

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

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October 10, 2025

RHAM Completes Major Track Replacement

By Toriana Williams

After months of construction, RHAM High School has officially completed its long-anticipated track replacement project, bringing a renewed space for athletes and community members alike.

The \$1.6 million project, which began in June, took approximately four and a half months to complete and marks a major improvement to one of the school's most used athletic facilities.

"Last week, the project of replacing the track was completed after approximately 4.5 months of work," said RHAM Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara.

The original track, installed two decades ago, had reached the end of its life span. "The old track was 20 years old and had already been resurfaced once," McNamara wrote in an email to the *Rivereast*. Over time, the surface had deteriorated to the point that it posed safety and performance concerns for both student-athletes and public users. The poor condition of the track had significant consequences for RHAM's programs.

"Because of the track's poor condition, RHAM's track teams did not have any home meets during last spring's season," he stated.

Without a usable surface, the track could not continue to host practices, meets or community recreation.

"Had the track not been replaced, it would not have been able to be used at all by our student athletes as well as members of the public who use it outside of school hours," McNamara said.

The new track not only replaces the previous surface but also expands the functionality and safety of the area.

"The track project included replacement of



The "before and after" photo makes clear just how significant the transformation has been. The vibrant, modern track stands in stark contrast to the weathered surface that had once made meets and practices impossible. Photo contributed by Colin McNamara

the track foundation, installation of D-Zone area for field events (high jump, long jump and pole vault), replacement of fencing surrounding the track and relocating the scoreboard," McNamara said.

These upgrades are designed to improve the experience for both athletes and spectators. The installation of dedicated D-Zone areas, for example, means that events like the pole vault,

long jump and high jump can now take place in properly designed spaces, enhancing both performance and safety. The relocation of the scoreboard, which had previously been in one of these event zones, also makes the layout of the facility more efficient and spectator-friendly.

In addition to serving the school's athletic programs, the RHAM track has long been a resource for the surrounding community. Many residents

use the track for exercise and recreation during non-school hours, making its restoration a benefit that extends beyond the student body.

Financing for the project was another important consideration. The school district made efforts to ensure that the cost would not fall entirely on local taxpayers.

"The impact of the cost of the track on taxpayers was defrayed by the Region 8 Board of Education's strategic use of funds available in a non-lapsing account established for capital and facilities projects," McNamara wrote. "Those funding sources paid for just over two-thirds of the total cost of the project."

This non-lapsing account, set aside specifically for long-term infrastructure and maintenance projects, allowed the district to address an urgent facility need while maintaining fiscal responsibility. By using existing funds wisely, the RHAM Board of Education was able to lessen the financial burden on the community and complete the project without significant delays.

And so, with the project complete, the new D-Zones gleam with freshly laid surfaces, and the surrounding fencing gives the area a clean and finished look. The relocated scoreboard now provides clear sightlines across the field, making the space more welcoming for both athletes and spectators.

For now, the bright new track serves as both a functional upgrade and a symbol of renewal. After a spring season without home meets and months of construction, RHAM's student-athletes and the greater construction can finally return to the track – stronger, faster and ready for the future.

Trashy Art Reigns Supreme at Portland Fair

By Anne Lilburn

At this year's Portland Fair, families lined up for carnival rides and cotton candy, greeted livestock ranging from rabbits to cows, watched tractor pulls and live music, and learned the name of the fair's new highland cow mascot: Brownstone, or Brownie for short.

But while this year's fair offered plenty of familiar country fair activities, its Crafts and Community Tent also offered a bit of the unexpected.

This year's theme for the tent was "Recycle, Reuse, Create" and a large banner made out of old feed bags gathered from the community welcomed visitors in. The activities inside the tent celebrated that resourceful and environmentally conscious attitude, and the woman responsible for putting that theme (and that feed bag banner) together was Fair Superintendent Melissa Kelley.

Kelley is a third generation Portland resident, but she says she's the first in her family that she knows of to get involved in the fair. She said she kind of fell into the job of managing the

tent several years ago after starting as the canning superintendent. Not long after that, the fair asked if she wanted to take over the entire tent.

"I was like, I have no idea what I'm doing," she says, "but sure!"

Kelley said that, in the past, the Crafts and Community tent was a place where people stopped by, but quickly moved on through. This year, she said, she wanted to "jazz it up" and encourage people to stick around with a theme and events.

She had recently attended a library presentation by Dr. Kat Owens, a plastic pollution researcher, educator and artist whose multi-year art project, Entangled and Ingested, involves large murals of ocean animals made out of discarded plastic materials. Owens often hosts events where the public can help co-create artwork with her, and Kelley says she decided to invite Owens to lead a workshop in the tent and make the entire tent's theme environmentally-focused.

She also decided to host a "trashion" show, where contestants used recycled and repur-

posed materials to design clothing. Kelley said contestants got creative, with several using newspaper prominently in their designs.

Gretta Chenier, 10, a fifth-grade student at Brownstone Intermediate School, won second place in the Under 25 category. In keeping with the theme, she designed an ocean-themed dress out of discarded plastic materials.

"I've always been really passionate about plastic pollution," she said, "and I know how dangerous plastic can be in the ocean and how harmful it can be to animals."

Chenier used an old tablecloth for her dress and tie-dyed it blue, incorporating an old hula hoop to make a hoop skirt frame and decorating the skirt with hand-sewn plastic details.

"I cut out 39 sea creatures from food wrappers and mylar balloons and sewed them onto the train of the dress," Gretta explained. "I collected fruit packaging netting and sewed them onto a belt, and I liked how it represented the big fish nets that can end up littering the ocean. It was my first fashion show and I was so ex-

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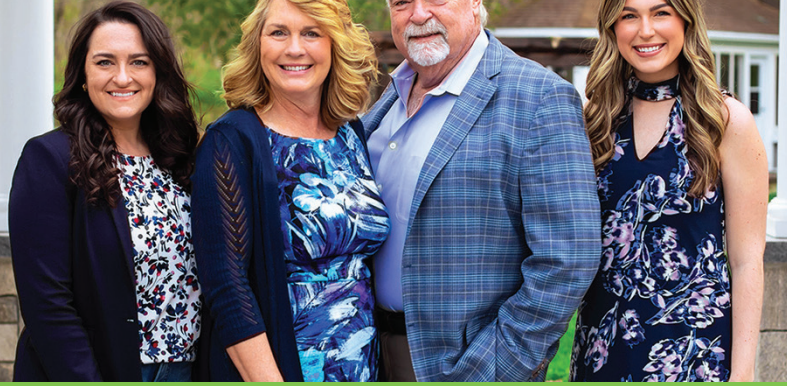
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Andover Earns Sustainability Honor, Plans Lighting Upgrades

By Toriana Williams

The Andover Board of Selectmen’s Oct. 6 meeting covered a broad mix of infrastructure updates, community projects and financial planning – and ended with recognition of the town’s newest achievement: Sustainable CT Bronze Certification

Sustainable CT Bronze Certification
In a major milestone, Town Administrator Eric Anderson announced that Andover has been officially certified at the Bronze Level by Sustainable CT, a statewide program recognizing municipal progress toward environmental and community sustainability.
Anderson said the award represented years of effort from the town’s Sustainable CT Committee, led by Cathy Palazzi.
Anderson credited the committee’s coordination with multiple departments and boards to document measurable improvements in 12 areas of municipal sustainability.
“It’s something that took a number of people over multiple departments in different areas of town to accomplish,” he said.
He noted that the certification will be cele-

brated at the Sustainable CT Awards Ceremony on Oct. 28 at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam and invited selectmen to attend.
Selectman Carol Lee proposed that the town formally recognize the committee at its next meeting. “That’s something very positive for the community that they undertook and got accomplished,” she said.
Animal Control Services to End
Anderson also informed selectmen the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECOG) will no longer provide animal control services to Andover beginning July 2026, citing financial losses and regional limitations.
Anderson explained the regional council is “legally obligated to supply it for towns in the NECOG region, but we’re not actually in the region.” The 16 towns covered by NECOG are mostly in the northeast corner of the state, with Ashford and Chaplin being the towns closest to Andover.
Anderson told the board that building a local facility would be challenging and costly, due to updated state requirements for animal shelters.
“It would be very difficult,” he said. “We

would be looking at building a standalone animal control facility if we wanted to bring that in house.”
Anderson suggested the only practical alternative would be to partner with a neighboring municipality such as Vernon, Manchester or Coventry. The board instructed Anderson to continue exploring regional partnerships and report back with options in the coming months.
Library Lighting Project Approved
The board unanimously approved a \$4,556 contract with Lenco Electrical Contractors to install exterior lighting around the Andover Public Library, addressing long-standing safety concerns about the walkway. Anderson told the board the work was requested by the Library Commission, explaining that the new lights would improve visibility for patrons using the library after dark.
Lee asked whether the commission was still prioritizing the project, and Anderson confirmed that it remained important to them. “I’ve been putting this off for a while,” he added, noting that the request had been pending for nearly a year.
Monument Park Lighting on Hold
The selectmen also reviewed a proposal to upgrade lighting at the Veterans Monument Park, which would add LED uplights for each flagpole and lighting for the monuments. The estimated cost was \$3,617. Anderson explained that residents had complained the current setup failed to illuminate the flags properly, though he personally thought the area looked sufficient.
“It seems like it’s perfectly well illuminated to me,” he said, “but ... multiple people complain that the illumination on the flag isn’t right.”
Board members expressed mixed opinions, particularly over the cost. But Anderson said the proposal would add dedicated lights behind the monuments and re-aim the existing fixtures toward the stones themselves. He also shared that resident Joan Foran had offered to seek grant funding through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.
The board agreed to defer immediate action and revisit the project once grant options and additional design details were reviewed. Several

selectmen expressed interest in a broader lighting plan to enhance the bridge, Town Hall and the Monument Park area as a whole.
Capital Planning and Grant Funding Reviewed
The board then turned its attention to long-term planning. Anderson presented several capital and grant documents, outlining ongoing projects such as the Bunker Hill Bridge, Long Hill Bridge, recreational field improvements and Community Center renovations. The meeting documents outlined several millions of dollars in active and pending grants, including both state and federal sources.
Lee asked Anderson to create a historical record of all town grant funding, large and small. “I think it would be helpful for the community to see the level of grant funding that’s been obtained over the last six years,” she said. Anderson agreed to expand the spreadsheet to include smaller awards and provide it to the board.
Upcoming Tri-Board Meeting Set
Anderson reminded the board of a special Tri-Board meeting, between the boards of selectmen, finance and education, coming up Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m., in the community room. He confirmed that Board of Finance Chair Jed Larson would moderate the meeting.
Members agreed to ensure proper public posting and encouraged full attendance, calling it an important step in shaping the upcoming budget discussions.
Other Business and Executive Session
In closing, the board entered into executive session to discuss the Public Works Supervisor position and contract, later emerging to authorize Anderson to offer a selected candidate the role.
Before adjourning for the evening, public speakers commended the board’s transparency and praised the Sustainable CT achievement. Resident Dianne Grenier noted that “it shows that the town is doing something to address the issues that matter,” while resident and local Board of Education candidate Marcie Miner thanked officials for the volume of projects and grants completed in recent years.

Caregiver Support Group to Meet

The newly formed support group for caregivers will meet Thursday, Oct. 23, at 7 p.m., at Andover Public Library on Route 6.
This is the group’s fifth gathering and will highlight resources available from Colebrook Village in Hebron and Buckingham Heights in Glastonbury, as well as a “Show and Tell” segment where participants share handy tips, tools, or gadgets that assist in caregiving.
The meeting provides a space for individuals who are navigating the challenges, stresses, and rewards of caring for loved ones. This support group is designed to bring together caregivers who are traveling the same road, offering a space

to share experiences, learn about resources, and connect with others who understand firsthand the challenges of caregiving.
Participants will have the opportunity to discuss practical tips, tools, and strategies for daily caregiving, as well as gain insight into available resources. Whether you have recently stepped into the role of caregiver or have been providing care for years, this group aims to foster a sense of community, reassurance, and encouragement.
For more information, call co-host Dianne Grenier at 860-742-3033 or Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122.

Community & Senior Center Happenings

The Andover Community and Senior Center (ACSC) is open daily from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The lounge is open for cards, games and puzzles anytime, and coffee is always on. All are welcome. For all senior-related events, call the director at 860-798-6862. The center’s monthly newsletter is available on the Town of Andover website, www.andoverconnecticut.org.
Art Show: Friday, Oct. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m. It’s Opening Night at the Gallery. Make it a family night. Artist Kim Desrosiers will have her pieces on display for the entire month/
Travel in Time Club: Friday, Oct. 17, noon. This is an introduction to another intergenerational partnership with Andover Elementary School. Call Tess Grous to participate or for more information, at 860-798-6862. Light fare provided.
Field Trip: Pumpkintown, USA: Today,
Final Registration
The final Andover Youth Basketball registration session will be Monday, Oct. 13, from 6-8 p.m., in the community room of the Town Office Building. Registration forms are available on the town website; andoverconnecticut.org.
Coaches Wanted: Also, coaches are wanted for the program. Send your name, email address, telephone number, age group/grade, boy or girl team and if you are signing up as head coach or assistant on or before Oct. 11; via text message at 860-989-6988; or via email at clec@andoverct.org. Once all information is received, the coaches’ meeting will be scheduled.

10/10, 1 p.m. The trip is free, but call the center to sign up.
Food Pantry: Mondays Oct. 20 and 27. Transportation to Andover Congregational Church is available at 5 p.m. For more information on other available dates and times please contact Joan Soucy 860-208-3226.
Setback: Monday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m. Free. Contact Linda to reserve your ride.
Shopping Trips: Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Shop in Willimantic on 10/21, and in Manchester on 10/14 and 10/28. Transportation is available; contact Linda to reserve your ride.
Food Share Truck: Wednesday, Oct. 22, 8:30 a.m. Transportation to Andover Congregational Church is available; contact the center. For more information on other available dates and times please contact Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226.
Knitting: Wednesdays, Oct. 15, 22 and 29, 10:30 a.m. Transportation is available for this free program; call Linda to reserve your ride.
Bingo/Lunch: Wednesdays, Oct. 15 and 29, noon. Free. Light lunch and Prize Bingo to follow.
Lunch: Wednesday, Oct. 22, noon. Cost is \$5. Sign-up is highly suggested. Call Linda to reserve your ride.
Chair Massage with Linda: Wednesday, Oct. 15, 3:30–5:30 p.m. Cost is \$32. Appointments are 30 minutes. Sign-up is required—call Linda Derick at 860-655-4409.
Open Sew & Stitch: Thursdays, Oct. 16, 23 and 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Transportation is available; call Linda to reserve your ride.

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Election Day is less than a month away – and one of the dead giveaways is the reader’s forum section of the *Rivereast*. As it does every year around this time, the quantity of letters has increased. Substantially.

So substantially, in fact, that to accommodate all of them, we’re instituting some temporary schedule changes.

For the next three issues (the Oct. 17, 24 and 31 editions), the deadline for letters to the editor will be **Mondays at noon**. All letters must be received by that time in order to be included in that week’s paper. So, Republican and Democratic town committee chairs, take note, and spread the word. No exceptions will be made.

This change is only for letters, by the way. All the other emailed submissions – church listings, senior center news, press releases, etc. – will have the usual Tuesday noon deadline. And this change takes effect immediately – meaning this coming Monday. I realize for many of you it’s a holiday, whether you call it Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples’ Day. But we’ll be open for business, collecting letters – and waiting for yours. So don’t miss the deadline!

And speaking of letters to the editor: please remember that any letters to the editor that deal with national issues *must* have a specific local connection. Referring to other letter-writers is no longer sufficient. I realize I’ve been lenient about that in recent months, but it’s been getting out of hand lately. Unless there’s a **concrete, local** connection, your letter isn’t getting published. This time of year in particular, it’s not too tough to focus on matters of local concern. I have no interest in litigating national issues on the *Rivereast* letters

to the editor pages.

Have you received your flu or COVID shot yet? If the answer is no, there are several opportunities coming up for you to address this. The Chatham Health District is holding several vaccination clinics in *Rivereast*-land. Upcoming dates are:

10/10, 3-5 p.m., RHAM High School in Hebron; 10/15, 4-6 p.m., KOCO Childcare Center in East Hampton; 10/20, 9-11 a.m., Marlborough Senior Center; 10/21, 9-11 a.m., Russell Mercier Senior Center in Hebron; 10/22, 10 a.m.-noon, East Hampton Senior Center; 10/29, 3-5 p.m., Colchester Federated Church.

Chatham Health is partnering with Beacon Prescriptions to offer a variety of vaccines to the community. Flu and COVID-19 (ages 3+), RSV, shingles, and pneumococcal vaccines are available. Most major insurances are accepted, except Hospice and VA. For more information, visit ChathamHealth.org

People with questions can call 860-365-0884 or email info@chathamhealth.org.

This sounds like it could be an interesting program – particularly for bird-lovers. The Mattabesec Audubon Society is hosting a free program at the DeKoven Center, 27 Washington St. in Middletown, on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m.

Min Huang, a wildlife biologist for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, who also heads the Migratory Bird Program for the State of Connecticut, will discuss the decline in breeding bird populations since the 1980s.

Editor’s Desk continued on page 6

Bulletin Board

American poet Joyce Kilmer famously wrote in his best known poem, first published in 1913, “I think that I shall never see/A poem lovely as a tree.”

As a cultural boor, I am not a great fan of verse. I tend to consider poetry, along with opera, modern dance and similar offenses against my limited intellect, as uninvited annoyances imposed on me by artists who might know good wine from bad, but don’t have the foggiest idea of how to change a flat tire.

I do, however, have a soft spot for Joyce Kilmer, who joined the U.S. Army during World War I, went to France and was killed by a German sniper in the summer of 1918.

It seems to me that a poet who abandons wine-fueled, candle-lit “why are we here” musings in order to pick up a rifle and head off to war in hopes of making the world safe for democracy, deserves a little slack. I say this while remaining fully aware of the irony that had Kilmer taken shelter behind a tree, he might not have been shot during that terrible summer of 1918 along France’s Ourq River. But perhaps I am just being petty about the vagaries of Lady Fate.

Kilmer and his famous poem came to mind this week as I noticed that the leaves on the trees are not only changing color, they are beginning to fall—at least in my yard—in ever-increasing numbers. I like fall. I confess to being a dedicated “leaf peeper” who enjoys the colorful spectacle of changing leaves, the brisker temperatures, grinning pumpkins on front steps and the unique “feel”—for lack of a better word—of autumn.

As I see it, there are only two real problems with fall. First, it means winter is just around the corner. I don’t care much for winter and the older I get the less I care for it. Secondly, there’s this business with leaves.

Simply put, the damn things insist on falling off the trees.

This may be a financial bonanza for lawncare companies, but as far as I’m concerned it’s about as welcome as a driveway full of snow. They get all over my yard and have to be disposed of when I have much better things to do with my time. (My wife finds this claim hilarious, but I would argue that almost anything has to be a better thing to do with your time than spending hour after hour raking leaves.)

I do recall a time when leaves were fun. As kids (when somebody else was doing the raking) it was great fun to jump into big piles of leaves. Back in those days too, you could rake your leaves onto the side of the road and set them on fire. How much fun was that? Pyromania for the whole neighborhood and all perfectly legal! The wonderful aroma of burning leaves permeated the air for weeks as they all went up in smoke.

But all that fun also went up in smoke (figuratively at least) when the government decided that burning leaves created bad air quality and banned the practice, completely disregarding the cultural impact this would have on fall in New England. It also drastically altered my boyhood affection for fallen leaves.

I have learned in succeeding years to hate the things.

They litter my lawn. They blow under bushes and into gardens which are difficult to rake. They take up my valuable time (well, it’s valuable to me, anyway). And I don’t even get the satisfaction of putting the damn things to the torch just because a bunch of people I don’t even know might have trouble breathing the air.

And so we return to Joyce Kilmer, whose 1913 ode to trees has cemented his place in history and is even celebrated on the New Jersey Turnpike with a rest stop named in his honor.

While granting that Kilmer’s tribute was written when it was still okay to burn leaves and well before lawn care folks turned leaf removal into an industry capable of impoverishing those of us too lazy to raise a few blisters on our own behalf, I suggest it is time to add an updated verse to his legendary poem, which concludes that “only God can make a tree.” To this I would add:

“But if the Creator truly wanted to please/He wouldn’t allow leaves to fall from the trees.”

