improve the Lives of Children - Advocate for Change:

I am heartsick over events that have recently occurred: During the Pandemic we moved quickly: Protective gear, vaccines, going remote. We need to move quickly again ...

1) Eliminate processed foods in schools. Suicide rates in Ireland jumped drastically over several years; researchers attributed this to "MAD crossing the pond" -- the modern American diet reached Ireland, i.e. fast food, processed foods, etc. As a teacher in Middletown, I saw the impact of poor nutrition on children. Healthy foods are expensive, but so is diabetes ...

2) Research is clear; older children need to sleep in more than the younger children. School start times need to be in line with what the experts recommend. Families will experience hardships adjusting schedules, but sleep hygiene is crucial to mental and physical health and learning.

3) If we can only afford to provide 5 or 6 years of foreign language, it should be K-4, not 7-12. Our children are not going to be able to compete as effectively as they could in our Nation or a global market without being bi-lingual. The research is clear on younger children being able to acquire foreign language skills better than older students. The benefits of being bi-lingual: Enhanced problem-solving skills, improved memory/ability to multi-task, potential to delay age-related cognitive decline ... We have it backwards.

If the above was implemented today, the violence in our society would not be eradicated, behavior problems among students (that impact everyone's learning) would not cease, nor are these the only changes needed, but these changes would affect outcomes - especially for children on the cusp. There would be decreases in violence, suicide rates, mental and physical health problems.

Children deserve to learn in a safe environment that nourishes them, and truly prepares them for the future, respects the value of sleep on physical/mental health. My voice is small; Politicians/decision-makers listen if the voices are loud ... especially the voices of fathers and mothers.

When children are murdered in schools, churches and other houses of worship, I see the worst pandemic humanity has ever faced; we need to move quickly, like with the COVID-19 pandemic. I pray you will email our local town/state leaders, speak up at school board/Board of Selectmen meeting. Fathers and mothers are a powerful group, the best mortal advocates for children!

**Kind Regards,
Debbie Law – Portland**

Running for RHAM Board

To the Editor:

My name is Pamela Farrington, and I am proud to announce my candidacy for the Board of Education for RHAM High School. Education has been both my career and my passion for the past 34 years, and I bring that lifelong dedication to my work on the Board. For the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving on the RHAM Board of Education, where I have worked collaboratively with fellow members, staff, and community stakeholders to support the success of all students.

RHAM has also been an important part of my family’s life. I am the proud parent of two sons who graduated from RHAM, and one who is currently a senior. This gives me a unique perspective as both an educator and a parent who has experienced firsthand the strength of our school as well as the challenges students face today.

As both a veteran educator and current board member, I understand the importance of balancing academic excellence with social-emotional growth, supporting teachers while keeping students at the center of decision-making. I am committed to ensuring that RHAM continues to provide a high-quality education that prepares students for the future, while being mindful of the needs and values of our community.

I look forward to continuing to serve and to listening to the voices of parents, staff, students, and community members. Together, we can build on RHAM’s strengths and work toward an even brighter future for our schools.

Thank you for your support.

**Sincerely,
Pamela Farrington – Marlborough**

Seeking Reelection

To the Editor:

I am a 20-plus year resident of the town of East Hampton and currently serving as the chair for the Board of Finance. I hope to continue serving our community by being re-elected for another term on the Board of Finance.

My work experience includes budget creation and execution with a focus on cost savings for not-for-profit agencies. Additionally, in my role as the Director of IT Client Services my division provided technical and customer support to the agency’s clients, which included the US Department of Education.

If elected for a second term I promise to continue keeping a sharp eye on spending and common-sense planning for the future of East Hampton.

**Respectfully,
Bridget McLennan – East Hampton**
Note: McLennan is chair of the East Hampton Board of Finance.

Living in the Same Town?

Dear Colchester Neighbors:

Over the past three years, Colchester’s town and school budgets have grown more than 13%, pushing the combined budget over \$65 million. During that same period, property taxes have increased 12%, meaning the average resident is now paying close to a thousand dollars more each year. Families and seniors are already feeling the impact.

This year, the town used reserve funds to temporarily reduce property taxes. While this provides short-term relief, it doesn’t address long-term challenges. If spending continues at the current pace, another two years could bring at least an 8% increase – before adding potentially \$20 million in anticipated capital projects.

Colchester will also soon hit the state’s cap on motor-vehicle property taxes. When that happens, the extra costs get shifted onto homeowners, making it even harder for many to stay in our community. Closing in on this cap is a clear warning that we need to manage our town more efficiently.

Some say Colchester has remained affordable. But with budgets and taxes climbing faster than residents can afford, I have to ask: are we living in the same town?

My name is Michael Dubreuil, and I am proud to be a candidate for Colchester’s Board of Finance. As a father with children in our schools, I fully support the capital improvement projects our town needs. At the same time, we must manage operational budgets responsibly to avoid unnecessary tax increases.

My priorities are fiscal responsibility, open communication, and teamwork—so we can fund what’s necessary while keeping Colchester a place families and seniors can afford to call home.

**Sincerely,
Michael Dubreuil – Colchester
Candidate, Board of Finance**

Hebron Needs Lawrence

Dear Hebron Residents:

I will be voting for Jan Lawrence for Hebron’s Board of Selectmen, and I urge my friends and neighbors to do the same. Jan is a long-time Hebron resident, parent, youth sports coach, and community advocate. He is deeply committed to Hebron. As an IT development supervisor for the State of Connecticut, Jan has experience in developing and maintaining smart, efficient community services; as a past small business owner, Jan understands what businesses need to get a foothold and thrive. As selectman, Jan will work to improve economic development, reduce tax burden on residents, and maintain our top-notch education system.

Please vote for Jan in November.

**Sincerely,
David Sousa – Hebron**

Note: Sousa is vice chair of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission but said he is writing as an individual.

A Wonderful Person

To the Editor:

I have many times through the years and there’s one sweet and wonderful lady there: Joann Koch, who’s always helping us.

Joann Koch always goes above and beyond. She gives me the time I need to get what I’m there for. She never looks irritated or makes you feel bad for taking so much of her time. She never gives you the impression that you’re maybe bothering her and certainly she has other work to do. She keeps her smile and makes you feel better.

As we get older, we need more help with things. Our eyes don’t work as well and our heads are full of medication that makes me dizzy, so I can’t do the things I like or need to do as easily. No matter what the issue I have, she figures it out and I never leave without the paperwork I came to get.

She’s just a wonderful person with a beautiful heart. Next time you’re in, just let her know you appreciate her, if you haven’t already.

Thank you again, Joann.

Bianca Johnson – Colchester

Running for Town Clerk

To the Editor:

My name is Roberta Dougherty, and I am running for Andover town clerk in the upcoming election on Nov. 4. I have called Andover home since 2006 and bought my home in town with my husband, Patrick, in 2008. Our son is a sophomore at RHAM, and like so many families in town, we value the strong sense of community Andover provides.

For the past 13 years, I have worked at Andover Town Hall as assistant assessor, serving with accuracy, diligence and care. For the past six years, I have also served as social services/municipal agent, helping residents access vital programs and assistance. My professional experience prior to joining the Town of Andover includes over a decade as a paralegal, with a focus on title curative work. This background gave me a solid foundation in handling detailed records and legal documentation, skills that directly carry over to the responsibilities of town clerk.

My campaign is focused on professionalism, transparency, and community connection. To that end, I have created a Facebook page, Roberta Dougherty for Andover Town Clerk, where I share weekly updates called Town Hall Talk with Roberta. These posts highlight the functions of town government and the role of the Town Clerk’s office, making information easier to understand and access. I see this not only as a campaign effort, but as a way to strengthen community knowledge and trust.

I take deep pride in our town’s history and people. Public service has always been at the heart of my work, and I believe the town clerk’s office should be welcoming, accessible, and efficient. If elected, I will continue to serve with the same dedication I bring to Town Hall every day, while also introducing fresh ideas for communication and outreach so residents feel more connected to their local government.

Although I am unaffiliated with any political party, I am honored to have received the Republican endorsement. Most importantly, I look forward to the opportunity to earn the support of all residents, regardless of party affiliation.

I am grateful for the encouragement I have already received and for the many conversations I have had with neighbors and friends as I pursue the role of Andover town clerk. I respectfully ask for your vote on Nov. 4.

**Continuing to Serve the
Residents of Andover,
Roberta Dougherty
Candidate for Andover Town Clerk**

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

Transparency, Not Politics
To the Editor:
Before last week’s Town Council meeting, Council Chair Dean Markham and his fellow Democrats had already decided – behind closed doors – to push through their version of a Firehouse Committee resolution. It was nearly identical to the one I proposed, but with partisan changes that weaken the process and put politics ahead of progress.

My resolution called for a six-month timeline to deliver results. Markham’s stretches the process to a full year. Our firefighters and residents have been patient long enough – we owe them efficiency, not delay. I recommended two Town Council members on the committee to guarantee bipartisan balance. Markham’s plan installs three, giving Democrats an automatic majority. Worse, his resolution allows council members appointed to the committee to stay on – even if voters remove them in November. That undermines the will of the people. I also urged waiting to appoint committee members until after the election, to avoid turnover and disruption. Markham insisted on rushing appointments now, just weeks before Election Day, so Democrats can claim a political win.

Even more concerning, Markham has announced his intent to appoint councilman Richard Knotek as chair. Mr. Knotek has publicly dismissed any option other than 11 Skinner St. and has shown bias against Company 2. The committee’s job is to weigh all sites and all stations fairly. Its chair must lead with an open mind – not with pre-determined outcomes.

East Hampton needs a transparent, balanced, and efficient process to deliver modern fire protection facilities. Instead, Democrats have put politics first and residents second. On Nov. 4, our community has the chance to speak up. Let’s reject this lack of transparency and demand leadership that puts the needs of our firefighters, families, and neighborhoods first.

**Sincerely,
Ted Hintz Jr.
Member and Candidate,
East Hampton Town Council**

Thank You, Colchester!
Dear Colchester Family:
I am writing to express my deepest gratitude to the wonderful people of Colchester for making the Sept. 20th Celebrate Colchester such a memorable and uplifting event. As a candidate for our Board of Education, I was truly honored to participate and connect with so many members of our vibrant community.

To the residents and visitors from surrounding communities, thank you for taking the time to stop by, share your thoughts, and engage in meaningful conversations. Your warmth, enthusiasm, and ideas about our town’s future were inspiring and reaffirmed my commitment to serve Colchester with dedication and care.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to my fellow candidates, both on my row and across the aisle. Your presence and camaraderie for our shared passion for civic duty showcased the strength of our democratic process and the shared passion we all have for improving our community. I’m grateful for the respectful introductions and greetings that made the day so special.

Finally, a huge thank you to the organizers and volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring the Celebrate Colchester to life. Ms. Tiffany O’Neil and staff’s efforts created a welcoming space for connection, celebration, and dialogue, reminding us all of what makes our town so unique.

It was a joy to greet familiar faces and meet new ones, and I look forward to continuing these conversations as we work together to build a bright future for Colchester.

**With gratitude,
Cody McNeely – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Education**

We Must Do Better
To the Editor:
Two weeks ago, Charlie Kirk was assassinated. Agree with him or not, he was a man who built his life on debate, on discussion, and on the exchange of ideas. He believed in facing questions directly, in standing before those who disagreed with him, and in letting words carry the day. That spirit is something we desperately need to recover in our own community.