(Should the Jersey Turnpike Authority be looking to rename one of their rest stops, I can be contacted through this newspaper.)

Jim Hallas



Brooke and Cole Return!... Brooke and Cole, the two scarecrow residents of Colebrook Village have returned, once again, for the Halloween season, gracing the ‘Scarecrows on Main’ displays on Main Street for the month of October, as part of The Town Center Project to bring the town together for annual Harvest Fair, to be held on Saturday October 18. Colebrook Village in Hebron is a senior living facility where these two individuals seem to keep active!

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

Thanks to Ted’s Market

To the Editor:

In a recent press release about a celebration for the organizations who have received funding from the Andover Greater Together Community Fund, we neglected to mention the most generous donation of food from Ted’s Hometown Market in Hebron. For 51 years, Ted’s Market has been serving Hebron and surrounding towns, not just with groceries, plants, and flowers, but with a commitment to supporting nonprofit organizations.

Thank you, Todge Armata from Ted’s Market!
Suzanne Heise, Co-Chair
Andover Greater Together Community Fund

Supports Alannah Coshow

To the Residents of East Hampton:

Alannah Coshow is running as a candidate for our Town Council this November 4th. Alannah brings a host of attributes that make her the ideal candidate for this position. She has worked tirelessly for the Town of East Hampton for several years filling many jobs. Her impeccable attention to detail and honesty make her the perfect person for this position.

Please vote for Alannah on Nov. 4th.
Susan McCann – Middle Haddam

Vote for Dillon!

To the Editor:

I am writing to endorse John Dillon and urge all Portland voters to reelect him to the Portland Board of Selectmen. I have known John for over 30 years. I was active with John with Boy Scout Troop 49 and witnessed his dedication, leadership and caring as a scout leader. John’s credentials to continue serving on the Board of Selectmen are exceptional. His career of over 35 years with the State of Connecticut, serving as statewide program director for the Office of Child Support Services, as chairman of the Portland Board of Assessment Appeals, as a Portland Inland Wetlands commissioner, as well as being the recipient of the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award, make him someone who will serve and benefit the residents of Portland. Portland needs John’s expertise and knowledge going forward, especially dealing with school construction and town water plans that need to be completed. John and his wife Maura are lifetime residents and raised a family of three children in our town. He has shown dedication to detail in assisting the Board of Selectmen govern the Town of Portland.

Please allow him to continue his service by casting your vote for John on election day!
David O’Brien – Portland

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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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.

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

Corrections

In the letters to the editor section in the Oct. 3 *Rivereast*, Catherine Magaldi Lewis was identified as chair of the Andover Democratic Town Committee. This is not true; while she used to be chair, she has resigned from the role.

Also in last week's *Rivereast*, there was a letter to the editor suggesting Andover resident Marcie Miner was behind the anonymous flyer about the Andover school budget that ran in the May 2 edi-

tion. This is not correct; there is no evidence she was behind the flyer, and Miner denies involvement.

The *Rivereast* regrets the errors.



Supports Shilosky

To the Editor:

We are writing this letter to support Art Shilosky to fill a position on the Board of Selectmen for Colchester. Art has served this fine town for many years, always with the goal of doing what is best for Colchester and those of us who live here. Not only does he have experience and knowledge, but his integrity is beyond reproach.

He has proven he is able to put politics aside and work well with others. Art will be a great asset on this board. He has our vote and we hope he has yours.

Carol Marchigiano and Bill Grabek
Colchester

It's Been an Honor

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Hebron's been home to me for 45 years, and if there's one thing I've learned – especially in my time as vice chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission – it's that folks around here truly care. We care about our town, our neighbors, and the land we're lucky enough to live on. That love runs deep, and it shows.

Over the years, I've had the good fortune to be involved in many corners of town life. From serving on School Building Committees, Hebron Troop 28, the Hebron Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee, the Hebron Coalition for Diversity and Equity, the Town Center Project, and the Democratic Town Committee – I've rolled up my sleeves wherever I could to help make Hebron the best it can be.

Professionally, I've spent nearly 50 years as a licensed landscape architect and nationally certified urban planner, helping communities become more livable and sustainable. I've always believed that thoughtful planning can make a real difference in people's lives. That's why I want to keep using what I know to protect what makes Hebron special – its natural beauty, its small-town charm, and its strong sense of community.

One of my biggest hopes is to see our Town Center grow into a more vibrant and welcoming place – full of life, with spaces where folks can gather, share ideas, support local businesses, and celebrate what makes Hebron unique.

I'm proud of what we've accomplished so far, and I'd be honored to keep serving our town. With your support, I'll continue working alongside our boards and commissions to keep Hebron moving in the right direction.

Thanks for reading and thank you for being part of this great town. I'd be grateful for your vote – please vote Sousa for Planning and Zoning.

Warmly,
Dave Sousa – Hebron

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

Portland BOS

To the Editor:

As an executive recruiter, I've had the privilege of presenting Vincent Pitruzzello to numerous organizations over the years. I know firsthand that he is a highly sought-out, respected leader and someone who has achieve meaningful results. He has a passion for excellence that is evident to anyone who has ever met him.

Vincent is the real deal: principled, capable, and deeply committed to public service. That's why I'm excited to endorse him for a seat on the Portland Board of Selectmen this November. We need someone with proven leadership and financial oversight experience to represent all of us and make the right decision. I encourage everyone to support Vincent Pitruzzello for Board of Selectmen in November.

James Long – Portland

Proud to Run in Marlborough

To the Editor:

My name is Emily Collins and I have had the privilege to call Marlborough my home for the past 2 1/2 years. As a newcomer, the community has been nothing short of welcoming and I have been amazed by the level of engagement that our public service employees and elected officials have put into the thoughtful care of our town planning.

I am proud to announce my candidacy for the Board of Assessment Appeals in the upcoming local election on Nov. 4. I have quickly come to love this community and would be honored to have the opportunity to give back by maintaining trust between residents and local government. I am committed to listening to the needs and concerns of all constituents and reviewing appeals with integrity and fairness with regard to property assessments.

I am also proud to endorse the entire Democratic slate running for town offices this year. Our slate brings experience, compassion, and a shared vision for a better Marlborough. Our slate carries a strong and diverse skill set among our candidates.

I currently serve as the director of development at a local nonprofit that serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I additionally volunteer my time with local wildlife rehabilitation groups. I hold a master of public policy from UConn with a concentration in nonprofit management. All of these roles demonstrate my commitment to inclusion and providing a voice for those needing support.

I hope to earn your support this election season and look forward to getting to know you, and the community as a whole, as your advocate.

Sincerely,
Emily Collins, Candidate
Marlborough Board of Assessment Appeals

'Peachy Keen' Thanks

To the Editor:

The 45th annual East Hampton Art Association Art Show – “The Peachy Keen” – was held on Sept. 27th. The show featured amazing art, great attendance, and perfect weather! The wonderful peach shortcake was enjoyed by many. We want to give a very special thank-you to all the organizers, the exhibitors, and the members who attended.

The Congregational Church administration accommodated us by allowing advertising and exhibiting on their lawn, opening their doors at 6:30 a.m., providing restrooms, letting us store our peach shortcake in their refrigerators, and, as always, all free of charge!

We thank all our sponsors who supported us with their donations which pay for our artist demonstrators and art activities throughout the year. Thank you also to Serra & Associates, LLC who chose two paintings, one by Carole Jeffries, and one by Jean Watson for the “Purchase Awards”. We extend our thanks to the judge for our show, Rebecca Moran, she was thoughtful, knowledgeable and thorough in her judging. The winners of the 45th annual East Hampton Art Association Show were:

1st prize – Elizabeth Sennett; 2nd prize – Irene Zytka; 3rd prize – Kristie Blanchard; First Honorable Mention – (10-Year-Old) Fiona Bartlett; Second Honorable Mention – Jim Anderson; Third Honorable Mention – Brian Hurt.

With gratitude,
The East Hampton Art Association
Leslie O'Kelly, Communications Secretary
(representing the members of EHAA)

Municipal Elections Matter

To the Editor:

Exercising your right to vote is one of the most important aspects of a democracy. In a local municipal election, communities often experience lower voter turnout. But this is the one election that impacts everything that happens in our communities and our homes. The individuals you choose to elect make a difference.

Colchester First Selectman Bernie Dennler has demonstrated in the last two years his skills, vision, and experience in this position from addressing the financial crisis Colchester faced to securing over \$5 million in grants to improving our infrastructure (roads, sewer and water, Bacon/Rec athletic complex, renovation of Youth Center with much more planned). Denise Turner and I have worked side by side with Bernie bringing our knowledge and years of service on the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to the table. We're always asking questions and reviewing information to make knowledgeable decisions.

The BOS works in collaboration with the Board of Finance (BOF). Under the leadership of Karen Belding, the BOF returned to a functioning board after the chaos and financial instability of the previous administration.

To keep the town moving forward we need to elect these experienced people to the BOF: Jillian Vinci, incumbent, has worked in the finance industry for over 25 years and is an expert on insurance. Sean Gillespie, our current Colchester treasurer, is a 20+ year IT Architect specializing in medical record systems and financial software

integrations. Krista Kardys, currently serving on the Board of Assessment Appeals, has been a registered nurse for over 30 years (including serving in Colchester schools) and an EMT volunteer in Rocky Hill and Marlborough prior to that. These are three knowledgeable and talented individuals who deserve your vote this Nov. 4th.

The progress and calm that Colchester is experiencing is due to the hard work of all of us to put our Town on the right track and move us forward. Municipal elections matter and we ask for your support on Nov. 4th for First Selectman Bernie Dennler, Selectman Denise Turner and me (Selectman Rosemary Coyle), BOF Jillian Vinci, Sean Gillespie, and Krista Kardys and the entire Democratic team found on Row A. Colchester is our home and our community, and we care what happens here.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

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

Voting Maruschock

To the Editor:

On Nov. 4, I will be casting my vote for Kim Maruschock for Portland BOE. Kim has been my neighbor for over 25+ years and has raised three children who attended Portland schools while she worked as a special preschool education teacher in Cromwell.

Kim has been active in the community as a former board member of the baseball league, parent supporting the Portland wrestling team and as a participant or volunteer in the 5K run each year. As a 3rd year member of the BOE Kim draws from her 25+ years as an educator, parent, and taxpayer to help determine the best financial solutions to maintain quality education for each student and minimize taxpayer burden in Portland.

Please join me in voting to re-elect Kim Maruschock for Board of Education, row A.

Donald Roy – Portland

DPW - 'Plan B' - Revisited

To the Editor:

I did not support the Board of Selectmen (BOS) in asking us to approve \$1,580,000 for the design and construction documents of the new facility, with the first \$730,000 for a preliminary design and cost estimate of the new DPW, only at the original Old Colchester Road site (OCR). There has been no discussion, nor allowance for an alternative, or a 'Plan B.'

In 2017, the town presented a feasibility study, complete with schematic designs, on the construction of a new DPW facility on the Horton Boulevard Extension (17 Kinney Rd.) property. It had an estimated 2018 cost of \$8,274,453. The design and estimated costs included the Main DPW Facility, Cold Storage and The Salt Storage buildings. The site acquisition cost of 17 Kinney Rd. (\$600,000) was not included. That cost has been expended and the 80-plus acre site is owned by the town for town use, including a then-stated possibility of a new DPW site.

What is sorely needed for the future DPW Referendum is a 'Plan B' comparison of the construction of the facility. Esitmates not only for the OCR

See Letters, page 6

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

site but also revised costing of the already-exisitng design of the facility to be located on 17 Kinney Rd. My fear is that without a lower cost ‘Plan B,’ the entire project might be too expensive and get voted down, bringing us right back to square one. Let’s look at some of the pluses for the 17 Kinney Road site (Horton Property) not offered at the OCR site:

1. Town owns the property, no need for additional land (Eversource) as discussed for OCR.
2. No need to move existing DPW functions during construction (as needed at OCR).
3. 3-phase power is available for mechanicals and required for future EV vehicles (not at OCR).
4. Town water, no need for new well (as needed at OCR).
5. Town sewer, no need for new septic (as needed at OCR).
6. No need for separate tank storage for contaminated waste from truck washing (as needed at OCR).
7. Natural gas is nearby (not at OCR).
8. The site is basically flat. (OCR has very challenging, hilly terrain.)
9. No need to move or relocate or rebuild the Transfer Station (as per OCR).
10. Bulky waste can remain at OCR.
11. Possibly keep the existing salt shed at OCR. Plan B would result in substantial lower costs!

David Foster/AIA
Hebron

Thank You, Lions Club

To the Editor:
The staff and members of the East Hampton Senior Center would like to express our deep gratitude to the East Hampton Lions Club for a recent donation of \$3,600 to be used to create new technology and coffee stations at the senior center. We are lucky indeed to have such generous and supportive civic organizations in town like the East Hampton Lions Club, who are so willing to help our Center in so many ways.

Sincerely,
Holly Marrero, Director
East Hampton Senior Center

Walck, Not Talk

To the Editor:
Why am I running for a seat on the Board of Finance, you ask? Here is my answer. Agree with it or not, I am being frank and honest with the voters of East Hampton.
I love money – saving in particular. I don’t like spending money on upward spiraling taxes and little “bang for the buck.” Those two sentences sum up my reason for spending more evenings at the Town Hall, pushing papers across my desk, tearing my hair out, yet feeling as though I may accomplish something for the folks of this town.
My slogan is “Walck, not talk.” And to that I am true.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

Moving Forward, Responsibly

Dear Colchester Neighbors:
Over the past three years, your taxes have jumped 12%. The only reason they didn’t climb even higher this year is because Democrats dipped into the town’s reserve fund – a one-time election-year gimmick that fixes nothing.
Meanwhile, critical issues are piling up. At Bacon Academy, water is pouring into hallways. The school’s roof replacement estimate is \$6 million – but some experts warn it could reach \$20 million once structural repairs are included. We’ve already been burned before: the A/C project was underestimated, residents paid more, and we still won’t have a working auditorium system.
Now, the first selectman has asked the Athletic Complex Building Committee to plan a \$12 million project -- a number pulled from thin air, without factoring in the roof crisis. That means Colchester could face \$30 million in capital costs, with no coordinated plan from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, or Board of Finance.
I recently spoke with a neighbor whose property tax bill is higher than their mortgage. That’s unacceptable. We need to invest in our schools and town – but we need leadership that plans, budgets, and delivers efficiently.
I do want to acknowledge that Colchester is moving in the right direction in some areas. Issues

in the town finance department have stabilized, and the RecPlex fields are looking better than ever. These improvements, however, represent less than 1% of the overall tax increases—and they don’t address the major projects looming ahead.
As a citizen, I authored the Tolland Plan, which proposed practical ways to reduce school costs while increasing the number of classroom teachers. This shows that we can strengthen education without overburdening taxpayers.
As a candidate for the Board of Finance, I am committed to bringing accountability, discipline, and common sense back to Colchester’s finances. Together, we can complete essential projects responsibly, strengthen our schools, and protect taxpayers’ wallets.
I ask for your vote on Nov. 4th — so we can finally stop the gimmicks, get real planning, improve affordability, and continue to move Colchester forward.

Sincerely,
Michael Dubreuil – Colchester
Republican Candidate for Board of Finance

Please Use Your Voices

Dear Portland Fathers and Mothers (and anyone else that cares for children):
In the 1970s, the American Bald Eagle was facing extinction due in large part to a pesticide that was the thinning the eaglet shells. When the problem was identified, we banned that chemical, but it took many decades for the eagle population to rebound. If we were to eliminate processed foods in schools, change the start times to what experts suggest in order to maintain healthy sleep hygiene for older students, and if we started teaching foreign language instruction k-4 tomorrow, it would take a decade or more for society to reap the benefits of these changes, but that is not a good reason not to act.
Like the eaglets who need strong shells to hatch, children need strong foundations to thrive. As a society we need to do our part in the schools; not every child is blessed with a nurturing homelife. I care because I care for the less-blessed, but at the very least, we all need to care because other people’s children impact other people’s children.
I am an optimistic person, a faith-filled person, but faith without works is dead. I do not know how to make the above changes happen. I have told everyone I know that we need to act upon these changes now, but no one is listening to me. Please use your voices to help.
The Secret Service was not adequately able to protect President Trump. I have the utmost respect for the Secret Service, but my point is we cannot solely depend on 13 police officers to protect the children of this town or any town. We have to do our part. The changes I am proposing are not immediate gratification fixes; it will take decades to reap the benefits.
People will debate from now until eternity on

gun reform laws; I am not weighing in on that here, but I will say, regardless of the gun laws, those determined will always find a way. I am trying to change the “those determined” population, so that children become determined to contribute to society instead of being determined to perform unthinkable acts. The above changes will positively impact some children on the cusp. We need to take action. Fathers and mothers are the most powerful mortal advocates for their children.

Kind Regards,
Debbie Law – Portland

Keep Bridget!

To the Editor:
The Board of Finance responsibility is to oversee, protect and make recommendations on behalf of the East Hampton taxpayers. Bridget McLennan has the tenacity and discipline to continue in her role on the Board of Finance. Despite all, she rises above the fray to keep the interest of the taxpayers dollars first and foremost. While others would prefer to rubber stamp, not Bridget, she questions researches and always represents you, the taxpayer.
Do not let the Democrats gain control of the Board of Finance and your wallet! Bridget will continue to protect your hard-earned money, question and keep your best interest at hand! Please join me in reelecting Bridget to the Board of Finance!
Laurel Ranson
Member of the East Hampton Republican
Town Committee

**Investing in Hebron’s
Next Generation**

Dear Hebron Neighbors:
My name is Toni Livernois, and I am running for the Hebron Board of Education. My husband and I moved to Hebron in 2018 and we are grateful to call this community our home.
My background is rooted in education, coaching, and health care management. Each of these roles has strengthened my ability to listen, collaborate, and bring people together to reach shared goals. Over the years, I’ve been actively involved in schools and community initiatives from supporting classroom programs and fundraisers to helping with events and service projects. These experiences have deepened my commitment to ensuring our schools remain strong for every child and family.
If elected, I will focus on keeping our schools student-centered, ensuring that every child has the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. I believe in maintaining high expectations, encouraging open communication, fostering strong family-school partnerships, and promoting transparency in decision-making. Most importantly, I want our schools to prepare students not only for academic success but also for life, equipping them with critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
I am eager to serve, to listen, and to work together to make sure Hebron’s schools remain a source of pride for us all. I respectfully ask for your support and your vote.

Sincerely,
Toni Livernois
Candidate for Hebron Board of Education

Winning BOE Team in EH

To the Editor:
For the last two years, it has been an absolute pleasure to serve on the East Hampton Board of Education under chair Nancy Kohler. With her leadership, the board has navigated challenges, hired a new superintendent, and worked with families to celebrate and improve our schools. Significantly, the members have done so with civility, with almost everyone putting aside political affiliations in favor of cooperation and success.
I am delighted that Nancy is seeking reelection and encourage the community to support her on Election Day. The best news: she’s joined on the ticket by two fellow Democrats ready to make an impact in our community and work hard for students, educators, and families.
Sarah Strange brings great perspective to the Board as a parent of a young child and with a background in finance. She is inquisitive and asks excellent questions about policy and how tax dollars are spent. Sarah supports excellent education for all students and will prove to be an advocate for ensuring opportunity across East Hampton.
Corinne Clark-Barney has spent a career in every aspect of education. She has served in the classroom as a teacher, been a building principal in Hartford Public Schools, and now serves as a district administration leader. Corinne’s background is impeccable and she is ready to deliver for East Hampton schools.
Nancy, Sarah, and Corinne all share the drive to continue bipartisan cooperation on the Board of Education. They are data-driven in decision-making, understand that a true education extends to the arts, athletics, and extracurriculars. They represent a winning team who will work well with incumbent and newly elected Board members. I look forward to serving alongside them.
Please join me in voting for Nancy, Sarah, and Corinne, as well as the entire Row A of East Hampton Democrats, on Tuesday, Nov. 4.
Sincerely,
Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton
Note: Engelhardt is a member of the Erast Hampton Board of Education but is writing as an individual.

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

He will review potential causes along with short and long-term actions that can be taken to try to reverse the alarming trends.