The truth is, Colchester does not reflect that spirit. As a former selectman, I can tell you firsthand that our politics are not defined by openness or debate. They are defined by whispers behind closed doors, by decisions made on the phone before public meetings ever take place, by an expectation that you nod politely and say nothing when it matters most. That culture erodes trust and leaves citizens feeling shut out

of the very decisions that shape their lives.

If I had a nickel for every time my fellow selectmen told me “you can’t say that,” I would have retired long ago. Our boards limit what can be said and when, and when they do not like what you are saying, they mute your microphone. And beneath it all runs the ugly idea that you are either with us or against us. That poisons honest conversation because it tells people that the price of speaking their mind is social exile.

People in this town are routinely chastised for asking questions. If you do not support the orthodoxies of those in charge, you are cast aside and labeled anything from a troublemaker to a racist. Honest disagreement is mocked, and instead of engaging with your argument, your motives are attacked. I saw it firsthand as a selectman. My “worth” was never based on the substance of my position, but on whether I lined up with the right side of the aisle in that moment.

That is not debate. That is not discussion. That is not democracy. It is conformity enforced by threat of isolation, reputation, and power. It is the very opposite of what Charlie Kirk lived for.

As he said so often, when people stop talking, that is when bad things happen. We must resolve to do better. We must choose discussion over division, questions over silence, and dialogue over intimidation. If his tragic death teaches us anything, let it be that the courage to debate honestly is worth defending.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

**Hebron Board of Finance
Candidate**
To the Editor:
My name is Adam Ockman, and I am running for a seat on Hebron’s Board of Finance this fall.

My family and I have called Hebron home for the past twelve years. Over the last few years, I’ve become more involved in town government, to see how the decisions are made that will affect our community – and to contribute what I can.

Since 2023, I have regularly attended Board of Finance meetings, and I’ve frequently spoken up at these and other town meetings, providing my perspective.

Additionally, I have had the honor to serve on Hebron’s Charter Revision Commission since 2024, whose recommendations will also appear on this November’s ballot.

I look forward to bringing my 23 years of experience as an actuary to the finance board’s work. I believe in careful, transparent, and data-based decision making, and I’ll work with the Board to ensure that Hebron’s financial choices are responsible and support its long-term strength.

I’d love to hear from you! What are your concerns for the town, and what questions do you have for me? You can reach me or any of my running mates on the Democratic ticket at dems@hebrondems.com.

We will also be holding a Community Conversation with the Candidates on Oct. 1, 7 p.m., at the Russell Mercier Senior Center. Democratic candidates for the Boards of Selectmen, Finance, and Planning & Zoning will be there to listen, answer questions, and talk about the issues that matter in town. We hope you’ll join us

**Sincerely,
Adam Ockman
Candidate, Hebron Board of Finance**

Running for Board of Ed
To the Editor:
As a 20-year Portland resident and parent of two children in our schools, I am running for the Board of Education because I believe every child in our community deserves an excellent education that prepares them for success in life.

My background uniquely positions me to serve our students and families. With over two decades of experience in community health and education, I have developed comprehensive curricula aligned with state education standards and trained educators across Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts on effective teaching practices. As director of a charitable foundation, I understand how to allocate resources thoughtfully and work collaboratively to achieve shared goals.

Portland has always been a community that comes together for our children. I’ve seen this firsthand through my service as secretary of the Portland Little League Board of Directors and my work at Fire Ring Farm, where we partner with nonprofits to provide nature education programs that help local children develop confidence, curiosity, and connection to our beautiful Connecticut natural landscape.

I’m committed to ensuring our teachers have the resources they need, our facilities serve students well, and our curriculum prepares every

child for the opportunities ahead—whether that’s college, career training, or entrepreneurship. My experience working across diverse communities has taught me that when we focus on what unites us – our love for our children and our desire to see them thrive – we can accomplish remarkable things together.

I believe in transparency, fiscal responsibility, and evidence-based decision making. Most importantly, I believe in listening to parents, teachers, and community members to ensure our Board of Education reflects the values and priorities of Portland families.

Our children deserve school board members who will fight for their future while bringing people together, not driving them apart. I would be honored to earn your vote in November and work alongside fellow community members to strengthen our schools for every Portland student.

**Sincerely,
Erin Livensparger – Portland**

Colchester’s Walkable Future
To the Editor:

Surveying crews have arrived on Lebanon Avenue near the old train stations in preparation for the upcoming construction that will greatly improve Colchester’s access to the Air Line Trail Spur. Funded by a \$900,000 STEAP grant from the state of Connecticut, the project will renovate the trailhead, create an improved parking lot with signage, upgrade sidewalks on Lebanon Avenue and Mill Street, and repave a section of Mill Street.

This is exciting for many reasons, especially because it creates a more walkable town center. Since moving downtown, I have seen how being able to walk instead of drive improves quality of life. Walking to the Farmers Market every Sunday is just one small but meaningful example.

These improvements also benefit seniors in Northwoods and other neighborhoods along Lebanon Avenue. The new sidewalks provide a direct route to the Senior Center, which itself has been strengthened by extended hours funded through cannabis sales tax community reinvestment. Together, these projects make Colchester more accessible and supportive for all residents.

Just as important, these gains reflect responsible financial management. Our First Selectman has made securing state grants a priority, stretching every tax dollar. Upcoming water filtration plant repairs, for example, are funded through state low interest loans with up to 25 percent forgiveness. This work prevents the type of building moratorium Colchester endured in the 1980s, which would have stalled growth and undermined the grand list.

Simply put, Colchester’s future is strongest when we continue to seek out grants and state programs that protect taxpayers while moving our town forward. We have made excellent progress in just two years, and it is vital that we keep this momentum going. I ask for your support, beginning with early voting on Oct. 20 and continuing through Election Day on Nov. 4.

**Sean Gillespie – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Finance**

Would Welcome Your Support
To the Editor and Residents of East Hampton:

My name is Nancy Kohler, and I am running for reelection to the East Hampton Board of Education. I have been a proud resident of this town for over 20 years and am the parent of two children who have thrived in our school system. After teaching kindergarten in a neighboring district for several years, I chose to leave the profession to raise my children. For over 14 years, I have maintained my connection to the field of education as an active parent volunteer, an engaged member of the PTO, and a member of the Board of Education. All of these experiences have allowed me to understand both the challenges and struggles faced by our students and teachers, as well as their tremendous growth and success.

Growing up in a family of teachers, I learned to deeply value the importance of public education. A cornerstone of a healthy society, public education provides all children, regardless of background or income, with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in life. Through the fostering of critical thinking, citizenship, and social responsibility in our students, we create robust school systems that benefit everyone by developing stronger communities now and in the future.

I am excited about the opportunity to continue my service on the Board of Education. In these challenging times, I am proud of what this board has achieved through hard work and bipartisan collaboration. I hope to further build on the district’s strengths, as well as join with town leaders and elected officials across all

boards to bolster the school-community partnerships that will make this great town even better. I would welcome your support on Nov. 4.

**Nancy Kohler
Chair, East Hampton Board of Education
Board of Education Candidate**

A Team for Portland
To the Editor:

The start of early voting for our municipal election is less than one month away on Oct. 20th. As you prepare to cast your vote for Portland’s future, please consider our Democratic team to fill four seats on the Board of Selectmen.

John and Jim currently serve on the Board of Selectmen and work tirelessly to make Portland the best it can be. Andrea and Dave are very active community service leaders, having served on various boards and commissions over the years. Together we have decades of experience and dedication to Portland. We have all worked together in some capacity to serve the town of Portland, and we know that as a team we are prepared to do the hard work necessary to strengthen our community and address the issues that are most important to Portland residents.

As a team that has been involved in many aspects of the town, we have listened to residents and developed what we believe are some of the important priorities for Portland.

- Drive strategic economic development to broaden the tax base;
- Deliver a sustainable, long-term plan for school facilities – the time to act is now;
- Secure Portland’s water independence to protect residents from rising costs;
- Invest in upgraded infrastructure to support future growth;
- Revitalize Portland’s riverfront for recreation, commerce, and public use.

Over the coming weeks we plan to speak with as many Portland residents as possible to provide more detail on our priorities, as well as to discuss all the issues that are important to you. You may find additional information about our backgrounds on our website, portlandctdtc.com.

The Portland Democratic Team is ready and eager to work together alongside our other elected and town officials to move Portland forward in a positive direction.

Please vote Row A during the early voting period Oct. 20-Nov. 2, or on Election Day, Nov. 4.

**Respectfully,
Candidates for Portland BOS
Andrea Alfano, John Dillon,
Dave Kuzminski, Jim Tripp**

**Continue Moving Schools
Forward**

To the Editor:
I am honored to announce my candidacy for reelection to the Portland Board of Education. Serving in this role has been a privilege, and I am grateful for the trust this community has placed in me. Portland is a town that truly values its schools, and I am proud to work toward ensuring that every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Over the past several years, I have served on both the curriculum and buildings & grounds committees. These experiences have strengthened my understanding of the work required to uphold high standards for teaching and learning while also ensuring that our facilities are safe, healthy and welcoming. When students and staff have access to strong educational programs in well-maintained buildings, our entire community benefits.

Looking ahead, our district faces important responsibilities: making necessary capital improvements to our schools and moving forward with school consolidation, while maintaining a positive school climate and quality learning environments. I am committed to approaching this work transparently and cost-effectively. My priority is to minimize the financial impact on Portland taxpayers while providing safe, high-quality learning environments for all. By making smart investments today, we can create schools that will serve our children well into the future.

I believe collaboration is at the heart of strong schools. The success of our district depends on the partnership between families, staff, and the wider community. Together, we can uphold the values we share: safe and supportive schools, excellent educational opportunities, and responsible decision-making that respects the needs of both students and taxpayers.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving the Portland community. I respectfully ask for your support in this election, so that together, we can continue to move our schools forward.

Kim Nagy-Maruschock – Portland

Obituaries

Andover

Adrian Thibodeau
Adrian Thibodeau, 88 of Jackman, Maine, passed away with his family by his side Sunday, Sept. 21. Born July 22, 1937, in Jackman, Maine, he was the son of the late Harvey and MayRose Thibodeau.
In 1956, he married the love of his life, Joyce Bennett, who sadly predeceased him in 2010. Together, they built their life and raised their four daughters in Connecticut before moving back to Maine.



Adrian had many talents and hobbies. He worked in the home improvement and construction business and could fix anything. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting and spending time at the Andover Gun Club. He was also a member of the Connecticut Valley Siberian Husky Club and enjoyed racing huskies.
Adrian will be deeply missed and forever remembered with love by his four daughters, Kathy and Roy Melton of Willington, Brenda and Dennis Palmer of Colchester, Sandra and Todd Somerset of Jackman, Maine, and Andrea and Bill Ruggiero of Broad Brook; his brother, Andre Thibodeau; sisters, Lorraine Gilbert and Hazel Jackson. He was predeceased by his sister, Helen Coley. He had 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren and extended family and friends.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Sept. 30, in Maine, at the Moose River Congregational Church. Visitation will be 9-11 a.m. with services and burial to follow.
To share a condolence or memory of Adrian with the family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

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East Hampton

Mary Flannery
Mary (Barber) Flannery passed away peacefully Friday, Aug. 8, with her daughter, Karen, by her side. Mary was born Nov 11, 1935, to the late Charles Allen and Hazel (Strong) Barber. A lifelong resident of East Hampton, she spent the last seven years living in Casselberry, Fla.
She was predeceased by her husband of 48 years, James P. Flannery, and her sons, William “Bill” D. Flannery and Timothy “Tim” M. Flannery.
Mary is survived by her son, James “Pete” Flannery (Diane), daughters, Karen (Flannery) Ganson and Katherine Flannery, as well as her brother, Theodore “Ted” Barber (Sandy). She is survived by 10 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.
Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Friday, Oct. 3, from 5-7 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, followed by burial at St. Patrick’s Cemetery.