If the love bug bit at the recent family reunion.....well, you may have to go out of state to address it.
That’s because, as of Oct. 1, you can no longer marry your first cousin in Connecticut. Yes, believe it or not, it had previously been legal. It was already against the law in the state for anyone to marry his or her parent, grand-

parent, child, grandchild, sibling, parent’s sibling, sibling’s child, stepparent, or stepchild.
Marrying your first cousin is still legal in 15 states – including nearby New York and Rhode Island. So, any cousins reading this who want to take their relationship to the next level, you still have options. Just not in Connecticut.

See you next week – and don’t forget the new deadline for letters!!

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Stop Kicking the Can!
To the Editor:
So let me get this straight! Town Council Chairman Markham wants to stack the deck of the proposed Firehouse Steering Committee with three Town Council members regardless of whether they win re-election on Nov. 4th?
And he wants to give the committee 12 months to provide a recommendation for the new fire house versus Mr. Hintz's suggested 6 months?
Not necessary! Discussions about a new firehouse have been going on for years. Republicans Ted Hintz, Darin Hurne, Eric Peterson, Alannah Coshow and Timmy Feegel are all experienced problem solvers with a keen eye toward savings. They will get the job done swiftly and correctly.
Our firefighters deserve better.
Vote Republican on Nov. 4 at the high school.
Sincerely,
Melissa H. Engel – East Hampton
Note: Engel is chair of the East Hampton Republican Town Committee.

Letter to John Thomas
To the Editor:
After attending a debate held at the North Woods clubhouse, between the two candidates for Colchester first selectman, I wrote the below email to the Republican candidate John Thomas. FYI: I have been registered for many years as Unaffiliated; I vote for the candidate I feel will best serve the community's interest, not the party affiliation. After several days of contemplation regarding my thoughts regarding the debate, I have decided to share the original email which I sent to Mr. Thomas.
Dear Mr. Thomas:
Last night I attended the debate which was held at the North Woods Clubhouse between you and Bernie Dennler.
I was pleased that the debate was civil.
As to the question regarding pursuing obtaining a department store for Colchester, I was not pleased with the condescending way you responded to an honest inquiry. First of all, the question was in regard to a department store, NOT a big box store! North Woods is an over-55 community, but many of the residents are in their 70s and 80s. I, myself, am 87. You stated you enjoy the 30-minute drive to a department store. The 30-minute drive is not that easy for those of us with an advanced age, with the difficulty of driving after dark or when there is precipitation of any kind.
I do appreciate and understand the possible negative impact of additional traffic on our roads. Colchester is spread out and has large land areas. I believe a suitable location for a medium-size store such as TJ Maxx, would not be difficult to find and have minimal impact on our roads.
I will close by saying I do believe that someday a medium size store will be in Colchester. I hope I am still on this planet to benefit from it.
Sincerely,
Antoinette Sirois – Colchester

We Hear You!
To the Editor:
I, Alannah Danaher Coshow, am honored to be running for Town Council with the Republican team including Ted Hintz, Daren Hure, Eric Peterson, and Tim Feegel. My running mates are talented, hardworking individuals who are dedicated to making our community a better place for everyone.
We are running for Town Council because we believe in the power of community and the importance of local government. Our town is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family, but there are always ways we can improve and grow. We are committed to working tirelessly to ensure that our town continues to thrive and that every resident can succeed.
One of our top priorities is to ensure that our local government is transparent and accountable. We believe that every resident has the right to know how their tax dollars are being spent and to have a say in the decisions that affect our community. We will work to increase transparency and communication between the town council and the residents, so that everyone feels informed and involved. We're listening! We hear you!
We are also committed to improving our town's infrastructure. This includes not only maintaining our roads but pursuing the fire house building project. We will work WITH the Board of Finance, not behind their backs, to secure funding for these important projects and ensure that they advance efficiently and effectively.
It's important for someone to take a stand against ever-increasing taxes to ensure that individuals and businesses are not overburdened. We will toe that line and bring spending under control to ensure your economic stability.
Thank you all for your support. Together, we can make our town an even better place to live. We ask for your trust, and we promise to work hard to represent you with integrity and dedication.
Let's make our town the best it can be!
Vote Row B on Nov. 4th.
Alannah Danaher Coshow
Candidate, Town Council
East Hampton
Note: Coshow is also vice chair of the East Hampton Board of Finance, but is speaking as an individual.

Letter to the Editor – Ted Hintz
To the Editor:
My name is Ted Hintz, and I am running for a seat on the East Hampton Town Council. I have lived here my entire life, am raising my family here, and have run a small business in Portland for over 30 years. As a fourth-generation East Hampton resident, I care deeply about preserving the character of our town while making it affordable for families and businesses to thrive.
Our community is at a crossroads. Recently, the governor came to East Hampton and encouraged more low-income and affordable housing. While we respect the conversation, what residents are really concerned about is overdevelopment – projects that threaten the character of our town and place heavy burdens on our schools and infrastructure. As Republicans, we believe decisions about our community should be made by our community.
That is why I am running: to bring transparency, accountability, and affordability back to the forefront of town government.
-- Transparency in our budgets and decision-making, so taxpayers know exactly where their dollars go – whether to the Board of Education, emergency services, or town departments.
-- Accountability in planning for growth, ensuring that residents—not politicians—shape the future of East Hampton.
-- Affordability for families and businesses, because Connecticut's taxes are driving generational families out of our state, and that must stop.
I want to see East Hampton remain a community where families can stay, seniors can retire with dignity, and businesses can grow without being taxed out of existence.
On Nov. 4th, I ask for your support to keep East Hampton affordable, accountable, and strong.
Sincerely,
Ted Hintz Jr.
Candidate, East Hampton Town Council

Support for Portland's Democratic Team
To the Editor:
As someone who had the privilege of serving as Portland's town clerk for nearly four decades, I've seen many boards and many leaders come and go. Over the years, I've learned that good local government depends on people who listen carefully, act with integrity, and always put the best interests of the community first.
That's why I am proud to support the four Democratic candidates for the Portland Board of Selectmen: Andrea Alfano, John Dillon, Dave Kuzminski, and Jim Tripp.
Each of these individuals brings valuable experience and a deep commitment to Portland. Andrea Alfano has proven herself to be a thoughtful, dedicated leader with a steady hand and a genuine concern for people. Dave Kuzminski's knowledge of economic development and his tireless volunteerism have made a lasting difference in our community. Jim Tripp's experience in management and town government ensures that decisions are made responsibly and transparently. And I am especially proud to endorse my son, John Dillon – someone who understands both Portland's traditions and its potential for the future.
Together, this team combines experience, fresh perspective, and integrity. They are collaborative problem-solvers who will continue to move Portland forward while respecting the values that make this town special.
After all my years in Town Hall, I know that good government doesn't happen by accident – it happens when capable, caring people step up to serve. Andrea, John, Dave, and Jim are exactly that kind of people.
I hope you will join me in voting for them on Election Day.
Bernadette Dillon
Former Portland Town Clerk

Wholeheartedly Supports Sousa
To Whom It May Concern:
I am writing to offer my strong support for David V. Sousa's candidacy and continued service to the Town of Hebron. As a lifelong resident, dedicated public servant, and highly respected professional in the fields of urban planning and landscape architecture, David brings an exceptional combination of local commitment and technical expertise that is rare and deeply valuable to our community.
David has lived in Hebron for over four decades, raising his family here and actively contributing to the civic life of our town. As vice chair of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission, he has spent the past four years working to update and modernize local regulations, helping streamline permitting while promoting both economic development and affordable housing. His leadership on these issues has demonstrated a clear vision for Hebron's future – one that is inclusive, sustainable, and grounded in smart planning.
His role in articulating the rationale for denying the DG Market proposal in our town center highlights his thoughtful approach to balancing growth with long-term community goals. David is not only concerned with development, but with ensuring that it aligns with Hebron's unique character and values.
David's service extends far beyond one commission. He has been a committed member of the Democratic Town Committee and the Hebron Coalition for Diversity and Equity. He has volunteered on numerous town committees, from school building projects to the Greater Together Community Fund, always bringing integrity, insight, and a spirit of collaboration.
Professionally, David is a nationally certified urban planner and licensed Landscape Architect with over 46 years of experience. Through his
See Letters, page 16

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RE9-26-25

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Firefighters Hold Annual Chicken Barbecue

By Toriana Williams

On a crisp and sunny fall afternoon, the Marlborough Fire Department hosted its 69th annual Chicken Barbecue – a beloved local tradition that has brought together residents, first responders and families for nearly seven decades.

The event, held Sunday, Oct. 5, blended camaraderie, gratitude and community pride in what Fire Captain Todd Cohen, chair of the event, described as one of the department’s most meaningful days of the year.

“We are a very close family of firefighters and EMTs that answer the call for our community any day or night, 365 days a year,” said Cohen.

The annual barbecue has long served as both a fundraiser and a reminder of the volunteer spirit that sustains Marlborough’s emergency services. According to Cohen, the department’s strength lies not just in its emergency response capabilities, but in the bonds among its members and their shared commitment to service.

“We have a strong foundation of tradition and camaraderie within our members to be able to run this event together for so many years,” he said.

Preparations for the event began months in advance, with firefighters and emergency medical technicians contributing time and energy to make sure the day ran smoothly. Cohen emphasized that the barbecue’s success is the result of genuine teamwork and dedication. “The members rally and contribute their time to complete a common goal for over two months of preparation which encompasses true team work.”

Fire Marshal Joe Asklar noted that the event featured 4,000 pounds of chicken cooked to perfection, serving a total of 2,520 dinners to residents and visitors throughout the day. The massive effort took careful coordination be-

tween dozens of volunteers, many of whom balanced their regular emergency response duties with the planning and execution of the barbecue. Asklar praised Cohen’s leadership in bringing everything together.

“He just did a magnificent job,” Asklar said.

Each year, hundreds of residents visit the firehouse to pick up their meals, connect with first responders and celebrate the spirit of community that the event represents. For the firefighters and EMTs who often face life-and-death situations on the job, the day offers a rare and welcome chance to simply enjoy the company of their neighbors.

“Our firefighters and EMTs who respond to emergency calls are often in high stress, dangerous environments and we see people having some of their worst days,” Cohen explained. “So to have this tranquil fall day, beautiful blue skies and the same ... people come to our fire house smiling and happy with their families to have a meal - those moments are why we do it.”

That sense of connection – seeing the same people who emergencies they’ve responded to now smiling and enjoying themselves – underscores why the event is so special for department members.

“To see so many familiar faces of the community retrieving their meals, enjoying the day and meeting the members, that’s what makes it an honor for me to be part of the Marlborough Fire Department,” Cohen said. The barbecue’s longevity is a testament to both the department’s enduring spirit and the town’s ongoing support. Local businesses, town officials and law enforcement all contribute to the event’s success. Cohen made a point to express gratitude for the wide network of people who help make the day pos-

sible.

“An event like this wouldn’t be possible without all the combined support of the Fire Department’s strong leaders, the local businesses who contributed endlessly, our closely-knit town management and law enforcement who always stand by our side,” he shared.

For many Marlborough residents, the annual barbecue is more than just a meal – it’s a piece of local heritage. The event has grown from a small gathering into a cherished community fixture, continuing to unite generations of residents and volunteers. Families who attend each year can experience the sense of warmth and continuity that the event provides, while newer residents can get a firsthand glimpse of the town’s volunteer-driven spirit.

Although the fire department’s mission is rooted in emergency response, events like the barbecue highlight another equally important aspect of public service: fostering trust and connection. The department’s volunteers not only protect lives and property but also help build community resilience through relationships and shared experiences.

This year’s turnout reflected a deep connection. Attendees filled the firehouse grounds, enjoying freshly grilled chicken, traditional sides and the chance to meet the firefighters who serve their town. Smiles, laughter and handshakes replaced sirens and flashing lights for the day, reminding everyone that the fire de-

MCNS ‘Truck or Treat’ Family Event

Marlborough Cooperative Nursery School will hold its annual Truck or Treat event Saturday, Oct. 18, from 2-5 p.m., at 35 South Main St.

Kids can explore trucks of all kinds, enjoy themed activities, and of course — trick-or-treat in costume. The event will also feature food trucks, a raffle, and a bake sale with homemade treats.

Admission is \$5 per person or \$20 per family (cash or Venmo preferred). All proceeds directly support the programs and activities at MCNS. Additional donations are also accepted via Venmo @MCNS-COOP.

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.

Early Voting: 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 El-

Winter Clothing Drive Has Started!

As the cold weather approaches and you start pulling out your cold weather clothes, please consider donating any new or gently used coats, jackets, gloves, mittens, or blankets that you will not be using or that your children have outgrown to the annual winter clothes drive.

Clothes will be collected now through Nov. 8 and can be dropped off in drop box at St. John Fisher Church (basement) and Richmond Memorial Library (lobby).

There will also be a collection on the Marlborough town green on Saturday, Nov. 8, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 8 p.m.

The drive is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Marlborough Council 15734.

partment’s strength extends beyond emergency calls.

Cohen’s reflections captured both the practical and emotional heart of the event. His works painted a picture of a department where teamwork, respect and gratitude runs deep. Whether preparing for emergencies or preparing thousands of barbecue plates, Marlborough’s firefighters show the same level of dedication and unity.

As the department looks ahead to its 70th annual barbecue next year, Cohen hopes to have the strong, continued support from “our beautiful town of Marlborough.” The department’s members carry forward nearly seven decades of tradition – one built on service, sacrifice and the enduring ties of community. Cohen’s message summed up that legacy perfectly: the barbecue is not just about food or fundraising, but about shared purpose and appreciation.

In his words, the day represents “true teamwork” and the reward of seeing “members and their families ... sitting down for our traditional breakfast at 6 a.m. the day of the [barbecue] as if it were Christmas morning.”

Even as the grills have cooled and the crowds have dispersed, the spirit of the Marlborough Fire Department’s 69th Annual Chicken barbecue continues to burn bright - a reminder of what can be accomplished when a small town comes together in support of those who protect it.

Richmond Memorial Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, has announced the following items of interest. **Registration required for all programs unless noted.** For more information, full program descriptions or to register, call 860-295-6210 or visit richmondlibrary.info.

Babytime: There will be a baby-centered storytime with songs, rhymes, lap bounces, and a story on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. through Dec. 19. For children up to 24 months, with their caregivers. Held in the Storytime Room.

Pajama Storytime with Yoga: Thursday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m., for children of all ages. Wear comfy

New Watercolor Classes at Arts Center

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., will offer a pair of watercolor classes on Saturday, Nov. 15.

The first class will be an Intro to Watercolor class, running from 2-5 p.m. This is a class for a beginner or a refresher for a slightly more experienced painter. Demonstration of watercolor techniques and emphasis on brush strokes in painting lemons and leaves from reference photos will be a fun way to build skills in this medium.

The second class, Watercolor and Illustration, will be held also on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This class is designed for adults with an understanding of basic watercolor tech-

niques and will focus on building skills to accomplish a completed painting. Using graphic illustration, anemones in a vase will provide a fun way to learn to paint with the tip of a brush.

Both classes are taught by Marika Hahn an illustrator from New York City who creates nature inspired art with watercolor. She is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology and has a beautiful and varied portfolio including books and magazines. To see examples of her work go to marikahahn.com.

Each class is \$65. To register go to www.marlborougharts.org. Online registration is preferred but mail in is also possible. For more information call 860-467-6353.

Parks and Rec. Programs

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

Special Event: Pumpkin Decorating Contest: For ages 4-13. Saturday, Oct. 25, 10 a.m.-noon, at Marlborough Senior Center. Bring a pumpkin and decorate it at the senior center. Prizes will be awarded for scariest, funniest and most original pumpkin. All decorating supplies will be provided.

Youth Programs: Kids Fall Yoga: For ages 4-10. Tuesdays through Oct. 28, 5:15-6 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Each week, embark on a fall-themed “yoga adventure.” There is a \$17 drop-in fee.

Crayola Imagine Arts Academy – Stinky, Shrinky, Shiny Artventures!: For grades K-6. Tuesdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oct. 21-Dec. 9. The projects in this program will inspire children’s creativity as they experiment with a variety of art forms, tools, and techniques. Fee is \$144/residents, \$149/non-residents. No class on Nov. 4 and 11.

Mad Science – Secret Agent Lab: Thursdays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Oct. 16-Dec. 4, at MES. Sharpen your secret agent skills and discover how chemistry and the science of forensics can come to the aid of a secret agent. Identify and collect evi-

dence – from fingerprints to tracks to trash. No class Nov. 13 and 27. Fee: \$144/resident, \$149/non-resident.

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

Adult Programs: Beginner & Intermediate Tai Chi: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 12:45-1:45 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

Zumba – Fall Session: Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee: \$50/residents, \$55/non-residents, or a \$12 drop-in fee.

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

Pickleball: Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m., and Tuesday/Thursday, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park Tennis Courts. Open to all levels of play. Registration is free for this program.

Driveway Reflective Number Signs Available: The cost of the sign is \$50. Help emergency services personnel find your home without delay. Vertical sign is double sided 8” x 24” with 4” numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

Cemetery Clean-Up

The annual cemetery fall clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 1, at Marlboro Cemetery. Volunteers are invited to participate and are asked to meet at 9 a.m.

Residents are asked to remove seasonal pots and any personal items prior to the clean-up. All items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance to maintenance will be removed. These items include shepherd hooks, glass objects, items hanging from trees, pots, or items beyond the front of the stone. If you plan to re-use the item next season, please remove and take home.

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Paranormal Program

The Marlborough Preservation Society is hosting an event given by the Eastern Connecticut Paranormal Society on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m., at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St.

This program delves into the realities of paranormal investigation, exploring the challenges of blending science with unexplained phenomena, faith, and public stigma. Through real-life

Sacred Place Info Session

All are invited to join the St. John Fisher Church Christian Outreach Committee on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m., for an information session about A Sacred Place, an organization dedicated to fostering hope among incarcerated women at York Correctional Institution.

The session will be held in the St. John Fisher Church hall, located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd.

You'll hear directly from representatives of A Sacred Place. The organization's mission is to help these women lead responsible, educated, spiritually enriched lives that are drug-free and

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

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. George S. Mukuka, Bill Gilles is deacon John McKaig is senior deacon retired. Heather Mancini is church secretary and can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via email at stjohfisher30@yahoo.com. The church website is www.stjfchurch.org.

Liturgical Celebrations: Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. **Weekday Masses:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Mondays at 9 a.m. **Weekly Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays, 3-3:30 p.m., or by appointment.

Faith Formation Programs: Classes are underway for this season, with registrations still accepted. Cindy Bryan, Eileen Gilles and Helena Thomas lead the programs for grades K-10, to include a high school youth group. For more information, access the church website.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., in the church hall, in recognition of National Make-a-Difference Day. Sign-up at redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-RED

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship at Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., is held at 10 a.m. The service is also broadcast live every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. Sunday school is open to all children in the community for children ages 3 through grade 8. Contact Elizabeth Kukich at ekukich@marlconchurch.org for more information.

Oct. 12: The service will be led by the Rev. Valerie Seaver. Her sermon title is "The Tenth Leper." The anthem will be performed by the church Bell Choir.

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

Community Sing is Friday, Oct. 3, upstairs in the lounge, starting at 7 p.m. All who enjoy singing, including musicians, are invited to attend this free monthly sing-along, led by Seat of Our Pants member Carolyn Brodinski. Music is provided.

AA: The church sponsors three weekly meetings: Wednesdays at noon and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Fellowship Hall. ACA meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located on the ground floor with easy access from the parking lot, is open for sales and donations Fridays from noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The eBay store is open year-round at bit.ly/MC-Cebay.

case studies and evidence, participants will gain a deeper understanding and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Registration is required and can be done via email (mhs@marlboroughhistory.org), call/text Romano Ghirlanda at 860-916-4031, or through www.marlboroughhistory.org/events.

The event is free but donations will be appreciated.

crime-free. A Sacred Place also provides compassionate support to mothers who give birth during their incarceration by supplying essential items to the caregivers who will be caring for their babies. Attendees are invited to bring the following items to support this work:

Onesies and outfits for girls and boys, specifically 0-3 months; preemie outfits for girls (the organization said it has plenty of newborn and preemie outfits for boys); infant soap and lotion; board books or soft fabric books; small stuffed toys; and baby rattles.

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.

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.

CROSS.

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

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held weekly for the Marlborough Food Bank. Sandwich-making and collection continues the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Giving Community Garden is nearing its final harvest supporting the local food bank. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found in the weekly bulletin.

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

Outreach: The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for donations. The next monthly Florence Lord Housing luncheon for its residents will be Oct. 12. The church-sponsored Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families, will be Oct. 26. Free tickets are available at the food bank.