In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dementia Society of America, P.O. Box 600, Doylestown, PA 18901. dementiasociety.org/donate

East Hampton

Thomas J. Malcarne
Thomas J. Malcarne, 67, of East Hampton, passed away unexpectedly Monday, Sept. 8. Born Jan. 27, 1958, Tom was a lifelong Connecticut resident.
He attended East Hampton High School and went on to build a respected career as a carpenter. He worked as a union carpenter before establishing his own successful carpentry and home remodeling business. Known throughout the community for his skill and dedication, he took great pride in his craftsmanship and the quality of his work.
Tom lived in both East Hartford and East Hampton during his life. He will be remembered not only for his sturdy, enduring work, but also for his kind and quiet demeanor. Tom was a man who cared deeply, often in quiet ways, always ready to lend a hand wherever he could. He had a steady presence and could find laughter even in difficult situations, a quality that endeared him to those around him.
Tom is survived by his mother, Shirley Sullivan of Glastonbury; his companion of 24 years, Tammy Garcia; his sister, Barbara (Phil) Baclini of Glastonbury; his sister, Tricia (Kevin) Gunning of East Hampton; and his nieces, Jordan, Olivia and Amanda.
He was preceded by his father, Jack Malcarne. He leaves behind many lifelong friends and customers who valued both his friendship and his workmanship.
Tom will be deeply missed by all who knew him. A private life celebration will be determined at a later date.



Hebron

Patricia Mary McGlynn
Patricia Mary McGlynn, 76, passed away Thursday, July 24, at her home in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. She died the way she wanted to live: at peace and surrounded by the people she loved. She was born March 18, 1949, in New York, N.Y., to the late James Lawrence Turner and Winifred Delia Comer Turner.
One of seven children, Tricia is preceded in death by her older brother James L. Turner.
Throughout her life, Tricia earned many titles. As a kid she was known as “the General,” as she helped raise her younger siblings. As a young woman she earned a teaching degree from Marywood University in Scranton, Pa. She was also a wife and protective mother of two children, Margaret Kirwin of Vernon and Daniel McGlynn of Richmond, Calif.
Tricia spent her career as a middle school and high school teacher in Hebron, Conn., and Raleigh, N.C. She taught home economics and consumer education and was widely known for her cookie days. Mid-career, Tricia earned a master’s degree in education and a sixth-year degree, as she prepared to be a school administrator. By late career, Tricia used her training and experience to mentor younger teachers, a job she loved.
In retirement, Tricia loved to travel the world with her sister Margaret Turner of Richmond, Va. She always talked about the time she spent with her grandchildren, and took pride in teaching them to bake pies, which was one of her specialties. Tricia had a knack for being able to strike up a conversation with anyone, and had a deep network of friends in Murrells Inlet, where she retired with her husband of 54 years, Daniel P. McGlynn.



Tricia is survived by her grandchildren, Daniel Desmond Derrick McGlynn, Mattea Derrick McGlynn, Auden Derrick McGlynn, and Nolan Derrick McGlynn; sisters, Margaret Turner, Joann Thomas, and Winifred Coco; brothers, Bartholomew Turner and Robert Turner; as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins that made up her large extended family.

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

Congregational 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 Stamps: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.
Bingo and Baskets: Friday, Oct. 17, 5:30 p.m. dinner, followed by game at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person.

Christmas Tag Sale

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

Trivia Night Fundraiser

The Andover Republican Town Committee will hold a Trivia Night Fundraiser Friday, Oct. 3, at the Andover Pizza House, 114 Route 6. Sign-in starts at 6 p.m., and the game starts at 7. Seats are limited.
Tickets are \$20/person, with teams of up to six players. There will be a 50/50 raffle, pizza, appetizers and a cash bar. There will be a prize for the best team. Purchase tickets via Venmo@Jeffrey-Murray-1969 or with cash, or via check made payable to the Andover RTC. If paying by cash or check call Carol Barton at 860-230-5854 and let her know.

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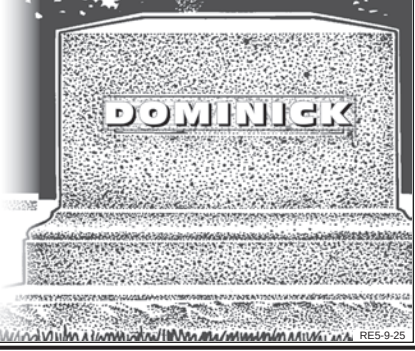
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The Andover Greater Together Community Fund Committee recently held a celebration to recognize eight nonprofits who received grants this year. From left are committee members Marie Smith, Kirsten Erlandsen, Jody Gross, Melissa Marsh (Hartford Foundation liaison), Paige Rosa, Marinella Chalfant (co-chair), Suzanne Heise (co-chair), and Jay Kamins. Committee members not present: Lori LaCroix, Bill Penn, Chip Ware and Alejandro Chalfant.

Greater Together Fund Celebrates Grant Recipients

On Sept. 11, the Andover Greater Together Community Fund Committee held a celebration to recognize eight nonprofits who received grants this year.

The following organizations received a certificate and had the opportunity to share with the audience how the grant will make a difference to their constituents:

Andover Beautification Committee - \$5,000 for landscaping around new tree sign; Andover Cub Scout Pack 124 - \$1,500; Andover Recreation Committee - \$5,000 in support of the basketball program training and equipment; Hop River Homes/Eastern CT Housing - \$10,000 for fire panel upgrade; Junior Achievement - \$1,000 for RHAM students from Andover to participate in the Entrepreneurship program; Operation Fuel - \$10,000 for energy assistance for Andover residents; Tolland County Robotics Foundation - \$2,500 for Andover children to participate in the Lego Explore program; Veterans Field Improvement Committee - \$10,000 for playground equipment and pavilion at Long Hill Fields.

Melissa March, program manager at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, provided information on the background of the Community Fund initiative. In 2019, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving established a \$100,000 Greater Together Community Fund for each of the 29 towns in the Foundation's region, which includes the town of Andover.

The purpose of the Greater Together Community Funds (GTCF) is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs in their towns, encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement and anchor the Hartford Foundation in each town. In 2020, the original Andover Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee was selected.

The next grant cycle is scheduled to begin next May. To see when the next deadline will be, visit www.hfpg.org/donors/ways-to-give/community-funds/andover.

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.

Shopping Trips: Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. To 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.

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

Lunch Every Wednesday: Wednesdays at noon. Cost is \$5. Let Haley know you're coming, at 860-798-6862, and call Linda to reserve your ride at 860-498-2326. Schedule: Sept. 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.

Coffee & Crafts: Thursdays, Oct. 2 and 16. A new craft each week. If attending, call 860-798-6862.

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 introduction 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.

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



Paul Piper and Rachel Watts called kicks and hits for each other while doing pad work for attendees at Celebrate Colchester.

★ *'Celebrate Colchester', cont. from page 1*

or offer demonstrations on the green. One of the most energetic demonstrations came from 360 Defense Martial Arts, led by head instructor Josh Hesser, who has lived and worked in Colchester for 15 years. Hesser opened his own school after more than a decade of training and teaching.

"At our school, we focus on the mental aspects of martial arts, meaning respect, self-discipline and focus," specifically when the children are being taught, he said.

For adults, the school emphasizes practical self-defense through Krav Maga.

"Our self-defense is number one, because the art that we teach, Krav Maga, is a strictly self-defense martial art," he said.

Despite the seriousness of the style, Hesser strives to keep classes welcoming.

"We teach a very serious style of martial arts in a very laid-back atmosphere," Hesser explained. "People want to come and ... have a good time. They want to enjoy what they're doing, learn self-defense and get in exercise while they do so."

Martial arts is also a family affair for Hesser. His wife, daughters, sister and even his mother all train.

"My mom is a second-degree black belt at 70. She started training when I opened up my school, and she's the one who got me into it as a kid," he shared proudly. "I am a huge proponent of women's self-defense. I think it's important for women to know basic self-defense skills."

Not far from the stage, volunteers from Colchester Giving Garden shared information about their work. Since 2013, the group has grown produce to support the Colchester Food Bank, soup kitchens and pantries in surrounding towns.

"We're all volunteers," explained member Gail Larkin. "Food from March through October is donated to the Colchester food bank. And if we have surplus, then it goes to soup kitchens and Norwich or Middletown."

Larkin added that the work is both personal and communal.

"It's something I like to do," she said. "I love to garden, I love to grow vegetables and at the same time, I'm helping my community."

Among the more unexpected participants were members of Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA), an international organization that provides support for children who have suffered abuse.

"Our mission statement is to help empower abused children, not to be afraid of the world," explained the chapter's vice president, whose road name is Tigger.

"We go to court with them when they testify against their perpetrators ... we get [the children] a vest and pick a road name."

When asked why she chose to get involved, Tigger was direct: "I think children just need support, especially when we lean on the adults and sometimes the adults let us down. We let them know that we are safe adults, and they can lean on us."

By mid-afternoon, the green was filled with children chasing after one another, parents sipping lemonade and volunteers reaching out to visitors at each booth. For Kniska, who has lived in Colchester her whole life, the festival is about more than just one afternoon.

"To me, it's all about community," she said.

The work behind Celebrate Colchester begins months in advance, with Parks and Recreation and the Recreation Commission reaching out to businesses and groups.

"We started about seven months ago, and really started a lot of marketing," Kniska said. "We got lists of all the businesses in town, put out flyers and made phone calls. We put in the work because we want to make it a good event for the community."

As the day wound down, Hockdorfer's children were still beaming, clutching small prizes. For them, the highlights may have been the DJ and spinning wheels, but for adults who made Celebrate Colchester possible, the joy was in something larger – proof that Colchester remains a town where people still show up for one another.

Be prepared, / not scared.

Considering the number of disasters that have occurred in the past decade, chances are you'll experience some sort of emergency. Between school, sports and other activities, chances are you won't be with your kids when it happens.

Ready.gov/kids has the tools to make preparing easy and even fun, so your kids can feel...

Prepared, not scared.

Go to www.Ready.gov/kids and talk to your family today.

TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the September 18, 2025 meeting, the following actions were taken:
PZC Application #24-23: 54 Riverview Street. Proposed special permit modification to add boat yard use. Application and property of Birdon LLC. Map 3, Lot 8. Zone R-10. (To open at the September 18th Meeting)
PZC Application #25-01: 1359 & 1401 Main Street. Request for a Special Permit for special event permit to hold the Portland Fair in the month of October. Application of the Portland Fair and property of Cote Range LLC and Portland Farmers Fish and Game Club Inc. Map 75 Lot 2 and Map 68 Lot 1. Zone FP.
PZC Application #25-02: 819 Glastonbury Turnpike. Request for Special Permit request for food truck hosted by Star Hill Family Farm. Application of Nino DiBiase and property of Star Hill Family Farm. Map 110 Lot 5. Zone R-25.
Dated at Portland, CT this 19th day of September 2025
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1 TB 9/26