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

Sewer Use Bills Due

Property owners in the sewer district are reminded that the last day to pay your Sewer Usage Bill, without interest is Monday, Nov. 3. Failure to pay on time will result in interest charged at 1.5% per month reverting to the due date of Oct. 1.

Tax payments can be mailed to Tax Collector, Town of Marlborough, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447, placed in the drop box outside of Town Hall or in person at 26

North Main St. Make checks payable to MW-PCA.

Tax Collector hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

For more information, call the Tax Office at 860-295-6205 or email Taxcollector@marlboroughct.gov. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the usage fee or interest.

New Grief Share Session Underway

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

The group consists of videos and discussion sessions, with the last session being a Celebration of Life to honor your loved one.

Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. There is a \$20 one-time registration fee, which includes the workbook. You will get the workbook at the first

session. If you have already paid the \$20 registration fee from the previous Grief Share program, you will not need to pay again.

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

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

Brain Health Lecture with Dr. Wendy Hurwitz: Oct. 10, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tips to optimize brain health. This is part two of a two-part series. This event is fragrance-free.

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

Walk to End Alzheimer's: Oct. 19 at Rentschler Field. Call to join the senior center team or donate.

Vaccine Clinic: Oct. 20, 9-11 a.m. Chatham Health and Beacon will provide vaccines at the senior center. No appointments needed. Most insurance accepted.

Open Enrollment: By appointment only, on Oct. 23. Change prescription plans, switch between traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans

Halloween Party: Oct. 31, noon-2 p.m. Come dressed up! There will be games and light refreshments.

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

Coffee & Conversations: Meets the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. Each session includes a discussion on a particular topic of interest, activity and coffee.

Birthday Club: October birthdays will be celebrated Oct. 28 from 1-2 p.m. with cake! Open to all friends and family. It does not have to be your birthday month to celebrate; however, if it is, please RSVP.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Transportation: Available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Must reserve rides three business days in advance. Reservations taken Monday-Thursday. Call 860-295-6209 for more information.](http://www.</p></div><div data-bbox=)



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RECOMMENDED

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



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RE28-28-25

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!





We Love the Pipes!... The Middletown PBA Pipes and Drums Band traveled to Ireland in July for the All-Ireland Pipe Band Championships in Derry. Here are just some of the band members and their families at the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare at O'Brien's Tower. They also celebrated an engagement that happened at the tower!



London Bridge Is (Not) Falling Down... Dominic and Denise Marrara visited London in July as part of a two-week vacation in Europe. They brought the *Rivereast* with them as they visited London Bridge.



A Day at the Zoo... Pictured are the Hollmann and Dagostine families of Portland, who went to Wildwood, N.J., and paid a visit to the Cape May County Zoo.



Going Grand... In August, Jane and Frank Valvo from Marlborough brought the *Rivereast* to Grand Rapids, Mich., to celebrate Jane's mother's 103rd birthday!

Where in the World?

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

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

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

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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

Bicycle Show & Swap Meet

All are invited to the first-ever East Hampton Bicycle Show/Swap Meet, to be held at Center School Saturday, Oct. 18, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

This event is open to all bicycle enthusiasts, offering any type of bikes, parts and related items. Also, an antique bike vendor will bring several bikes and parts, and AirLine Cycles will have 40+ used bikes, all kinds of new and used bike parts and accessories. Epoch Arts will also have used bikes for sale, with 100% of the proceeds going to the nonprofit organization.

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.

October's Featured Artist: Mindy Mills Maynard, a local author and artist.

Book Talk: Mindy Mills Maynard will give a talk on her book *When Magic Happens* Friday, Oct. 24, at 4 p.m.

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

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

Fiber Arts Group: Thursdays from 10 a.m.-noon. Bring your spinning wheel, knitting,

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.

Helping Hands to Reopen

Helping Hands will be open again on the first and third Saturdays of each month beginning Oct. 18, from 9-11 a.m., at 27 Skinner St.

Helping Hands offers free clothing, household items, toys, books etc. to anyone in need.

Donations are only accepted on the Saturdays Helping Hands is open, from 9-11 a.m., and on the Thursdays of the week it is open, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information, call Beth Cunningham at 860-365-1054.

in cans by the shed.

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

Bible Study: Contact Bobette Reed Kahn at bobette@khan.com if you are interested in participating.

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

Spaces will be \$25 to sell, and free admission to the public. Set-up for dealers is open at 7AM, and the public is welcome at 8 a.m. All proceeds will go to the Epoch Arts Food Pantry, a group that seeks to provide vulnerable students with food and nourishment.

Also at the show, Littleman's Texas BBQ will be on site to sell lunch.

This event is held in cooperation with East Hampton Parks & Recreation.

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.

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-projectgraduation.ludus.com/200468698. Tickets will not be available at the door.

Early Voting Dates

Early voting for the Nov. 4 election will be open from Monday, Oct. 20, to Sunday, Nov. 2, at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, in Room 117.

Hours will be daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., except for Tuesday, Oct. 28, and Thursday, Oct. 30, when the hours will be 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

If you would like to check your status, please go to the Secretary of the State's website (Voter Registration Lookup (ct.gov)).

For information, call the office of the registrars at 860-267-6720 on Tuesdays between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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.

Operation Christmas Child: This is a project of Samaritan's Purse that delivers shoeboxes filled with school supplies, hygiene items, toys, and sports equipment to children who live in difficult circumstances. The church welcomes community participation in this project. The

boxes are available in the Church office and need to be returned by Nov. 16.

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.

Office Info: The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The church website is www.hn-covenantchurch.org.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Holiday Closing: The senior center will be closed Monday, Oct. 13, in observance of Indigenous Peoples/Columbus Day.

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

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

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

Trailblazers Walking Group: Mondays, Oct. 13 and 20, 9 a.m., at Air Line State Park, 69 Smith St. All paces welcome.

Learn Mahjongg: Thursday, Oct. 16, 9:30 a.m., with Barbara Hahn. No experience needed.

Design & Create: Thursday, Oct. 16, 1:30 p.m. Learn to make macramé bracelets.

Bike Rides for Seniors with Kim Clouser of AirLine Cycles: Friday, Oct. 17, at East Bay Bike Path in Rhode Island – with parking at India Point, Providence. Approximately 30 miles on a paved trail. There will be a food stop in Bristol. Bring your bike, helmet and water to the ride.

Family Tree: Friday, Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m., with Kenneth Doney. Research your family tree through this interactive workshop. Bring cell phone, iPad or laptop.

Cacao Workshop: Friday, Oct. 17, 1:30 p.m. Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga & Earth Based Wellness presents a self-care workshop exploring the healing benefits of ceremonial-grade cacao for heart-opening and emotional well-being. \$3 fee. Please register in advance.

Special Voter Registration Session

Registrars will be in session Friday, Oct. 17, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., at the registrars of voters office at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive.

This date is the last regular voter registration session before the Nov. 4 election. All mail-in voter registrations must be received or postmarked by this date.

For information, call the registrars at 860-267-6720 on Tuesdays between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Belltown Motors

Tire & Service Center

How To Prepare Your Car For Fall

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



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

- 1. Check The Belts & Hoses**
Belltown will look for cracks, leaks, and wears in the belts and hoses to ensure that there are no signs of splitting, fraying, or glazing.
- 2. Check The Fluid Levels**
We'll check windshield washer fluids, transmission fluids, coolant, brake fluids, and power steering fluids. All are very important for ensuring that your car runs smoothly.
- 3. Check/Replace Tires**
Belltown will check the tread, inflation, and overall condition of your tires and we may recommend rotating your tires, so they wear evenly.
- 4. Check Your Heat**
You want to be sure your heat/defroster works when the colder weather hits - driving with fogged-up windshield is unsafe.
- 5. Check The Brakes**
With every season, brakes are crucial for safe driving. Cold weather heightens brake problems, since the roads have the potential of becoming slippery from snow and ice.

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

80 East High Street, East Hampton
www.belltownmotors.com

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“Autumn leaves don’t fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar.”—Delia Owens

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East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Oct. 13.

All-Ages Program: Cardboard Arcade: Community Open Play: Saturday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The library’s Cardboard Arcade will open for business. The community is invited to play the games. Winners of the superlative awards will be announced.

Book Bingo: Monday, Oct. 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Win some great new books. Refreshments provided.

Adult Programs: LibrarYoga: Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m. Yoga 200 Certified instructor Amie Meacham leads an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the Library Community Room. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

Author Event! Katie Tietjen: Wednesday, Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m. Meet Edgar Award nominated author Katie Tietjen for a Q&A about her popular Maple Bishop mystery series and her newest book, *Murder in Miniature*. Copies of the book will be available for sale and Tietjen will be available to sign your copy.

Tech Help: Thursday, Oct. 16, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

Athletic Hall of Fame Elects 2025 Class

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame elected its 18th class, and it consists of four outstanding athletes and one state championship team.

Marvin Gorgas was a 2014 East Hampton High School graduate and played basketball and baseball. In baseball, Gorgas pitched a no hitter versus Cromwell. East Hampton’s all-time leading home run hitter, Marvin pitched five one-hitters, was 8-0 regular season senior year with 0.62 ERA with 99 strikeouts and 8 walks. He was All Shoreline 4 years, All State Junior and Senior season, Shoreline Conference pitcher of year 2012, was only player known in Shoreline Conference to be both pitcher and player of the year. Gorgas played internationally with Team USA, and was drafted in the 13th round by Seattle Mariners and played professionally for five seasons.

Tyler Wosleger was a 2008 graduate of East Hampton High School. He was a three-year varsity starter and was All Conference in his Junior year and All Area Middletown Press, All Conference, Shoreline Conference Player of the Year, and All State in his senior year as well as a Shoreline Conference Scholar Athlete. He was Senior Captain of the 2008 Shoreline Championship team. Tyler set the school record with 85 hits and hit .445 in his senior season with 28 RBI. Wosleger went on to play four years at Division 1 Fairfield University and had a career .295 batting average and was a senior co-captain.

Belltown Book Brunch: Friday, Oct. 17, 11 a.m. Meet to talk about what you’re currently reading while enjoying coffee, tea and a breakfast treat. Register or drop in.

Paint & Pastries – A Spooky Evening: Adults and Grades 8-12: Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Paint what you want or follow along with the instructor. No experience needed.

Teen Programs: Magic: The Gathering (Grades 7-12): Saturday, Oct. 11, 1-3 p.m. Whether you already know how to play the card game, or want to learn, come together and play with people of all skill levels. Bring your own decks or use one of ours.

HalloTween: Grades 4-8: Saturday, Oct. 18, 1-2:30 p.m. Play silly games, compete in a costume contest, eat yummy snacks and try some gross crafts. Sponsored by Teen Advisory Board.

Teen Advisory Board: Grades 8-12: Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6 p.m. Take a leadership role in shaping how the library serves teens. Help plan programs and improve the Teen Space.

Children’s Programs: DIY Days: Saturday, Oct. 18, 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.

Family Pumpkin Decorating: Saturday, Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Work together as a family to get creative and decorate a pumpkin to take home. All supplies provided. One pumpkin per family.

Blake Helveston was a 2002 East Hampton High School graduate and was an outstanding Cross Country, Indoor, and Outdoor Track performer. Helveston won two Indoor State Championships in the 1000m. He was also part of the indoor and outdoor 4 x 400m State Champion relay teams. Helveston was three-time All State in cross country and two-time COC Cross Country Champion and four-time All COC.

Nicole Muhlberg was a 2008 East Hampton High School graduate and excelled at both soccer and softball. In softball she was the team’s offensive player of the year as a junior, hitting .440. In soccer, Muhlberg was a 2007 All-Conference selection and 2nd leading scorer in the conference. Muhlberg was a two-time All State selection for soccer in 2006 and 2007. Muhlberg went onto a stellar soccer career at D-2 American International College.

The East Hampton High School 2014 boys soccer team was state co-champions. The team had an overall record of 12-4-3. Following a strong regular season, the team kicked it into high gear for the State Tournament by defeating Housatonic 2-0, Canton 1-0 on penalty kicks, Griswold 2-0, HK 2-1 on penalty kicks, and tied Somers 0-0 in the finals.

The induction ceremony will be Friday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m., at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. Tickets are \$55 and can be purchased by contacting Michael Vasquezna at 860-308-6621.

Boat Ramp Closure

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department will conduct its annual pump/flow testing of all the department’s apparatus on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Sears Park, weather permitting.

As a result, the Lake Pocotopaug boat ramp at the park will be closed to the public between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on that day. Residents wishing to launch or retrieve their watercraft

are encouraged to do so either before or after Oct. 15.

Apparatus pump/flow testing is one of several mandatory requirements that must be conducted yearly to keep the department’s operations compliant with current standards, and the department sincerely appreciates the cooperation and consideration of the community’s residents.

CDHR Oktoberfest

All are invited to join CT Draft Horse Rescue for the 14th annual Oktoberfest on Sunday, Oct. 19, at Autumn Ridge, the farm of the CDHR, located at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd.

Admission is free. Come meet the horses from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be vendors, hayrides, raffles, food, kids’ activities, and more. For more information, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue. This event is rain or shine.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft

horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter. Its mission is to vet, quarantine, rehabilitate, train and re-home rescued horses with a strict contract for their lifelong protection. Since its inception, the organization has rescued more than 110 horses, with the majority placed in forever homes.

The CDHR is run strictly on public donations. Fundraisers, such as this one, ensure they have the resources needed to continue caring for the horses at Autumn Ridge.

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).

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

Open Mic Organ Concert

An Open Mic/Open Console Organ event will be held at Second Congregational Church in Middle Haddam, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., on Friday, Oct. 10, at 6 p.m.

The event features organ performers from the church community and music professors and students from local colleges. All are invited to come hear music on the church’s historic Appleton Organ, which is nearly 250 years old.

Refreshments and beverages will be available during the event in the church community hall. Free-will donations will be appreciated. Call 860-993-5311 for information.

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. 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.

Thanksgiving Table Workshop – A DIY Workshop for Your Holiday Table: At Town Hall Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6:30-8 p.m. Cost is \$35. In this hands-on workshop, create your own stenciled table runner and decorate seasonal candles in glass.

After-school Programs at Memorial School (Grades K-3) – Ghost Busters Fun Club: Make Your Own Marshmallow Blasters & Green-Slimed Popcorn Balls, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 3:30-4:30 p.m., \$25; Make Your Own Ghost Poppers, Tuesday, Oct. 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m., \$25.

GOP Candidate Waving Schedule

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee will hold a sign-waving event for Republican candidates. Everyone is welcome to come for waving.

At this event, there will be free Republican yard signs for East Hampton residents, while supplies last. This weekend, Republicans will wave on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9-11 a.m., at 20 East High St. (across from Stop & Shop) and Sunday, Oct. 12, from 10-11 a.m., at the same location.

Next weekend, Republicans will wave on Friday, Oct. 17, from 4-6 p.m., at Global Storage (intersection of routes 16 and 66) and Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9-11 a.m., at 20 East High Street (across from Stop & Shop).

East Hampton

Republicans Dug Deeper...

- During the ongoing quest for a firehouse, we discovered environmental health risks at 11 Skinner that could impact firefighters AND may cost taxpayers a small fortune to remediate.
- The Democrats attempted to ignore it & push to referendum.
- Republicans proposed a committee to evaluate all viable properties and costs & requiring a 6-month deadline.
 - The Democrat majority hijacked it & gave them a YEAR!
- Republicans commit to getting it done swiftly & correctly.
- Our firefighters & taxpayers deserve better

Vote Republican Tues., Nov. 4 at the High School. Early voting begins 10/20 at Town Hall.

Paid for and approved by the East Hampton Republican Town Committee. Bridget McLennan, treasurer.

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Council Allows School Admin Contract to Proceed

By Anne Lilburn

The East Hampton Town Council held a special meeting on Oct. 7 to address both the Board of Education’s contract with the school administrators and a bid award on a pipe improvement project. One of those issues provoked discussion, public comment and some degree of frustration among council members – while the other issue provided an opportunity for consensus, agreement and satisfaction.

The council took on the school administrators’ contract first. This was an issue that carried over from the last regularly scheduled meeting on Sept. 23, where it generated considerable discussion and ended up being tabled to allow council members to thoroughly review updated materials. The issue at hand concerned the collective bargaining agreement between the East Hampton Board of Education and the town’s public school administrators. This agreement had been previously negotiated, and the board of education ratified it last month.

At the prior meeting, council members received guidance on their ability to reject the agreement. Per state law, if the Town Council did not reject the contract, it would become effective 30 days after Sept. 10, when it was filed with the town clerk. Rejecting the agreement at this point would force the contract into arbitration, which would cost the town approximately \$50,000.

Both members of the public and some council members expressed concern about specifics within the agreement, including salaries and salary increases, sick days, and health insurance costs. They worried that administrators were overpaid and overrepresented within the overall education budget.

Schools Superintendent Timothy Van Tassel gave a presentation that included updated data showing that East Hampton’s administrator salaries fell pretty consistently in the middle among its District Reference Group (DRG), a state-designated list of other socioeconomically comparable communities. Van Tassel also showed a chart indicating that East Hampton’s ratio of students to administrators, at 167.6 students per administrator, was in fact higher than any other community in that cohort of socioeconomically similar towns.

Council member Tim Feegel, a Republican, expressed discomfort with the contract, saying he thought the town was being penalized for its good financial status, which is used as a basis to determine its ability to pay salaries. He also said that as someone coming from the private sector, much in the contract seemed excessive. Still, he said, “I don’t like gambling,” and he didn’t want to take a chance on arbitration that would cost the town \$50,000 and likely not result in significant gains.

Council member Ted Hintz, also a Republican, said he thought the Board of Education “didn’t stand up for the town” in its negotiations,

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a collection for household hazardous waste on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Haddam Elementary School, 272 Saybrook Rd., Higganum.

This is the last collection for the 2025 season and is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton & Portland.

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

and said it “put us in a bad spot.” He said he would vote to reject the contract, and lamented that, whenever cuts happen in the education budget, they always involve cutting teachers or school sports, and rarely involve cuts to administrators. He worried that the high costs at the top would eventually “trickle down” to students and impact their educational experience.

Council member Karen Wanat, a Democrat, also seemed unhappy with the situation, and sympathized with the impulse to want to renegotiate, but said she believed that sending the agreement to arbitration just “to make a point” was “wasting taxpayer’s dollars.” In the end, only Hintz voted to reject the contract, with the remaining council members either voting not to reject it or abstaining. That means that the contract will go into effect.

* * *

On a less contentious issue, the council also heard from Public Works Director Matt Walsh, who briefed the council on a plan to rehabilitate some old metal pipes in the village center. He discussed the state of the severely corroded pipes, and explained that a newer technology allowed for the pipes to be lined, instead of replaced, with a synthetic polymer applied to the inside of the pipes before steam is used to cure the new coating. The lowest bid for the work came in at \$92,000 — far lower than his original estimate of \$500,000 to potentially replace the pipes — and lining the pipes, as opposed to replacing them, means that the work should be completed in two days and will require very little digging. Even better for the council, the money is already in the budget and available to be used for the project. The council voted unanimously to approve the bid.

Resident Dies After Hit by Car

A 66-year-old East Hampton resident died Wednesday due to injuries sustained when he was struck by a car in Middletown two days earlier.

On Sept. 29, at about 6:30 a.m., Middletown Police responded to the area of 139 Main St. Extension for the report of a motor vehicle vs. pedestrian collision. Upon arrival, police determined Paul Fachini, 66, had been struck by a motor vehicle while crossing Main Street Extension. Fachini was rushed to Hartford Hospital with a severe head injury – and died two days later, on Oct. 1.

Police said the driver of the vehicle that struck Fachini stopped after the collision, and has been cooperating with investigators. The

driver’s identity is not being released at this time.

“I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones” of Fachini, Middletown Police Chief Erik Costa told the *Rivereast* Monday. “This is a tragic loss, and our thoughts are with all those affected.”

Costa said investigation into the crash is ongoing, and “as such, we are not able to release additional details at this point.”

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Middletown Police Officer Jeffery Zadjura at 860-638-4063.

Fachini’s obituary appears this week on page 31.

Teen Halloween Party

Epoch Arts will hold its Teen Halloween Costume Dance Party, for grades six and up, on Friday, Oct. 10, from 7-9 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

Students are invited to dress up in a Halloween costume and share it at Epoch Arts. A live DJ will provide the sound and prizes will be given out throughout the night for costumes, dance moves and craziness.