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold Public Hearings at a special meeting scheduled on Wednesday October 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Hampton Town Hall – 1 Community Drive, Room 107 and via ZOOM on the following Applications:
PZC-25-009: Charles Dutch, White Birch Road, Two lot Re-subdivision. Map 30/ Block 65A/ Lot 2.
PZC-25-005: Lake Overlook Estates, Phase II Open Space Re-Subdivision and Special Permit. Map 03A/ Block 44/ Lot 23. (Continued Public Hearing from 9/3/2025)
Applications and Plans are on file in the Land Use Office 860 267-7450.
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman

2 TB 9/26, 10/3

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

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the agreement between the Regional School District No. 8 Board of Education and the Regional School District No. 8 Administrator's Association is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut.
The new contract is for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.
DATED AT MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT THIS 19th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.
Lauren A. Griffin, Town Clerk
Town of Marlborough

1 TB 9/26

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Water Pollution Control Authority
Town of East Hampton
October 7, 2025

The Water Pollution Control Authority of the Town of East Hampton, Connecticut, will hold a Public Hearing at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, in East Hampton, Connecticut, on the 7th of October 2025, at 6:30 P.M. to consider whether or not to approve construction of a proposed extension of the public sewer system connecting into the existing sewer system on Freya Lane, East Hampton Connecticut. This extension is to serve a proposed Residential Open Space Subdivision known as Lake Overlook Estates Phase II and shown on plans entitled "Lake Overlook Estates Phase II, East Hampton, CT., Sewer Plan and Profiles prepared for Lakewood Estates LLC; Date: May 26, 2025 by Robert V. Baltramaitis P.E. Wallingford, Connecticut". Said map is on file for public inspection in the East Hampton Water Pollution Control office, 20 Gildersleeve Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut.
Affected property owners and electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of East Hampton, Connecticut, are invited to attend and participate in such public hearing. Information to log into the meeting will be available on the Public Hearing agenda on the WPCA webpage at www.easthamptonct.gov
East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority
Anthony DeSimone
Public Utilities Administrator

1 TB 9/26

TOWN OF HEBRON
SEWER USE LEGAL NOTICE

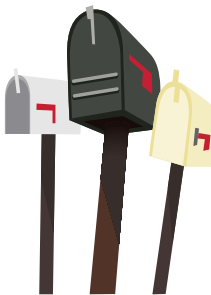
Sewer Use Bills are due and payable October 1, 2025. The billing rate is \$672.00 which may be paid in two equal installments, the first installment being due October 1, 2025 and the second installment being due April 1, 2026.
First Installment payments must be postmarked or received no later than November 3, 2025 to be considered on time with no additional charges. Second Installments must be postmarked or received no later than May 1, 2026. Payments that are unpaid as of November 4, 2025 and May 2, 2026, will be charged interest of 1.5% per month retroactive to the installment due date per State Statute 12-146.
To make payments by check, please make check payable to: Town of Hebron. Payments may be mailed to: Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. If desired, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a receipt. There is a drop-off box attached to the Town Office Building located next to the entrance on the lower level, south side. In addition, there is a box inside the building located in the hallway between the Tax and Assessor's Office. Payments left in the box after the close of business will be retrieved the following morning.
The Collector's office is located in the lower level of the Town Hall at 15 Gilead Street. Hours are Monday through Wednesday 8:00am to 4:00pm, Thursday 8:00am to 6:00pm, and Friday 8:00am to 1:00pm. Please note Monday – Thursday the office is closed for lunch from 12:30pm – 1:15pm.
Respectfully,
Revenue Collector

3TB 9/26, 10/10, 10/24

RIVEREAST
News Bulletin

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

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



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

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

Thanks as always for your business.

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 JUNK CARS:

and unfinished projects. Contact 860-216-8144.

TUTORING

MATH TUTORING: Experienced Math teacher with 15+ years in Elementary, Middle school as well as Intervention and Algebra I. \$65. In person or Zoom as needed. PezzaMathTutor@gmail.com.

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-heel-dogtraining.com.

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CIT-12-23

REAL ESTATE

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RENTALS
GLASTONBURY OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: Individual offices or space up to 1,000-1,400 square feet suites. Use of conference room included. Call 860-633-3545.

CANDLELIGHT APARTMENTS, GLASTONBURY: RENT NOW, one bedroom available, renovated, first floor. Rent is currently \$1,750 per month. Includes heat/ hot water, trash, sewer. Onsite storage and assigned parking available. Property is a SMOKE FREE Complex. Please call via text or cell 860-913-6723, Office 860-529-1725.

MARLBOROUGH APARTMENT FOR RENT: Available October 1st. Quiet area, off the road. 1st floor, 1 bedroom. No smoking. No dogs. Trash/snow removal. Heat/electricity not included. Washer/dryer hooks ups. \$1,400/monthly, plus security deposit, 1st and last month's rent. References. Email michaeldaigle39@gmail.com, 401-489-1869 or jesposito0912@gmail.com, 401-487-2337.

MARLBOROUGH APARTMENT FOR RENT: in a quiet area, off the road. 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms. No smoking. Small animals allowed, excluding dogs. Trash/snow removal. Heat/electricity not included. Washer/dryer hooks ups on 1st floor. \$1,500/monthly, plus security deposit, 1st and last month's rent. References. Accepting applications. Email michaeldaigle39@gmail.com, 401-489-1869 or jesposito0912@gmail.com, 401-487-2337.

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Buying or Selling Contact



Stephanie Starr
(860) 214-4385
stephaniestarr@bhhsne.com
stephaniestarr.bhhsneproperties.com
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RE9-26-25

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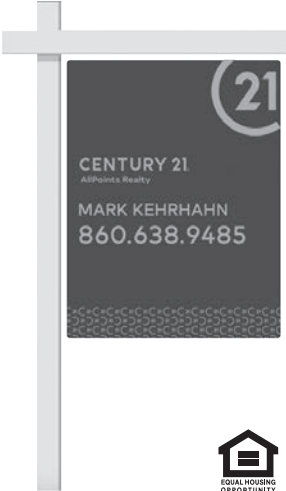
Mark Kehrhaan,
for all Your real estate needs!