Admission is \$10 and includes free food and drinks. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

Haunted House and Hayride

Epoch Arts will hold its annual Haunted House and Hayride Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17, 18, 24 and 25, from 7-10 p.m. each night, at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

This year’s theme is a “Dystopian World.” Walk through rooms filled with spiders, freaky mind game testing, a room where *Survivor* meets *Lord of the Flies* as the inhabitants try to survive and where Big Brother is always watching. The Haunted Hayride is themed Apocalypse, so be ready for more spooks and scares outside.

Tickets and reservations are for sale online, at www.epocharts.org, and are \$15 for both the Haunted House and the Hayride.



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Plans for New Public Works Building

By Toriana Williams

The town of Hebron is taking another step toward what could become one of its largest projects in recent history – the construction of a new Department of Public Works building at 550 Old Colchester Rd.

A schematic layout of the site was presented to the Hebron Board of Selectmen on Sept. 25, with further revisions expected soon.

David Rose, chairman of the Communications Subcommittee for the Hebron Department of Public Works Action Committee, said the need for a new facility stems from age, safety and efficiency.

“The reason the DPW has to be rebuilt is that it has aged out,” Rose said. “The buildings were constructed over 40 years ago. They have lasted well for their construction mode, but they have now come to the end of their working life and are beyond economic repairs.”

Rose said every repair possible has already been made, but the buildings have reached a point where further fixes would be ineffective. Over time, state and federal health and safety requirements have evolved, leaving the current facilities below modern standards.

“What was completely acceptable back then is no longer acceptable now,” Rose explained. “That has to be taken on board when the new facility is built.”

The overall goal, Rose said, is to create a safe and efficient environment for town workers while maintaining public access to the nearby transfer station.

The possibility of moving the DPW facility to Kinney Road caused a fair amount of controversy in town in recent months, but Rose told the *Rivereast* the plan is to keep the new building on the existing property at 550 Old Colchester Rd.

“The vision is that we create a strong, safe working environment for the DPW workers, that we can increase efficiency, that they work in a safe way and that the equipment the town buys can be better protected and better serviced by having better garaging for it,” he said.

Because the DPW and transfer station share a compact lot, design efficiency has been a central concern. Rose said the committee and architects have been working to resolve issues of traffic flow

Harvest Moon Festival Returns Oct. 18!

On Saturday, Oct. 18, from 1:30-7 p.m., Hebron Center will be bursting with ghosts, ghouls, goblins and all things Halloweeny – as The Town Center Project again presents the Harvest Moon Festival.

Hop on the Ghou! Bus free shuttle to make your way around town. The Ghou! Bus will run from 1-7 p.m. from the RHAM High School parking lot on Wall Street to stops along Main Street.

The **Parade of Pooches** kicks off on Main Street at 2 p.m. (lineup 1:45 p.m. Church of Hope). The costumed dog parade will start at the intersection of routes 66/85, marching to the routes 66/316 intersection and back again.

The **Fall Into Art Show** will take place at AHM Youth and Family Services, 25 Pendleton Drive, from 1:30-6:30 p.m.

Pumpkin-Carving Contest: Bring your carved jack-o-lantern early to be displayed on the Pumpkin Tower. Prizes range from \$150 for first place to various gift cards for second and third. Adult, Teen and Child categories. Drop your pumpkins off by the American Legion by 5:30 p.m. on the 18th to be eligible for judging.

Activities and Entertainment include: RHAM Drama presenting spooky scenes; curated music, vendors and food trucks; illu-

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 gileadchurchcc@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: Friday, 10/10: Memorial service and reception at 10:30 a.m., in Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall; Saturday, 10/11: Yoga at 9:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall; Saturday, 10/11: Private Event at noon in the Fellowship Hall; Sunday, 10/12: Cow Pie Bingo from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in the Church Foyer; Sunday, 10/12: Worship Service at 10 a.m. (in-person in the sanctuary, as well as online and

and vehicle access, especially during the winter when trucks are equipped with plows.

“The garage’s aging facility is too small for the number of vehicles the town needs, and the town needs this number of vehicles because the town has grown,” he said. “So we’ve got more people, more roads. That means more trucks, and that means more snowplows. Garaging trucks with snowplows is challenging in the current environment.”

He added that the new design will replace single-door garages with “pass-through” bays, allowing plow trucks to drive in and out without having to back up or maneuver around tight corners – a safety improvement that also saves time.

“There’s going to be a great deal of improvement in the traffic flow through the site,” Rose added. “The current site does not have enough doors for the number of bays, so that means vehicles have to be kind of slalomed across. That takes time, and it increases the hazard.”

A schematic layout of the site was presented to the Hebron Board of Selectmen on Sept. 25, showing that all DPW functions, the transfer station and animal control kennels can fit within the existing property. Rose said that presentation marked “a major step forward.”

Now, architects and Silver, Petrucelli & Associates will prepare more detailed revisions and, eventually, a fixed project cost. The committee has recommended blockwork construction over metal cladding, citing durability and long-term value.

No Cost Estimate Yet

Rose expects a clear cost estimate by early 2026, with a town referendum on the bond proposal planned for the spring.

“What the hope is, is that by the end of the year or ... January, we would be able to be approaching pricing,” he said. “And then have a final price ready to go to referendum in the spring of 2026.”

If voters approve the project, competitive bidding would take place in summer 2026, followed by a fall construction start. Completion is anticipated by spring 2028, depending on weather.

“Winter plays a big part,” said Rose, adding that construction schedules must allow access to the salt shed and roads during snow season.

sionist Chris Lengyel; the Slingshot Monster Smash; The Eeyore & Donkey Museum Bounce House; obstacle course and other activities at the Fire Field on Pendleton Drive; Scarecrows Along Main (vote for your favorite!); and tarot card readings free in the Old Town Hall. Also, psychic medium Patricia Griffin will be at the Douglas Library community room from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

There will be trick-or-treating along the north side of Main Street from 5-6 p.m., from Select Physical Therapy/Wall Street to the Village Shoppes (Ted’s Plaza).

Road Closure: Main Street (Route 66) in Hebron, from the routes 85/66 intersection to Route 316/Wall Street, will be closed Saturday, Oct. 18, from 1-7 p.m. Detours are available by utilizing Kinney Road to Millstream Road on the south side and Loveland Road to Route 316 (Wall Street) to Burnt Hill Road on the north side.

Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 19.

The Town Center Project is an all-volunteer driven nonprofit organization devoted to “re-inventing the heart of Hebron”. To donate, volunteer or learn more about TTCP’s events, visit www.thetowncenterproject.org and follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/towncenter-projectinc.

livestreamed); Sunday, 10/13: Coffee Hour at 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Monday, 10/13: Church office closed for Indigenous Peoples’ Day; Monday, 10/13– Bible study at 9:30 a.m., online via Zoom; Tuesday, 10/14: Card-Making with Gayle: Special Fundraiser for ‘Hebron Rocks Alz’ Team at 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall; Tuesday, 10/14 – AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 10/8 – Yoga at 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall.

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.

Save the Dates: Sunday, Oct. 19: Fire Prevention & Communitymergency Response Team (CERT) Presentation during worship at 10 a.m., and Hygiene Kit Assembly for Church World Service at 11:30 a.m.; Sunday, Oct. 26, Gilead’s Board of Missions Chili Cookoff at 11:30 a.m., supporting the 2026 youth/adult mission trip.

Funding will come primarily from a bond, which Rose said will affect taxpayers.

“Because they’ll have to fund the bond. The bond is a loan, in effect. But then there is a loan repayment, and exactly how much it will cost will depend on how much the project costs in the first place and how the bond is structured.”

Hazardous materials, including asbestos, were found in the environmental survey of the existing facility. Rose said cleanup will be handled under strict environmental standards. “There are established procedures for environmental mitigation,” he said. “That will be done to the current OSHA and Federal standards by specialist contractors.”

The committee has also discussed acquiring additional land from Eversource, which owns property adjacent to the DPW site. The town hopes to purchase about three acres to provide room for future growth.

“What the town wants to do is to buy from Eversource about three acres ... to provide more space for development of the transfer station as the town grows,” Rose stated. “The DPW Action Committee is aware that there are plans or intentions in Hartford for composting and other recyclable facilities to be required for towns. That would then give us land in which to provide additional services without compromising the existing site.”

He added that the Eversource purchase is no longer essential to the main project but remains a valuable opportunity for future expansion.

During construction, the town transfer station will be closed for approximately a year and a half. Rose said Hebron will contract with a licensed private hauler to manage trash and recycling pickup for residents in the meantime.

In the long run, he said, residents will see im-

The public is invited to a forum to learn more about immigration justice as it relates to residents of eastern Connecticut. The community conversation will be held Tuesday, Oct. 28, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the Russell Mercier Senior Center in Hebron.

Through a panel discussion with a young immigrant and her family, service providers, and a legal expert, attendees will learn about the rights, struggles and successes of immigrants, the impact of ICE activity in Connecticut, services that are available to immigrants, and how we can be an effective ally to immigrant communities.

The panelists are: Roberto Delgado, Community Outreach Coordinator, Northeast Family Credit Union/Division of Self-Help Federal Credit Union; Nawal Karahja, high school graduate and immigrant from Syria; Sister Mary Jude Lazarus, Director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry, Catholic Diocese of Norwich, and also with Sagrado Corazón Roman Catholic Church

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.

Movie Mondays: Monday, Oct. 20. *The Ballad of Wallis Island* (rated PG-13; runs one hour and 40 minutes).

Chatham Health Monthly Educational Series: Thursday, Oct. 16, 12:15 p.m.; topic to be determined. Chatham Health’s Stephanie Reyes will give the presentation.

Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings: Thursday, Oct. 16, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., offered by Chatham Health. No registration required.

Mindful Meditation: Starting at 10:15 a.m. Monday, Oct. 20. The class is free. Mindful meditation is a mental training practice. Class led by Mandy Roczniaik who has been practicing mindful meditation for 17 years.

Yoga: Is now Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. The new session started Oct. 9 and runs through Oct. 30; fee for all sessions is \$12, and the drop-in fee per week is \$5 per class. Classes will be suitable for both the experienced and beginner yogis who can do their practice on either the floor or in a chair.

Medicare Open Enrollment/Winter Fuel Assistance: Wednesday, Oct. 15 through Friday, Dec. 5. Appointments are required; call 860-228-1700 and ask for Sharon or Dennis.

Vaccination Clinic: Tuesday, Oct. 21, 9-11 a.m., at the senior center. Chatham Health will have various vaccines available: flu, COVID-19, RSV, shingles, and pneumococcal. No registration required, but you do need your insurance card. Most major insurance accepted. This year, Chatham Health will accept United Healthcare

proved facilities and smoother operations.

“As far as the residents are concerned, they will see an improved transfer station,” Rose explained. “What is going on in the background is that the Public Works Department will be able to work more efficiently. The equipment will last longer if it’s easier to maintain. That’s one of the big hidden benefits.”

He noted that while the average person rarely interacts with the DPW, the department’s work – from snow removal to road repair – affects everyone.

“The current facility is beyond its workable life,” he said. “We want our workers to be working in an appropriate environment, in a safe way. We want our equipment to be able to be maintained and stored safely. And we want to have more efficient delivery of service, which we’ll be able to do with a new facility.”

Rose encouraged residents to stay informed and participate in the process.

“These are public meetings. They’ve been public from the beginning,” he said. “We have one or two people who come every time. Ten thousand people nearly live in Hebron. We don’t have that number of people coming, and this is going to be one of the town’s biggest projects in living memory.”

Rose credited the Department of Public Works Action Committee (DPWAC), a volunteer group, for years of effort.

“They have put in thousands of hours of work on behalf of the town,” Rose said. “They’re all volunteers, without recompense. These are people who are residents of Hebron working on behalf of other residents, without pay, to get the best possible resolution to a very difficult problem.”

in Windham; Erin O’Neil, attorney and founder, Norte Immigration Law; Susan Schnitzer, president & CEO, Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants; Tabitha Sookdeo, CEO, CT Students for a Dream; and Chris Vials, co-founder, The Neighbor Fund.

The discussion will be moderated by Hebron selectman Tiffany Thiele, a former journalist and communications professional.

To RSVP: email code-diversity1@gmail.com.

This community conversation is sponsored by the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE). It is the 11th forum sponsored by CoDE on issues of importance to the communities it serves. CoDE is an all-volunteer, nonpartisan nonprofit organization serving the towns of Hebron, Andover, Columbia, East Hampton, and Marlborough. Its mission is to build more diverse, vibrant and equitable communities. For more information about CoDE, visit www.code-diversity.org.

Senior Center News & Notes

due to the partnership with Beacon Prescriptions.

Weekly Shopping Trips: Pre-registration is required by noon the day before the trip. Upcoming schedule: Friday, Oct. 17, Walmart, pick-ups begin at 11 a.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 22, Stop & Shop, pick-ups begin at 10 a.m.; Wednesday, Oct. 29, Big Y, pick-ups begin at 10 a.m.

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 860-228-1700.

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. **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. **Thursdays:** Yoga, 9-10 a.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; Massage, 12:30-6:30 p.m.; Mahjong, 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; **Fridays:** Enhance Fitness via Zoom, 9-10 a.m.

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Day of Remembrance for Charlie Kirk

The Hebron Republican Town Committee will honor the legacy and work of Charlie Kirk with a Day of Remembrance on Tuesday, Oct. 14, from 6:30-8 p.m., on the town green in front of Hebron Church of Hope, 1 Main St.

“This special evening will celebrate Kirk’s dedication to Jesus Christ, encouraging open dialogue, civic involvement, and free expression,” the RTC said in a press release. “Through his work, Kirk inspired countless individuals to reflect on the importance of respectful conversation across differences and the power of community to shape the future.”

The RTC said attendees will have the chance to gather in fellowship and discuss how Kirk’s words and life-example have impacted their own lives and perspectives. Many local candidates will be present and available for conversations. There might even be a speech or

two made by yet-to-be-determined individuals with some experience in civic engagement.

“We are grateful for the chance to reflect on the life and message of Charlie Kirk,” said Jason Guidone, chair of the Hebron Republican Town Committee. “He reminded us that open dialogue and respectful exchange of ideas are essential to a healthy community life. This gathering is a way for us to continue that spirit here in Hebron.”

All are welcome to attend. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating on the green. Parking will be available nearby, with volunteers on hand to assist.

For more information, visit www.Hebron-Republicans.org or look on Facebook for the “Hebron Republican Town Committee” (in the events section).

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

care, and is open to all faiths. For more information, call director Jennifer Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are at www.clec-chebron.org.

Caring Shepherds Social Ministry Group: Saturday, Oct. 25, at 9 a.m., is the next open food pantry day to distribute food staples, household and hygiene items as well as Bibles and prayers. All are welcome. For more information about donating or participating in food pantry days, call 860-228-1152.

United Brethren Synagogue News and Notes

United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue, located at 10 Church Street (Route 85) in the center of Hebron, has announced the following:

All are invited to the first Shabbat service of the new year on Friday, Oct. 10, beginning at 6 p.m. The synagogue will also celebrate Sukkot, a Jewish holiday connected to the fall harvest season. Following blessings in the synagogue’s sukkah – a temporary outdoor structure, decorated with a harvest theme – all will join together for a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. and then a Shabbat service at approximately 7:15 p.m. Dessert will be served following the service. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to come for dinner, please email ubofhebron@gmail.com and indicate what dish you will bring and how many people to expect.

United Brethren of Hebron said it offers a

flexible, inclusive approach to Judaism. The synagogue combines elements from both the Conservative and Reform traditions in its services and its membership includes interfaith families and couples.

The synagogue building needs a new roof and other major renovations, and donations are sought for a capital campaign to support the work. To learn more, go to www.gofundme.com/f/support-united-brethren-hebrons-vital-work.

If interested in attending services, becoming a member or for more information about the synagogue, please visit www.ubofhebron.org or email ubofhebron@gmail.com. Also, check out the synagogue’s Facebook page for information about upcoming events and services.

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.

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.

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 4th Tuesday of the month. Meatloaves are delivered the next day. The next due date is Oct. 28. Contact Diane (860-508-9959) for more information.

Youth Ministry: This group for parish teens in grades 8-12 meets in the St. Columba Youth Center at 6:30 p.m. every second Saturday of the month from September through June (except for the third Saturday in May) for an evening of games, food and discussion. See the parish website for more info.

Collection for Project HOPE, Inc. (Homeless Shelter): The Social Outreach Committee

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.

Youth Basketball: Registration is open for the grades K-12 Recreational and Travel basketball programs. Registration deadlines: Travel Tryouts: Oct. 13; Grades K-8: Oct. 19; Grades 9-12: Dec. 3.

Trunk or Treat: Friday, Oct. 24, 5-7 p.m., at Veterans Memorial Park. There will be food trucks, kids’ activities, and trunk or treating!

Air Line Trail Ghost Run Half Marathon: Saturday, Nov. 1. To register, visit runsignup.com/GhostRun.

Adult Winter Indoor Pickleball: Parks and Rec. will have three pickleball nights in the Gilead Hill School gymnasium; Mondays and Wednesdays will be competitive, and Tuesdays will be recreational play. Each day is a separate program with separate fees in RecDesk like previous sessions. The fee for each day is \$15.

Halloween Fun at Burrows Hill School

There will be a family Halloween experience on Sunday, Oct. 26, at the historic Burrows Hill School, located at 125 Schoolhouse Rd.

Visitors will sit in a schoolhouse much like the one described in Washington Irving’s classic 1820 tale of Halloween, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and enjoy seasonal donuts and cider afterwards.

Sponsored by the Hebron Historical Society and the Douglas Library, this America 250 event will feature the story of how the shrewd Dutch inhabitants of Sleepy Hollow terrorized their superstitious New England schoolteacher with tales of the ghost of the Headless Horseman.

Two programs are planned for Sunday, Oct. 26, rain or shine. The 2 p.m. program is suitable for children 10 and under. Visitors can enjoy traditional cider and donuts, participate in games from a bygone era, and imagine what life might have been like for Ichabod Crane’s students as they sit and enjoy a picture book version of Irving’s tale.

At 4 p.m., the school house will be lit by

candlelight creating spooky shadows as visitors enjoy the tale of a gullible New England schoolteacher trying to ingratiate himself with the Dutch inhabitants of Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., in the 1790s. This program is suitable for children 10 and up. Cider and donuts will be served after the reading.

Both programs are planned as family experiences, but visitors without children looking for a unique Halloween experience are welcome. Costumes are optional for adults and children. Mob caps and tricorn hats are particularly welcome.

Participants must preregister and pay at the Douglas Library before Oct. 26. The cost is \$5 per person age 6 and up, with a “family of four” discount price of \$15. Due to the size of the historic Burrows Hill School, each program is limited to 20 visitors. Participants for the 4 p.m. program are urged to bring a flashlight or lantern to light their way from their car to the school.

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: Sunday services are at 8 a.m. (Rite 1 without music); and at 10 a.m. (Rite 2 with hymns). A coffee hour is held following each service. Sunday School is offered at the 10 a.m. service.

Book Club: Meets Mondays through November from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. This fall, the group is reading *The Dream of God* by Verna J. Dozier. Bring your lunch and enjoy fellowship and food.

Weekly Virtual Coffee Hour: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Connects parishioners and friends via Zoom for an online social gathering.

Sanctuary Concert Series: VOCE, a New England chamber choir, launches its 20th season Saturday, Oct. 11, at 7:30 p.m., celebrating connections, renewal and hope through song. Tickets (\$30) available online at Voceinc.org or at the door.

Founders Potluck Dinner: Celebrating almost 300 years of parish life and community, a potluck dinner will be held Friday, Oct. 17, at 5:30 p.m. Come as a parishioner from the colonial period to

modern day. Newcomers welcome. Contact parish office at 860-228-3244 for more information.

Outreach: This month, food donations will go to Andover food pantry. A collection basket is in the church and outside the parish hall. A portion of the proceeds from the Pumpkin Fest will be given to the Hebron Synagogue to help with their roof reconstruction. St. Peter’s supports Hebron’s team HEBRONROCKSALZ, which will be walking in support of Alzheimer’s and dementia research on Oct. 19.

Recurring Meetings: Balance Class: Mondays, 10:30-11 a.m., \$5; **Connections:** Mondays at 2 p.m.; **Garden Committee (Weekly Weeders):** Mondays at 4 p.m.; **Choir:** Wednesdays at 6 p.m.; **Monthly Meetings:** Building and Grounds, Community Events planning, Finance, Liturgy, Pastoral Care and Vestry.

Bottle & Can Drive

Colebrook Village will hold a Bottle & Can Drive to benefit the Alzheimer’s Association on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m.-noon.

Bring your empty bottles and cans to Colebrook and staff there will recycle them! For more information, contact Kathy Freed, Colebrook’s director of sales and marketing, at 860-801-1114 or kfreed@colebrookvillage.com.

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The Glastonbury Citizen & Riverast News Bulletin

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★ *Letters, cont. from page 7*

firm, Blackledge Consultants LLC, he leads work focused on sustainable communities, transportation integration, and equitable land use. He has brought these principles home to Hebron, contributing pro bono design work to The Town Center Project and championing Complete Streets and micro-mobility initiatives.

David's deep roots in Hebron, combined with his unmatched professional qualifications, make him uniquely suited to help guide the town through thoughtful, balanced growth. His passion for revitalizing the Town Center, expanding housing options, and preserving our natural assets ensures that Hebron remains a vibrant, welcoming community for generations to come.

I wholeheartedly support David V. Sousa and encourage others to do the same.

Mary J. Rose – Hebron

Vote!

To the Editor:

Local elections matter! Every vote matters! Please exercise your privilege as an American citizen to vote in November. If you can't make it to the polls on Nov. 4, vote in person or absentee. In-person early voting includes two weekends and two late nights. Early voting will be held at Town Hall only, from Oct. 20-Nov. 2, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. every day, with two extended hours days from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on Oct. 28th and 30th. Absentee ballot laws have not changed; it is still an available option and a legitimate excuse is still required. For details see MyVote.ct.gov.

I heartily endorse Bernie Dennler and the Democratic team of candidates. Please vote for them. If you feel differently, please vote your conscience. The important this is to vote. Vote for a local government that will serve all of Colchester's citizens, that will maintain town services and a strong educational system. Vote.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Planning with Purpose

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Brenda Nicolo for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Thoughtful planning and responsible zoning decisions shape the future of our community, and we need leaders who are committed to balancing growth with preserving the character of our town.

Brenda brings the right mix of knowledge, common sense, and dedication to serve us well in this role. She understands the importance of encouraging smart development that supports local businesses and housing needs, while also protecting neighborhoods, natural resources, and the overall quality of life we all value.

I have confidence that Brenda will listen to residents, study the issues carefully, and make decisions based on what is best for our community; not on special interests. Her vision, fairness, and commitment to transparency makes her the right choice for this important position.

On Election Day, I urge my neighbors to join me in voting for Brenda Nicolo for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Our town deserves a candidate who will guide growth responsibly and keep our community's best interests at heart.

Sincerely,

Angela Corentin – Amston

Wreaths Across America in Andover

To the Editor:

If you have not yet been contacted by one of the extraordinary Wreaths Across America team members do not despair! There is still plenty of time for you to sponsor a wreath to ensure the 2025 event is as successful as our inaugural 2024 event. Sponsor forms can be found at the Town Hall outside the town clerk's office, at the Community and Senior Center, at the Andover Library, or by sponsoring online through the Wreaths Across America page, www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CT0170. This link will take you to the Andover, CT sponsorship page where you will be able to select the number of wreaths you would like to sponsor, and then further designate which cemetery you would like them allocated to.

As you know, we have three cemeteries in Andover: the Olde Burial Ground, the Congregational Church Cemetery, and the Townsend Cemetery. Our goal is 200 wreaths! As of this writing, 10/6, our total is 61. We have a ways to go, but lots of time left.

The next volunteer meeting will be in the Town Hall Community room on Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 4-5 p.m. It is not too late to come help us plan and fundraise! There will be snacks!!!!

I am also asking for volunteers to lay the wreaths at our opening ceremony which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13, at noon sharp, at the Veterans Monument Park. This time is designated by the Wreaths Across America organization and is held at the same time (local) throughout the world. There are eight ceremonial wreaths, one each for: Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, and POW/MIA. If you would like to participate, or have any questions, please contact me, Susan Camoroda, at veterans@andoverct.org or 703-472-3209.

Thank you, Susan Camoroda

Wreaths Across America Location Coordinator
And Municipal Veterans Representative

Elect Qualified BOE Members

To the Editor:

As we approach Election Day, it's important to remember that local elections have real and lasting consequences. We ask a great deal of those who serve on our town boards – especially members of the Board of Education. Their decisions directly impact our students, teachers, families, and community as a whole.

The Board of Education is responsible for setting district policies, overseeing the superintendent – the educational leader and CEO of school operations – and ensuring that taxpayer dollars, state aid, and federal funding are allocated wisely to support learning for every student. This work requires thoughtful, knowledgeable, and dedicated individuals who understand both the educational mission and fiscal responsibilities of the district.

That's why it is essential to elect people who are well qualified to do the job. This year, Kim, Jody, Erin, and Bethanne bring the experience, commitment, and vision needed to keep our schools strong and our community moving forward. They are ready to listen, to lead, and to make sound decisions for the benefit of all students.

Please make your voice heard – vote, and encourage your neighbors to do the same. Our schools and our children's future depend on it.

Meg Scata – Portland

Note: Scata is the secretary of the Portland Board of Education and also the First Vice President of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, but she said is speaking as an individual.

A Remarkable Individual

To the Editor:

As a lifelong Democrat, I don't often find myself crossing party lines to support a Republican candidate. However, Sharon St. Rock is an exception – a remarkable individual whose dedication to the people of Andover transcends political divides.

Sharon's work as a school nurse and involved parent speaks volumes about her character. She has consistently demonstrated compassion, integrity, and a deep commitment to the well-being of every student and family she serves. In a time when partisan rhetoric can overshadow common sense and community values, Sharon stands out as someone who prioritizes people over politics. Her ability to listen, her tireless advocacy for health and education, and her genuine care for all members of our community make her the ideal candidate for the Board of Education to join the current members.

Sharon embodies the kind of leadership we need: pragmatic, inclusive, and focused on solutions that benefit everyone, especially the families and children of the Town of Andover. Our political affiliations may differ (although she was cross-endorsed by both parties) but our shared goal of a stronger, healthier Andover unites us.

I am proud to endorse Sharon St. Rock and encourage my fellow Democrats – and all voters – to look beyond party labels and support a candidate who truly represents the best of our community. I'm proud to vote for Sharon and will do so on the Republican line!!!!

Anne Cremé – Andover

Note: Cremé is a member of the Andover Board of Selectmen and Vice Chair of Andover Planning and Zoning Commission, but is speaking as an individual.

Nelson Will Be an Asset

To the Editor:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter of recommendation for Nancy Nelson as a candidate for the Board of Education. She is a personal friend and neighbor. With over four decades of experience as a dedicated educator, community volunteer, and advocate for students, Nancy brings a wealth of knowledge, integrity, and a deeply rooted commitment to public service.

Throughout her 30+ years as a mathematics educator and specialist in the Lisbon Public Schools, Nancy demonstrated an unwavering focus on academic excellence and student growth. She understands the importance of rigorous instruction, early childhood education, and supporting students academically, socially, and emotionally. Her involvement in curriculum development and standardized testing coordination speaks to her ability to manage educational initiatives with foresight and accountability.

Beyond the classroom, Nancy has been a lifelong volunteer and leader – from serving on the CORE Commission in Colchester to supporting youth initiatives and working with senior citizens. Her work in contract negotiations, town committees, and various church and community organizations shows she is not only collaborative but also unafraid to tackle complex issues with compassion and practicality.

Nancy's priorities – from attracting and retaining highly effective teachers to maintaining safe, functional school facilities – reflect a clear, student-first mindset. She is a strong communicator, a thoughtful planner, and someone who will listen to and represent the entire community.

I am confident that Nancy Nelson will be an asset to the Board of Education and an advocate for students, families, educators and taxpayers alike.

Best Regards,

Kristin Davis – Colchester

Planning for Hebron

Dear Hebron Neighbors:

My name is Chad Livernois, and since 2018 I've been proud to call Hebron home. Like many of you, I value the character of our town and want to see it preserved while we plan thoughtfully for the future.

I grew up in a small Rhode Island town and know the importance of strong communities. My background includes six years in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear operator aboard a submarine. My experience taught me discipline, problem-solving, and the value of teamwork – all skills I will bring to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

If elected, I'll work hard to make sure Hebron's growth remains smart, sustainable, and aligned with the values we share as neighbors. I respectfully ask for your support and your vote.

Sincerely,
Chad Livernois

Candidate for Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission

Supports Mike Beaulieu

To the Editor:

I am writing to endorse Michael (Mike) Beaulieu for Board of Finance in Hebron. I have known Mike and his family for 20 years and he is deeply invested in the health of this town. We serve in the Lions Club together, where as president and longtime member, he has dedicated much time and energy into helping the organization have a wonderful and positive impact on the surrounding community.

In the time I have known him, he has demonstrated to me a strong sense of work ethic, integrity and common sense which I know will assist Hebron on a fiscal level serving as a member of the Board of Finance. Make a common-sense choice in November and cast your vote for Mike Beaulieu.

Sincerely,
Allegra Weir – Hebron

New Era of Republican Leadership

To the Editor:

In Colchester, the word Republican has, for some, carried a heavy history. I understand that. We've seen times when local leadership under the GOP name felt more divisive than unifying. But this November, we have an opportunity to redefine what Republican leadership means – and to show that it can be about community, respect, and progress.

Our slate of Republican candidates isn't a return to the past – it's a reflection of today's Colchester. We are parents, neighbors, and small business owners who care deeply about our schools, our town, and the people who make it thrive. We believe in listening first, collaborating across party lines, and focusing on what truly matters: our children, teachers, and families.

For me, running for the Board of Education isn't about politics – it's about people. It's about making sure every child in Colchester Public Schools feels supported, challenged, and prepared for life after graduation. It's about ensuring that our tax dollars are spent wisely and that every decision made reflects transparency, accountability, and excellence.

This is a new generation of Republican leadership – one grounded in kindness, community, and commitment. We are not here to fight against our town. We are here to fight for it.

So as you head to the polls, I invite you to look beyond the letter next to the name. Look at the people, their hearts, and their work. Because together – no matter your political background – we can build a stronger, more unified Colchester.

Olivia Duksa
Republican Candidate,
Colchester Board of Education

Time for a Change

To the Editor:

As Hebron's current town clerk, and with the support of retired town clerk Carla Pomproicz and current assistant town clerk Lisa Irish, I urge all Hebron residents to vote 'yes' on Question #2 on the municipal election ballot this Nov. 4.

The role of town clerk has evolved into a highly technical position requiring in-depth knowledge of statutes and procedures. Having a trained, experienced individual in this role is essential to the smooth and efficient operation of our office.

Hebron residents deserve continuity and expertise in this critical position. In a small town like ours – with no other viable candidates currently available – losing our experienced staff would result in a significant disruption of services. That's why we strongly support updating the town charter to transition the town clerk position from elected to appointed.

This change ensures that the most qualified person can be selected based on experience and knowledge, allowing them to step into the role and serve effectively from day one.

If you have questions or would like more information, I welcome you to call or stop by the town clerk's office. I will be happy to explain why we support this as the best path forward for Hebron.

Please vote 'yes' on Question #2 on Nov. 4.

Most Sincerely,
Francesca Villani
Hebron Town Clerk

Thanks for Your Support

Dear Colchester Residents:

I am Gussie Gilberti, a retired educator, who is running for the Board of Education. I want to thank our community for its openness and willingness to discuss our schools and town status as we reach out in our campaign. The Democratic slate has been reaching out to the community and knocking on your doors to discuss issues and our platform. We have met people who want to share their views and concerns. It reinforces the basis of democracy. Thank you for sharing.

You can find our platform on the Colchester democratic face book page and website. Your support is appreciated. Please vote on Tuesday November 4th at your designated polling place or early voting which begins Oct. 20-Nov. 2 at Town Hall. Colchester is a great town to live in. Let's continue that tradition.

Gussie Gilberti – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Education

Thank You, Ted's

To the Editor:

The Board of Missions at the Gilead Congregational Church would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ted's IGA Supermarket for their generous support during our Meat the Need Food Drive. Ted's helped us assist Hebron Interfaith Human Services as they have faced challenges in providing meat for their clients.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and our collaboration with Ted's, we were able to deliver 100 pounds of meat in July, and another 100 pounds of meat in September!

Ted's IGA has a long-standing tradition of supporting local organizations, and we are blessed by their kindness and commitment to our community. We at Gilead Church are privileged to partner with Ted's in serving our neighbors.

Warm Regards,
Gilead Church Board of Missions
Hebron

Colchester Needs Nancy Nelson

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to support Nancy Nelson for Board of Education. I have known Nancy for several years. I can honestly say that she has the necessary qualities and skills to succeed in this position.

Nancy is hard-working, dedicated and compassionate about what she does. She is very energetic and is always willing to help. She is committed to our community. Nancy devotes a great deal of time volunteering at the Colchester Senior Center and is on the CORE Commission and the Coalition for Youth in Colchester committee. She also worked as a volunteer EMT for five years.

Nancy is a very responsible and enthusiastic individual who will work hard for our community. Her experience in education for 33-plus years will surely enhance the education system and help her to be a valuable asset to Colchester.

I urge you to vote for Nancy Nelson for Board of Education in the November 4th election. I know she will make a difference for the good of our town.

Linda Farrell – Colchester

Supports Leon

To the Editor:

I've had the privilege of knowing Joelyn Leon as a friend and fellow East Hampton resident, and I can say with confidence that our town would be fortunate to have her on the Town Council.

Joelyn is the kind of person who listens, shows up, and works hard. She is approachable, honest, and always willing to help others. Those qualities are exactly what we need in our local leaders.

She has professional experience to navigate budgets and policy, but what stands out most is her personal commitment to this community. Joelyn cares deeply about East Hampton and about making it the best it can be for families, seniors, and future generations.

I am proud to support her and urge my fellow residents to cast their vote for Joelyn Leon on Nov. 4th.

Sincerely,
Dana Vick – East Hampton

For Every Student's Future

To the Editor:

My name is James Motes and I'm running for Board of Education in Portland.

Independent. I chose to run without party backing, even though I support and endorse several members of the traditional parties. If I belonged to either party, I would lose control of my voice in whom I support. Running for office as an independent candidate is a monumental task, but to me it's worth it, because I don't ascribe to either party's view of national politics, and in fact believe those views distract us from the important work we need to do here in Portland.

Experienced. I was a public school teacher and administrator for over twenty years before going to law school, where I focused on family law, educational law, and public health law. I spent 20 summers working at an overnight Cub Scout camp, including four as the Camp Director. I have interviewed and hired staff and teachers; I have built, operated, and analyzed budgets; I have developed curricula from scratch, and I have implemented

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Scouting Options Available

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

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

Troop 72 meets at Colchester Federated Church, 60 Main St., on Mondays at 7 p.m.; con-

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

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 through 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 Chal-

lenges, 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.

Fire & EMS Receives \$82K Grant

Colchester Fire & EMS recently received an \$82,200 Assistance to the Firefighters grant, to provide for training courses to enhance the personnel's knowledge, skills and abilities.

In December of 2024, Colchester Fire & EMS submitted a grant to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and late last month, FEMA notified Colchester its grant has been selected for funding.

This funding will support an Aerial Operator Certification course and a Pump Operator Certification course. Both of these courses provide knowledge and skills for fire personnel to be more efficient when operating at an emergency incident. Additionally, these courses provide certification for personnel, which ensures compliance with national standards as well as credentialing for their personal development. This grant also supports overtime costs incurred for career personnel to also participate in these training opportunities. Lastly, this grant has the

potential to strengthen mutual aid partners by providing open seats for these courses for their personnel as well, Colchester Fire & EMS said in a press release.

The grant awarded is for \$82,200, with \$78,285.71 being provided from federal funding and \$3,914.29 being the share of non-federal funding for the grant.

Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann stated, "These grants are highly competitive and support projects and initiatives, such as these, in an effort to enhance our emergency services organizations capabilities. We are very happy to have been awarded this grant and look forward to the enhanced training it will provide for our personnel."

The acceptance of this grant will need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen at its next meeting prior to the award being accepted from FEMA. This approval needs to be made by Oct. 24, Colchester Fire & EMS said.

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.

Monday, Oct. 13: Senior center closed for Indigenous People's Day/Columbus Day.

Tuesday, Oct. 14: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Garden Club Pumpkin Decorating; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle, Holiday Fair Meeting; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights; 7 p.m., SCBC meeting.

Wednesday, Oct. 15: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology by Appointment; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Happy Camper luncheon; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

Thursday, Oct. 16: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Card-Making; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip; 11 a.m.; Yoga; noon, Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m.,

Knit & Crochet; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

Friday, Oct. 17: 9 a.m., Social Service Hour, Open Art Studio; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Events: Fall Gnome Wreath Workshop: Thursday, Oct. 23, 12:30 p.m. Learn to create a festive gnome wreath for your door or wall. All supplies will be provided. You must be able to use a glue gun. The cost is \$12 per person. Registration is required. Space is limited.

Unleash Your Joy Using Social Media Mindfully: Monday, Oct. 27, 10:30 a.m. Learn ways to mindfully engage in social media and learn to balance usage to add more joy into your life. This is a free program.

Annual Halloween Pizza and Costume Party: Friday, Oct. 31, 11:30 a.m. Engage in traditional Halloween festivities, including a costume parade and contest, as well as new Halloween games. The festivities will be followed by a lunch of pizza, garden salad, choice of soda or bottled water, and delicious spooky desserts. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Tickets are \$6 if you wear a costume and \$7 if you do not. Tickets are on sale through Friday, Oct. 24, or until sold out.



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John Thomas

Hello. My name is John Thomas and I am the Republican candidate running for First Selectman of Colchester.

- *I believe every opinion and suggestion is worth hearing. I will LISTEN.*
- *I believe in creating a dialogue and finding good solutions together;*
- *I believe in transparency in government – keeping you informed;*
- *I believe in financial responsibility. I am a businessman and will run the town like a business. It is your money. We will spend it wisely.*



★ ★  ★ ★

Remember to

VOTE!

Your voice, your choice, your vote.

I ask for your vote on November 4th so we can work together to make Colchester the best it can be.

Your vote is your voice!

Please give your vote to the Republican team.

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Two Teachers Step Forward for Colchester Schools

By Toriana Williams

With names that sound like comic book heroes – Gussie Gilberti and Nancy Nelson – the two Democratic candidates for the Colchester Board of Education seem ready to take on a challenge that even the Avengers might hesitate to tackle: local politics.

Both women are lifelong educators, retired but still deeply tied to classrooms, curriculum and community. Between them, they bring more than 60 years of teaching and administrative experience, and both say their decision to run stems from the same impulse that drew them to education in the first place - helping children thrive.

“Education is something that’s in your blood and never leaves,” Nelson said. “I just got to the point where I wanted to work with the school again, with the kids, with the teachers.”

Gilberti echoed the same sentiment, explaining that after the recent loss of her husband, she was looking for a new way to serve the community she’s called home for three decades.

“Education has always been a huge part of my life,” she said. “I felt like this was something I could do that would still make a difference.”

A Lifetime in the Classroom

Both candidates grew up in Connecticut and spent their careers in its public school systems. Gilberti was born in Bridgeport and has lived in Colchester for about 30 years. She taught in Colchester for nearly the whole time before becoming a special education supervisor in Windham and later Plainfield.

Her work, she explained, involved “hiring people, staffing, running programs ... curriculum, individual education plans.” She’s particularly proud of her work launching one of the first inclusive full-day kindergarten programs in the state – an initiative that allowed children with and without disabilities to learn side by side.

Nelson’s path followed a similar arc. Born in Norwich, she spent over 30 years living and teaching in Lisbon before moving to Colchester about five and a half years ago. She taught for more than three decades, serving as a reading and science teacher, test coordinator and math

specialist.

“I worked with teachers, helping them with meeting their goals and objectives,” Nelson said. “I was responsible for ... in mathematics, ordering books, running curriculum workshops and helping on the curriculum.”

Both come from families steeped in education.

“I come from a family of teachers,” Nelson said. “I think it’s just something that gets passed down.”