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CIT-4-4-24

LEGALS

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

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a (c) (2) Application URA-IW—25-026: TS Minor Enterprises, Construct a retaining wall in Upland Review Area. On property located at 26 Waterview Circle, East Hampton, CT has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the East Hampton CT Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency, Juliet Hodge
Duly Authorized Agent
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

1 TB 9/26

**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

2 TB 9/19, 9/26

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF COLCHESTER**

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester Taxpayers & Ratepayers that quarterly water and/or sewer usage bills are due and Motor Vehicle Supplemental Bills are payable on October 1, 2025. Payment not made in full on or before November 3, 2025, will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before November 3, 2025, will be considered paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 3, 2025, will be considered as having been made on the following business day and will be deemed as paid late.** Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the bill nor interest. Please contact the Tax Collector's Office if you have not received your bill. Water & Sewer Payments should be made payable to the Water & Sewer Commission. Please write your account number on the check. Motor Vehicle Supplemental Bills should be made payable to the Colchester Tax Collector. Payments can be made online through the town's website <https://www.colchesterct.gov/> - fees apply. OR: come into the Tax Office, use the Town's Night Drop, and/or mail payments to: Tax Office, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT 06415. If a receipt is desired, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, and on Thursdays until 7 pm. Questions concerning payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210. Michele Wyatt, CCMC CCMO
Town of Colchester
Tax Collector

3TB 9/26, 10/10, 10/24

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
PERSONAL PROPERTY
DECLARATION FILING**

The East Hampton Assessor's Office reminds owners and lessees of tangible personal property that Connecticut General Statute 12-40 requires all persons, both residents and non-residents to file with the Assessor. A sworn declaration of all assets used by the business as of October 1, 2025 needs to be reported. **Due date to file is: Monday, November 3, 2025.** **Failure to file such declaration with the assessor's office will result in the assessor filing on behalf of the business and adding a 25% penalty per CGS 12-41(d).** Examples of such tangible personal property include but are not limited to machinery, cables, conduits, pipes and other fixtures of water, gas, electric companies; leasehold improvements classified as other than real property; furniture and fixtures; unregistered motor vehicles; farm machinery; tools; expense supplies; horses & ponies. Various exemptions are explained on the declaration and available if filed on time. **Please sign and date the very last page of the Declaration.** For more information, please contact the East Hampton Assessor's Office, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. Friday. Please address any questions you may have via: (860)267-2510.

1 TB 9/26

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON- WATER
POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
ATTENTION SEWER USERS**

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of East Hampton that the sewer use payment is due and payable on October 1, 2025. **East Hampton Sewer Use bills may be paid in two equal installments:** October 1 and April 1. The last day to pay the Sewer Use fee for the October 1, 2025 installment without a penalty is November 3, 2025. **Property owners will not receive a second sewer use bill for the installment due on April 1, 2025. The October bill is a three-part form which includes the April installment.** Payments received November 4, 2025 and later, including payments postmarked November 4, 2025 and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month. or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before November 3, 2025 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue. As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions. **Please make checks payable to Town of East Hampton.** Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting our website at www.easthamptonct.gov **Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.** Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm. Respectively Submitted,
Anthony DeSimone
Public Utilities Administrator

3TB 9/26, 10/10, 10/24

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.

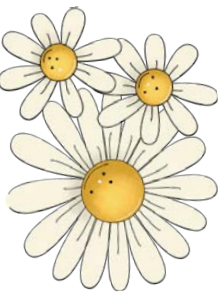
MOHAWK MANUFACTURING COMPANY: in Middletown is looking for someone to join our team and learn how to set up and run metal stamping power presses, how to inspect the parts produced and how to perform other associated jobs. Mechanical skills are a plus but not required. Looking to train the right candidate. We work 10-hour days M–Th. 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.

HELP MOTHER WITH DAUGHTER. Tech savvy with Apple iPhone. Drive to activities on Saturday and/or Sunday, 9:30am-12:30pm. \$17/hour. Call 860-228-0809.

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MATURE CNA, 15+ YEARS' EXPERIENCE: Home health care person. Have worked with Home Health Care Agencies. Available hourly or live in care. Excellent references. 860-519-6679.



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Afternoon Adventures Program Director
We are seeking an energetic and experienced Program Director to lead, plan, organize, and oversee the design and delivery of high-quality, inclusive, accessible, and dynamic recreation programs for the Afternoon Adventures program. This leadership role involves supervising staff, developing community partnerships, and ensuring all activities align with the Recreation Departments mission and community needs. This is a part-time, after school program that runs from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm when school is in session. Hourly rate is \$21.84-\$25.00 depending on experience and qualifications. Duties include developing, implementing and evaluating recreation programs and activities, as well as promoting the programs, training staff and ensuring that all programs comply with safety standards, policies and regulations. The Director should have or be working towards a degree or certification in recreation, child development, or elementary or middle school education. CPR and basic first aid certification, or ability to obtain it is required. Please submit a brief cover letter, a resume and an employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or email to lseymour@easthamptonct.gov, by October 9, 2025, or until filled. EOE/AA/M-F. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov.

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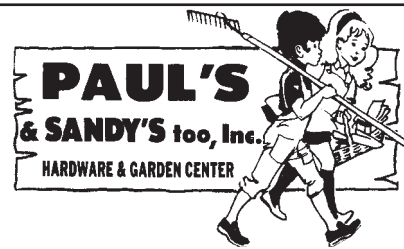
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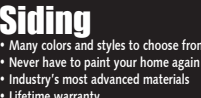
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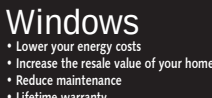
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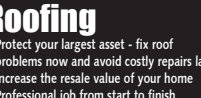
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