Why They’re Running

The two women said retirement hasn’t dampened their commitment to public education - if anything, it’s strengthened it. Nelson, who still volunteers in schools, said she was motivated to run because she wants to be part of the solution to challenges she sees across Connecticut districts: teacher burnout, mental health struggles and growing communication gaps between schools and families.

“I see teachers working so hard, and sometimes it feels like they’re not being heard,” Nelson said. “I want to be a voice for them and for the kids.”

For Gilberti, the campaign represents a continuation of a life spent bridging divides between educators, parents and administrators.

“The schools and the community should never feel like separate things,” she said. “When people feel informed and included, they’re much more likely to support what’s happening in education.”

Priorities for Colchester

Both candidates emphasized similar goals: focusing on students first, improving transparency, and rebuilding relationships among town boards that have frayed in recent years. Gilberti said one of her biggest concerns is ensuring communication flows more freely between the Board of Education, the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen.

“It used to be that we worked together,” she said. “That cooperation has been lost, and it hurts the whole town.”

Nelson added that transparency is not just about meetings and minutes - it’s about connection.

“We need to make sure everyone, especially



Nancy Nelson, left, and Gussie Gilberti smile together as they run side by side on the ticket for Colchester’s Board of Education.

our senior community, knows what’s happening in our schools,” she said. “Celebrate our students, share their successes. That’s how you build pride.”

Mental health, the two said, is another top concern. They want to see continued investment in counseling and social-emotional learning. They also support seeking grants to expand services and strengthen partnerships between schools and families. The pair also spoke in favor of improving school facilities, particularly the athletic fields at Bacon Academy, referencing a recent town wide field study that outlined necessary upgrades.

Political Context

Their campaign unfolds against a backdrop of Republican infighting that has drawn attention in Colchester and may give Democrats an opening to reclaim influence on the school board. Both candidates, however, were quick to say their focus remains on education, not partisanship.

“We’re not running to make political statements,” Gilberti said. “We’re running to make sure kids are learning, teachers are supported and parents are informed.”

Democrat Town Committee Chair Monica Swyden is hoping Democrats will regain majority control of the Board of Education, something lost after Republicans took over in 2021. Swyden shared that the party’s motivation goes beyond politics.

“I would ask voters to look at it if they think things are better on the Board of Education

since Republicans have taken a majority or they think they’re not better ... I ask voters to look at the values that they hold in regards to education,” she said.

She also referenced a past controversy in which a book was challenged for its content.

“There’s no place for that in Colchester,” Swyden said. “It’s easy to put on paper, ‘You want what’s best for kids,’ but when we look at some of the historical actions ... it seems kind of counterintuitive.”

Gilberti and Nelson are the only candidates with classroom and administrative experience, something Swyden said sets them apart in a race increasingly defined by ideology rather than insight. Swyden said that “experience matters when you’re making decisions that affect classrooms.”

Looking Ahead

If elected, both women said success wouldn’t just be measured in test scores or budgets, but in community trust.

“When people start saying, ‘I feel like I know what’s going on,’ that’s success,” Nelson said. “When parents feel comfortable reaching out, when teachers feel supported, when kids feel proud of their schools - that’s when we know we’re doing our jobs.”

Gilberti nodded in agreement.

“It’s about relationships,” she said. “That’s what good education - and good leadership - is built on.”

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. Early voting begins Monday, Oct. 20.

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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 op-

tions. Learn more and apply at www.exchange-student.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.exchange-student.org.

For more information, email youthexchange7980@gmail.com.

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

Majestic Cities of Central & Eastern Europe: Oct. 4-17, 2026. Explore Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest and Krakow. This 14-day, 13-night trip includes airfare, hotels, and meals (12 breakfasts, one lunch, and six dinners). Cost is \$6,499 per person for double occupancy, if booked before Feb. 26, 2026. This is a small group tour (only 24 people in total on the tour) so space is limited. There will be a trip presentation at the Colchester Senior Center on Monday, Nov. 17; no registration required. For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1346389>.

Newport Playhouse – A Twisted Christmas Carol: Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9:15 a.m. *A Twisted Christmas Carol* is a Texas spoof of Charles Dickens’ classic *A Christmas Carol*. It’s Christmas Eve in a small west Texas town, and cantankerous barbecue joint owner Buford Johnson is visited in a dream by ex-business partner Hank Walker, who takes Buford on a journey like Scrooge’s. The cost is \$160 per person and includes a huge buffet dinner and cabaret style performances. Space is limited.

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

Annual Fall Market Nov. 1

Colchester Federated Church’s annual Fall Market is coming up on Nov. 1, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the church, 60 Main St. This fair showcases local crafters, vendors, farmers and more. Rustic Streets Food Truck will be on site for lunch. Take your chances at the raffle table, and treat yourself to a sweet treat at the bake sale. 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.





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Parks & Rec News & Notes

Colchester Parks and Recreation has announced the following programs and events. Registration required unless noted. For full program descriptions and to register, visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. Parks and Rec. can also be reached at 860-537-7297 or at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Pumpkin Painting: Wednesday, Oct. 15, 4-6 p.m., at the RecPlex pavilion. Parks and Rec. will provide all the supplies; just bring your own pumpkin. All ages are welcome. Wear clothes that can get messy. Bring a way to take your pumpkin home if the paint hasn’t completely dried.

Puzzlepalooza: Friday, Oct. 17, 6-8 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center. How fast can you complete a puzzle? Register as a team or single (Parks and Rec. will pair you up with others). All teams get the same puzzle and the first one to finish wins a prize. Each team gets to bring the puzzle home. Up to 10 teams will compete to complete the same puzzle. No more than four people per team; but only one person has to register for their team. Children can be included on a team, but there must be at least two adults on each team. Bring your own snacks and get ready for some fun!

Trunk or Treat: Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025 (rain date Sun., Oct. 26) at the Bacon Academy parking lot. Bring your decorated trunks. Register today to decorate your car/truck “trunk” with a Halloween theme and hand out candy to the trick-or-treaters. Register by Oct. 23; limited to the first 50 trunks. There is no fee to register.

How it works: Arrive on 10/25 at Bacon Academy between 2-2:30 p.m. You will be shown where to park, then you will set up your display by 3 p.m. From 3-4 p.m. the event will be sensory-friendly; keep your decorations quiet, with no flashing lights. The public will attend between 4 and 7 p.m. with DJ Montez. You can turn on decorations; flashing lights are ok. Please remember that you will need to remain in your parked location for the entire event. Note: only candy can be distributed, and trucks should be decorated with family themes in mind.

For trick-or-treaters, admission is two bags of unopened candy per child. The candy that is collected will be distributed to the trunks to hand out to the trick-or-treaters. This event is a free, family event that relies on donations of candy to provide the opportunity to trick or treat. The candy will be collected before you are admitted to the event. Please carpool, if possible; the parking lot will fill up.

‘Ghost Run’ Half Marathon: Saturday, Nov. 1, starting at 9 a.m. in Hebron. The parks and recreation departments of Hebron, Colchester and East Hampton are collaborating with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to host the 22nd annual Ghost Run on the 13.1-mile certified half marathon course on the Air Line Trail. Online registration: runsSignup.com/ghostrun.

Earring-Making Class: Wednesdays, Nov. 5 and 12, at Colchester Senior Center, for aged 5 and up. Using paint, foam stamps, collage papers and foils, create mini paper collages that will be combined with a textured metal frame of aluminum, brass or copper and embellished with various beads and findings to create one-of-a-kind pierced dangle earrings. Each participant will leave with at least two complete pairs of earrings. You will work with small pieces and mini beading tools. Fee is \$45 for residents, \$50 for non-residents. A minimum of five people is needed to run the class, with a maximum of 16. Instructor is Jodi Savage.

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Colchester’s Canine Celebration Draws Crowds

By Toriana Williams

It was a golden autumn afternoon at Hop Culture Farms and Brew Co., the kind of warm October day that blurs the line between late summer and early fall. The air was filled with the scent of craft beer, pumpkin spice and freshly made street food, while a sea of wagging tails and cute costumes moved between vendor booths.

From dogs dressed as devils to one particularly photogenic pair, the Pumpkins and Pooches festival once again proved to be one of Colchester’s charming community traditions.

Hosted by the Colchester Dog Park Committee (CDPC), the annual event brought together families, local businesses and animal lovers for a day of fundraising and festive fun.

The official event description invited the community to “join us for a fun day filled with pet related vendors, canine costume contests, raffles, custom cocktails and - of course - GREAT beer!” It also promised pumpkin-decorating and other activities for the kids, welcoming families, kids and dogs.

For Debi Czarkowski Marvin, member of the CDPC and one of the event organizers, the afternoon marked not just a celebration of pets but the community’s ongoing support for the town’s beloved dog park.

“The Colchester Dog Park is not funded at all by any budget monies from the town of Colchester,” she explained. “All the maintenance, the upkeep, any improvements are done through fundraisers. ... The Colchester Dog Park Committee is responsible for that fundraising.”

That grassroots dedication has kept the park running for roughly 20 years, with different volunteers over time ensuring it remains a clean and welcoming place for both local and visiting dog owners.

“It’s a very popular place for people to bring their dogs,” Marvin said. “People come from all around neighboring towns, multiple towns.”

The Pumpkins and Pooches event itself has been part of Colchester’s seasonal calendar for years. Originally run by the Colchester Lions Club, the dog park committee took it over after the pandemic.

“COVID stopped everything. So after COVID, we picked it up,” Marvin said. This year makes the third year the committee has hosted it at Hop Culture Farms.

Set against a backdrop of fields and autumn trees, the venue provided plenty of space for vendors, dogs and onlookers. Rustic Streets and Twin Beaks food trucks offered savory options, while music filled the air. Visitors browsed local artisans’ booths, purchased raffle tickets and watched as dogs paraded in costume.

“It’s a fun day,” Marvin said. “It’s great to see all the people come out and enjoy themselves. The dogs are all in costume. We do a lot of laughing today.”

Among the laughter and applause, 10-year-

old Madison McCormick stood proudly beside her dog Toby. The pair drew smiles from attendees as they posed for photos - Madison dressed as Georgie from *It*, and Toby as the terrifying yet adorable Pennywise.

“I love that I get to match with him,” McCormick said, smiling as Toby wagged his tail beneath his costume. Her mother, Cristee McCormick, said the pair were repeat participants.

“He won first place last year,” Cristee said, recalling how Toby had also earned “the most original” award and “a big raffle basket, treats, a trophy and a ribbon” when dressed up as Beetlejuice.

For families like the McCormicks, the event isn’t just about prizes – it’s about connection.

“Meeting people,” Cristee said, was one of her favorite parts of the event. “Getting to know everybody in the town, laughing at all the costumes.”

This year’s weather may have been ideal for visitors but presented a few challenges for the event itself, with several vendors packing up and leaving early.

“I think some went to the beach or something today because it was so nice – or maybe it was just too hot,” Marvin shared.

She noted the day was much warmer than anticipated, and added with a laugh, “a couple of my committee members are out there in long sleeves.”

Still, the turnout remained strong throughout the afternoon, with dozens of dogs playing and hundreds of attendees stopping by to enjoy the festivities.

One of the handful of vendors on site was Glastonbury Animal Hospital, represented by several smiling staff members from the Marlborough office - including receptionist Stacy Caporale and Vanessa Krimps.

“We’re just spreading the good word of pet care,” said Caporale, who has a seven-year-old Corgi named Cora. “Our office in Marlborough is a little bit newer, so we’re just trying to kind of put our name out there and get some new clientele.”

The hospital offers a wide range of veterinary services. “We do standard wellness exams, vaccines, sick visits, surgeries, spays, neuters, dentals,” Caporale listed. The business also treats smaller animals. “We have one doctor that sees rabbits, guinea pigs, some exotics like that. Chickens even!”

For Krimps, who owns a one-year-old kitty named Trout, the day was as much about bonding with the community as it was about business.

“It’s really just kind of getting the word out there about the importance of veterinary care, both preventative and urgent,” she said. “And

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.



Madison McCormick and her dog, Toby, pose together at the Pumpkins and Pooches festival, turning the frightening clown Pennywise to something dog lovers wouldn’t mind seeing creeping up the stairs at night. Photo by Toriana Williams.

building a community. We’re here for them as much as they’re here for us.”

Events like Pumpkins and Pooches not only provide lighthearted entertainment but also sustain the dog park’s year-round operation. The Colchester Dog Park Committee relies heavily on fundraisers, including upcoming events such as Pet Photos with Santa on Nov. 30 at the Fish and Game Club, and the Spring Bark for the park celebration scheduled for May 17 on the Colchester Town Green. The latter, Marvin said, is the group’s “largest fundraiser,” featuring

“40 plus dog-related vendors, 24 raffle brackets, grab bags and food trucks.”

As the afternoon waned, dogs trotted off the field in tutus, lion’s manes and tiny Boy Scout uniforms and vendors folded up tents as the late-day sun began to dip behind the trees. The laughter, the shared love for animals and the hum of small-town camaraderie lingered in the air – reminders of how Colchester’s sense of community thrives through the simplest of joys: people, pets and the promise of another beautiful fall day.

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Election Day is Coming

Voting in the Nov. 4 municipal election will begin soon, so there is some information the town clerk’s office is passing along.

Registration: All U.S. citizens who are registered can participate in voting. To register or to check your voter registration status, visit tinyurl.com/zs2k9vy8. ID requirements are at tinyurl.com/2y5zmcc8.

Oct. 17 is the last day to register, both in person and by mail. The registrar of voters will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. for in-person registration. All mail-in voter registration applications must be received or postmarked by this date in order to be accepted. The Online Voter Registration System will also close on this date at 11:59 p.m.

Same-day registration (SDR) will also be available at the early voting location during the early voting period (Oct. 20-Nov. 2).

Nov. 3 is the deadline for admitting those seeking to vote in the election whose qualification as to age, citizenship, or residence was attained on or after Oct. 17. The registrar of voters and town clerk’s office will be open that day

from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Nov. 4, SDR will be available at Town Hall from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voting Locations: Absentee voting will take place through Nov. 3 at the town clerk’s office at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. For absentee ballot information, visit tinyurl.com/m597nnxs.

Early voting will take place in Room 1 at Town Hall from Oct. 20-Nov. 2. Hours are 10 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20-Monday, Oct. 27 (including Saturday and Sunday); 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28, and Thursday, Oct. 30; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, Friday, Oct. 31, Saturday, Nov. 1, and Sunday, Nov. 2.

On Election Day itself, Tuesday, Nov. 4, voting will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. District 1 votes at Town Hall Room 1; District 2 votes at Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Rd.; and District 3 votes at Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave. SDR and voting will be in the town clerk’s office.

For further information visit www.colchesterct.gov or call the registrar of voters at 860-537-7204 or the town clerk at 860-537-7215.

Decades of Impact Gala

Tickets are now available for Historic Bacon Academy’s Decades of Impact Gala.

Pull out your poodle skirts and bobby socks, bell-bottoms and tie-dye tops, acid wash jeans and shoulder pads, or even your parachute pants — and join the Trustees of Bacon Academy to celebrate the start of the preservation and restoration of the iconic landmark school building.

The Decades of Impact Gala will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, from 7-10 p.m., at St. Joseph’s Polish Club in Colchester.

The evening will feature music from across the generations, hors d’oeuvres and desserts, si-

lent auction baskets, and a reverse raffle. Guests are encouraged to come dressed in outfits that reflect their favorite decade.

All proceeds from ticket sales will go directly to restoration efforts of Historic Bacon Academy, thanks to such sponsors as Gano’s Power Equipment, Inishmor, Carefree Small Buildings, and Liverant & Sons Antiques.

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$85 for two, and include two drink tickets, hors d’oeuvres, dessert, and dancing. Purchase your tickets online by visiting www.baconacademytrustees.org or by emailing sandy.baconacademy@gmail.com or calling 860-964-3486. This event is expected to sell out, organizers said.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

Community Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7 p.m. All are invited.

Tuesday Bible Study: A six-week Bible study on Tuesdays for men and women, entitled “Changing the Way People Study God’s Word,” concludes Oct. 21. The study meets from 10 a.m.-noon. Instructor: Kevin Baldwin. Book of the Bible: 2 Timothy.

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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.

Dot’s Annual Pasta Dinner

On Sunday, Oct. 26, from 5-7 p.m., the Colchester Democrats will host Dot’s Annual Pasta Dinner at St. Joseph Polish Society.

This gathering is the last fundraiser for the Democratic Team before municipal elections. The event will also raise \$250 for the Dot Mrowka Scholarship and brings many guests from the state and federal level to our town.

Cost is \$20, with kids 10 and under free.

Many varieties of pasta and dessert will be served. See the Colchester Democratic Town Committee’s Facebook page or website for more information. To purchase tickets in advance, please visit secure.anedot.com/colchesterdemocrats/donate.

Tickets will also be available at the door. Contact Monica at 860-465-7909 for additional information.

Collecting for New Mothers in Need

Knights of Columbus Spellman Council 6107’s initiative Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) runs from Oct. 11-28. The Knights will collect supplies for new mothers in need.

New and gently-used items for babies from birth to age 1 will be collected. Some suggested items include: diapers, formula, clothing, wipes, and toys.

Donation containers will be placed in the vestibule of the church and at the handicapped-ac-

cessible entrance. Monetary donations are also appreciated and those checks should be made to KofC Council 6107 and clearly marked for ASAP.

The checks can be given to a member of the Council or mailed to KofC Council 6107, P.O. Box 46, Colchester, CT 06415. The Knights thanked all in advance for continuing Blessed Michael McGivney’s legacy of being there for families in need.

Scouting for Food

Colchester Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs are holding their annual ‘Scouting for Food’ food drive for the Colchester Food Bank.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, Boy Scouts will distribute fliers and bags to many homes in Colchester as possible. Residents are asked to put their donations to the Colchester’s Food Bank into the bags provided or cardboard boxes and paper shopping bags. Then on Saturday, Nov. 8, they should leave donations at the end of their driveway or by their mailbox by 9 a.m. The scouts will begin bag pickup at that time.

All items are appreciated but there is a particular need for jelly, pasta sauce, breakfast items, canned pasta, healthy snacks, & canned veg-

etables. Other helpful items include macaroni and cheese, beverages, instant potatoes, rice and pasta side dishes. Personal care items and baby wipes & diapers are always needed (laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products). Please, no glass containers, opened packages, or expired food.

Air Line Trail Toastmasters

The Air Line Trail Toastmasters Club meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month, from 6:30-8 p.m., at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., or via Zoom.

Discover the art of communication and leadership with the Toastmasters program.

For more information (including the Zoom link), email contact-6976@toastmastersclubs.org. The club can also be found at airlinetrail.toastmastersclubs.org.

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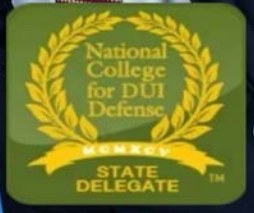


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Zion Lutheran Tag Sale, Food Drive

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., is having a tag sale and food drive Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m.-noon.

Some of the items for sale include cars for toddlers and Christmas items. 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.

At the same time, there will be a Fill A Truck food drive at Zion benefiting the Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown. This food pantry serves eight area towns, including Portland.

Zion is hoping to collect 500 non-perishable food items. If this goal is reached, there is a possibility that the Food Pantry will also receive a check for \$500.

This event will be held rain or shine.

Halloween on Main Street

Youth and Family Services (YFS) will hold its annual Halloween on Main Street event Friday, Oct. 24, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., businesses welcome trick-or-treaters on Main Street in Portland. Look for the pumpkins in their windows to signify their participation in the event.

YFS will allow businesses not located on Main Street to set up in front of Brownstone Intermediate School. Reach out to Courtney Fitzkee to sign your business up, at cfitzkee@portlandct.org or 860-342-6758. A map will be out a week prior to the event.

Help Name the Giant Peace Lily!

**By Sarah Elliott-Caratasios, LMSW
Director & Municipal Agent, Portland Waverly Senior Center**

If you've visited the Portland Waverly Senior Center lately, chances are you've noticed a very special new member of our family, a very large and very loved peace lily, generously gifted to us by Dave and Grace Sharp. This beautiful plant has quickly become a conversation starter, a gathering point, and a source of daily joy for our members and team here.

Our peace lily is more than just a plant; it's a living symbol of healthy aging. Just like our members, it thrives with care, attention, and the right environment. It reminds us how important it is to nurture growth, celebrate life at every stage, and find peace in the simple things. Studies show that plants bring calm, lower stress, and spark connections, and this lily does just that, every day we hear new conversations about how large it is, how lush its leaves are, and how it brightens our space.

Now we need your help! This extraordinary plant deserves a name, and we're inviting our community to join in the fun. Stop by the Senior Center, visit with our peace lily, and cast your vote or suggestion for the perfect name. Will it be something dignified? Playful? Whimsical? That's up to you!

Healthy aging isn't just about exercise and good nutrition, it's about laughter, creativity, and community. What better way to celebrate



Visitors to the Portland Waverly Senior Center are invited to help name the center's new peace lily!

than giving our beloved peace lily a name chosen by the people who love it most?

Come visit, share a smile, and help us crown this beauty with a name to last for years to come. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

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Chicken Marsala Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce
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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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Exchange Club Turning 80

The Portland Exchange Club is celebrating its 80th Anniversary, and is inviting the public to its anniversary celebration at Concentric Brewery, 91 Main Street in Portland on Sunday, Oct. 12, from noon to 5 p.m.

Appetizers will be served, and there will be a cash bar. The Mick Louis Band is scheduled to perform starting at 1 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) is holding a collection for household hazardous waste on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Haddam Elementary School, 272 Saybrook Rd., Higganum.

This is the last collection for the 2025 season and is free to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes East Hampton & Portland.

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

Volunteers Wanted

The 31st annual food drive will be happening again this year. Last year there were 800 bags returned by the community. This year, organizers are going to be dropping bags off to different neighborhoods on Sunday, Oct. 26, and picking up on Sunday, Nov. 2, both days starting at 1 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to drop off and pick up the bags. If any organizations, families, individual or students would like to volunteer, please contact Kelly Mainetti @ 860-685-1985 or kel-lar@snet.net.

Holiday Closing

The Portland town offices will be closed Monday, Oct. 13, in observation of Columbus Day.

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 available in the town clerk's office. 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.

Toys for Tots

The Town of Portland Garage is assisting the U.S. Marines in its annual Toys for Tots campaign, which started Oct. 1 and runs through Dec. 15.

All are asked to donate new, unwrapped toys to children in need. Donation location: Portland Town Garage, 505 Glastonbury Tpke.

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Community Garden Provides Fresh Produce to Food Bank

By Anne Lilburn

Portland families who depend on the Portland Food Bank enjoyed fresh produce this past summer, thanks to the work of a group of volunteer gardeners growing fresh vegetables in the Community Gardens at Bransfield Park.

Portland resident and Master Gardener Jill Benson coordinated the efforts at the garden, recruiting volunteers and interns from UConn's Master Gardener program to plant tomatoes, peppers and other crops. She said there were originally two plots that were used to grow food for the Food Bank, but when she noticed that several plots at the gardens were going unused, she asked the town to donate the extra plots and they obliged. She invited some fellow Master Gardeners to plant food for the Food Bank in those plots and the project took off.

Today, the group has five plots total, with four plots growing vegetables and one set up as a pollinator garden to help attract pollinators for the vegetable plants so they grow better. They also added two raised garden beds, built by local Boy Scout Aidan Burrus and his troop as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Just how much food does five garden plots grow? They're up to 387 pounds of produce deliveries to the Food Bank this year so far, up from 250 pounds in the prior two years.

Food Bank volunteer manager Kevin Backman said the food bank recipients truly appreciate the fresh food. The food bank provides food to a wide range of residents who qualify, ranging from young adults, to families with babies and young children, to senior citizens. The food bank is entirely dependent on volunteers and donations, and so he says farm fresh vegetables are welcome change from the typical canned produce.

"The clients love it," he said. "They come ev-

ery Monday and Thursday and expect to see fresh produce."

The favorites, he said, are the tomatoes. Every year, he said, clients look forward to the start of the season.

Because the garden depends on volunteers, it was self-financed for a long while, but Benson said organizers decided to seek some grant funding last year. They decided to apply for small seed grants from both the Connecticut Horticultural Society and the Connecticut Master Gardener Association.

They also asked the town for some upgrades as an in-kind donation, including soil amendments and water faucet improvements. Andy Dionne from the Portland Parks and Recreation Department says they were happy to be able to help.

"We are very lucky that the folks in the community garden are able to donate so much produce to the food bank," he said. "A lot of folks in the community are able to use that food. I am just very happy with how much use the community garden has gotten. They donate the food and a lot of people use it and it's just been great."

Benson said local businesses have also helped support the food bank garden, with Gotta's Farm providing plants and Ace Hardware discounting purchases, but the group of volunteers and Master Gardeners who work the food bank garden plots still end up spending a lot of their own money on materials such as mulch, tomato cages and netting to keep birds away. They would love to see other businesses contribute in whatever ways they can.

The Master Gardeners who tend to the plots also volunteer their time, and they say the work is rewarding.

"I learned a lot by working in the community garden over the past few years," says Katherine



So far this year, the Community Gardens at Bransfield Park have yielded nearly 400 pounds of fresh vegetables for the Portland Food Bank.

Leslie. "It takes patience and persistence to be a gardener. Furthermore, working in the community garden requires a sense of humility and a focus on the goal of growing food to help others. I've become so much more aware of the work volunteers do."

Over at the food bank, with fall coming and the end of the growing season here, the fresh

tomatoes are going away, at least for now, but they'll be back next year. Benson said the town typically starts rototilling to prepare the plots in May, and when spring comes around, she said they will get back to work. Anyone interested in finding out more, including about volunteer opportunities, can email Jill Benson at benson-jill4@gmail.com.

Fall Book Sale

The Friends of the Portland Library 2025 Fall Book Sale will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Members of the Friends can shop early at the Members-Only sale Friday, Oct. 17, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sale patrons may become members or renew their memberships on-the-spot during the Friday sale time.

The sale includes thousands of books, plus

CDs, DVDs, and puzzles for adults and children. "Books by the Bag" is back with books available at \$10 a bag on Friday and Saturday, and \$3 a bag on Sunday (\$2 per bag for Friends members).

All proceeds from the book sale are used to support the library, including the many programs for all ages offered year-round and the popular passes for free or reduced admission at local museums.

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. 20.

Weekly Programs: Unless noted, all programs are free. **Monday, 10/13: Center closed,** for Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day.

Tuesday, 10/14: 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: turkey Salisbury steak and gravy, veggie blend, mashed potatoes, dinner roll and butter, fruit cup, string cheese. **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize,** 5-6 p.m.; fee is donation to instructor.

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

Thursday, 10/16: Tone & Stretch, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: shaved steak sandwich on a sub roll, potato salad, roasted peppers/onions, string cheese, cup of pears; **Mahjong (FULL),** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 10/17: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Mah Jongg,** 10 a.m.

Upcoming Events: Unless noted, all events are free. **Rug-Hooking:** Every other Wednesday from 12:30-4 p.m. Whether you are a seasoned pro or looking to pick up a new skill, this group is for any and all. Some rug-hooking kits may be available for beginners, call the center for more information. Next group meets Oct. 15.

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.

Shopping Trip to Old Saybrook: Monday, Oct. 20. Go to Marshalls, Home Goods and Walmart. Leave from center at 10 a.m. Ride fee is \$5; registration required.

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.

Hair by Jessica: Monday, Oct. 27. Each month there will be men's/women's shampoos, cuts, and styling. Call the center for details.

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.

Portland Election Information

The November municipal election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4, at Portland Middle School. Early voting will occur Oct. 20-Nov. 20, at Portland Town Hall.

The offices on the ballot this year are: first selectman, Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Term Starting 2025 & Zoning Board of Appeals Term Starting 2026.

Absentee ballots are now available from the town clerk's office. Call 860-342-6743 or stop into the office for an application. Residents can also apply for an absentee ballot on the secretary of the state's website: <https://portal.ct.gov/sots>.

Residents can also complete a voter registration form in the Town Clerk's Office, 33 East Main Street, or online at the secretary of the state's website.

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Beltown Man to Challenge Courtney for Congressional Seat

By Anne Lilburn

If you watch any of Kyle Gauck's TikTok videos, it's clear that he's a bit fed up with the way things are in this country — but also fired up and passionate about the things he says need to change, both nationally and locally.

The 35-year-old Army veteran, aerospace employee and East Hampton resident has launched a campaign to unseat Democratic congressional incumbent Joe Courtney in Connecticut's sprawling 2nd District, which covers a large portion of the eastern half of the state – including most of the towns in the *Rivereast* coverage area.

There's only one problem: Gauck needs to get on the ballot first. That's a task that's going to involve a lot of signature-gathering by next spring, and Gauck said he knows he needs to get the word out to let voters know that he's running and why. He said he'd always been "politically adjacent," but had never considered running for office until recently.

"After the last election, where Donald Trump won, I saw the country headed down a darker path that I just I didn't like," he says. "And it made me nervous. It made me scared for my future, for my two daughters, for the future of the country as a whole, and the democracy that I believe in."

Gauck said that when he looked to his leadership in Washington, he was disappointed. He saw them as "capitulating" when they should have been fighting, and he started to think he'd be better served by "somebody with a little more sting, a little more bite." That's when he decided to run.

Among the issues Gauck is prioritizing: term limits for Congress, healthcare, affordability, banning private stock trading for Congress, and stopping U.S. funding of Israel's military actions. He also has concerns about the use of the military in U.S. cities.

Gauck said he's been disappointed in Courtney recently, and points to some recent examples of what he means, including Courtney's vote to table articles of impeachment against Donald Trump this past June, and his recent vote to establish a national day of remembrance for Charlie Kirk.

While Gauck is quick to point out that he doesn't condone Kirk's killing, he said he also believes Kirk should not be celebrated, describing him as someone who "literally embodied hate speech" and "the exact opposite of what the American ideal is."

"And now he has a national day of remembrance," says Gauck, "and Joe Courtney voted for that."

Gauck said he also takes issue with Courtney's support of Israel, and his acceptance of money from the American Israel Public Affairs Com-



Kyle Gauck

mittee, or AIPAC, a pro-Israel lobbying group.

When it comes to Israel, Gauck has strong views, believing that the country is committing war crimes in its current war. He advocated strongly for the United States to stop supporting Israel, and he knows some will call him anti-Semitic for those views. In response, he pointed out that his wife is Jewish, and says that not all Jewish Americans hold the same views on Israel. His wife and her family, he says, agree with him.

Gauck said he believes a lot of his strength as a candidate comes from his ability to appeal to voters on both sides of the aisle, in style if not in policy. He says that while many of his policy ideas line up with the Democratic platform, his style and presentation may sometimes cross the aisle. That may be because he grew up Republican.

"I was born and raised red," he says.

It wasn't until he joined the Army in 2010, as part of the 5th Special Forces group stationed in Fort Campbell, Ky., that Gauck says his political perspectives started to change. He deployed two times to the Iraq-Kuwait border before leaving the military in 2014.

These days, Gauck said he has friends on both sides of the aisle, and sometimes even gets mistaken for a Republican by his neighbors.

"One of my neighbors had a Trump 2024 sign out, and he's extremely happy that I'm running. And he's known me for a lot of years. And when he found out I was running, he assumed I was running as a Republican," said Gauck. "When he found out I was running as a Democrat, he was shocked."

These days, Gauck is most focused on getting the word out that he's running. Connecticut has

strict laws that make ballot access difficult, and he will need to gather thousands of signatures from registered Democrats in a short period next year.

To that end, he's been going to events and shaking hands, and reaching people on TikTok, where he posts as @kyleforcongress and had 209,000 followers as of press time. He said social media provides an opportunity to reach younger voters that sometimes get ignored in an election cycle.

Gauck said that, if he were elected, he would want voters to know that he would be listening to their concerns, and he would want them to know where he stood on the issues.

"I don't want any of the ambiguity of whether I would vote for a day of remembrance for Charlie Kirk, right? It's things of that nature. I want them to know exactly who I am."

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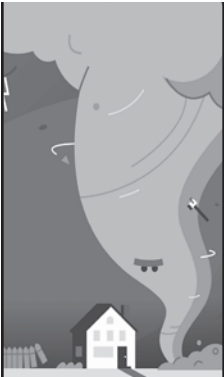


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RTC Trivia Night
A Trivia Night Fundraiser, hosted by the Portland Republican Town Committee, will be held at Concentric Brewing on Thursday, Oct. 23. All are invited.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and trivia is from 7-8:30 p.m. Tickets: \$25 per person (includes a \$7 drink voucher). Teams of up to eight players are allowed. There will be raffle baskets, prizes, and more. Local candidates will also be there to answer questions and chat about Portland.
Tickets are available at the door or to reserve a spot early, email gopportlandct@gmail.com

PHS Class of '75 Reunion
The Portland High School Class of 1975 50th Reunion committee has scheduled a weekend of celebrations, beginning with a picnic on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 1-5 p.m., at Riverfront Park, 284 Brownstone Ave. On Sunday, Oct. 19, from 2-6 p.m., all are invited for a luncheon at Terrazza at Quarry Ridge Golf Course, 9 Rose Hill Rd., Portland.
The committee is seeking current contact information (address, email, phone number, cell number) for classmates. If you have any information to share, please contact Sue Hale Colby at mrstrucking@aol.com or Jane Klemba at klombajane@comcast.net.

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I Can't Find Him

A Clue Realized

"The heavens DECLARE the glory of God; and the firmament SHOWETH His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are CLEARLY SEEN, being UNDERSTOOD by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE" (Romans 1:20). "The FOOL hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did UNDERSTAND, that did SEEK GOD" (Psalm 53:1-2).

A Promise Given

"That they [the nations] should SEEK the LORD, if haply [so then] they might feel [grope] after HIM, and FIND HIM, though HE be NOT FAR from every one of us" (Acts 17:27). "And ye shall SEEK ME, and FIND ME, when ye shall SEARCH FOR ME with all your heart. And I will be FOUND of you, saith the LORD" (Jeremiah 29:13-14a). "SEEK ye the LORD while HE may be FOUND, call ye upon Him WHILE HE IS NEAR" (Isaiah 55:6).

A Search Ended

"But without FAITH it is impossible to please HIM: for he that cometh to God MUST BELIEVE that HE IS, and that He (God) is a Rewarder of them that DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM" (Hebrews 11:6). "Jesus saith unto him, I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE: no man cometh unto the Father, BUT BY ME" (John 14:6). "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you REST" (Matthew 11:28). "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal LIFE, and this LIFE is IN HIS SON. He that hath the Son hath LIFE; and he that hath not the SON of God hath not LIFE" (1 John 5:11-12).

"But as many as **received Him**, to them gave He power to become the children of God, even to them that **believe** on His name" (John 1:12) **The Lord** invites each and all to rely upon **His Word** and **His ability** to save and to meet the needs of the heart that is truly seeking Him.

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★ Letters, cont. from page 16
and evaluated various educational programs with- in schools as both a teacher and a principal.
Invested. I’ve lived in Portland for 15 years. My children are in the school system. I served as the chairman of the Ethics Commission. I’m currently the Cubmaster for Pack 2. I believe in the home- town charm of Portland, but also recognize that growth and change are inevitable. We need to take a measured approach to growth, and constantly ask both “what next?” and “what if?”
I strongly support our teachers, and feel that they are–without exception–the most important asset in our district. The care, compassion, knowl- edge, and dedication must be supported and pro- moted, both financially and personally.
I am running for office to provide my experi- ence and my skills for the benefit of our town. I believe in transparency and proactive communi- cation. It can be too easy to become defensive and dismissive of feedback, but I want to actively com- municate with all of Portland’s citizens, regardless of party or perspective, to see how we can best im- prove our schools.
Please come find me at james-i-motes.com, or contact me directly at james.i.motes@gmail.com. I am excited to meet more Portland citizens to find out how I can best represent you and all children in Portland.
James Motes: for every student’s future.
James Motes – Portland

Conflict of Interest
To the Editor:
It has come to my attention that one of the cur- rent Board of Selectman in Marlborough is cur- rently running for Board of Education and has yet to resign from the Board of Selectmen. This is a clear conflict of interest and reminds me of the type of disregard for our ethical systems and the lack of oversight and accountability that plagues the national stage at the current moment.
I was told many times that the Republicans in Marlborough were anti-Trumpers, that they were different from the republican party as a whole. I was told that they despise Trump and what he stands for; however, it appears they have the same disrespect for our systems of oversight and ac- countability. This same Republican candidate is serving not just on two boards, but in fact is staying on three boards/commissions while run- ning for Board of Education. She seems to spit in the face of ethics and this type of behavior in my opinion must be discouraged. How are we going to increase efficiency and democracy in our govern- ment when parties allow their candidates to have such blatant conflicts of interest during their cam- paigns, let alone when they are actually serving their constituents?

I am speaking as an individual resident of the town when I say that I demand better from our elected officials. I feel compelled to make this case on a public forum. Government officials without watchdogs and oversight from the people inevita- bly turn into tyrants; for proof, look to Trump and the Republicans. We cannot let our community fall to the same disease that afflicts Washington, we must demand better from our elected representa- tives. I stand against all forms of corruption, from DC to our backyard; it all must be fought.
Rob Barstow – Marlborough
Editor’s Note: There is nothing in state statutes or in the Marlborough town charter prohibiting some- one from serving on both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education at the same time.

Elect Rob McLaughlin
Dear Hebron Residents:
We have the privilege of selecting an exceptional individual to join the Hebron Board of Selectmen this year. For over two decades, Rob McLaughlin has been a visible fixture in town. Never without a warm smile, and a hug or hand shake to greet you, Rob has selflessly served our community both as a volunteer in various youth sports programs, and as a professional providing risk management and insurance services to our local businesses. His pragmatic and collaborative approach to solving problems makes him an ideal candidate for the board, as he will strive to find common ground with individuals from diverse perspectives to make well-informed decisions that benefit Hebron and its residents.
Hebron faces a variety of challenges that are not easily addressed, and more than ever we need lead- ers like Rob to help find creative solutions. With rising costs and a limited commercial tax base, the burden of funding our schools and municipal op- erations largely falls on us residents. We need to explore innovative ways to increase business in- vestment, address aging facilities, ensure adequate staffing of government offices, and maintain the high-quality education we have come to expect from our wonderful schools, all while making sure our spending and resulting impact on the taxpayer are properly managed.
Rob embodies the leadership qualities He- bron needs to address these challenges effectively. Please join me in voting for Rob McLaughlin for the Hebron Board of Selectmen.
Sincerely,
James DeDonato – Hebron
Note: DeDonato is a member of the Hebron Board of Finance, but said he is writing as an individual.

Planning for Marlborough’s Future
To the Editor:
I am running on the Democratic slate for the Planning Commission because I am dedicated to ensuring Marlborough continues to be a vital and vibrant community now and for generations to come. While it’s essential to preserve Marlbor- ough’s open spaces and natural resources, we must also encourage thoughtful development that sup- ports a healthy business environment, provides the workforce and customer base that local businesses need, and offers a range of housing options — in- cluding starter homes for young residents, homes for growing families, and housing for senior citi- zens who wish to downsize while remaining active members of our community.
Most Marlborough residents want the same things: a thriving and attractive place to live, town leaders who are responsive and accountable, a fair shot for working families, the ability to age in place with dignity and decency, and a blueprint for smart and sustainable growth. My experience reflects these values – I am a founding member of Marlborough’s Sustainable CT team, vice chair of the Housing Opportunities Committee, and a member of the Commission on Aging.
With a master’s degree in Public Policy and Management, a doctorate in economics, and more than 28 years of research experience focused on Department of Defense policy and workforce management, I bring a distinctive perspective and skill set to address Marlborough’s needs. My goal is to help our town sustain its semi-rural character while thoughtfully responding to the evolving de- mands of our community.
I respectfully ask for your support and your vote in this election.
Peggy Golfin – Marlborough

Advocating for Students, Professionals
Dear Colchester:
My previous letters have expressed appreciation for our students and teachers, but this week, I want to highlight the vital role of related service provid- ers – speech pathologists, occupational therapists, reading and math specialists, social workers, and psychologists. These dedicated professionals are essential to our students’ achievements and teach- ers’ well-being, passionately supporting student education and building the foundation for their understanding and confidence.
My wife and I have personally witnessed the invaluable support these providers offer alongside our daughters’ teachers. Our eldest has formed a deep bond with her provider, who feels like fam- ily to us. Their work in implementing our daugh- ter’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) has significantly boosted her confidence and comfort in learning. We are truly grateful for these profes- sionals in our schools.
As a candidate for the Colchester Board of Edu- cation, I am committed to supporting our students, teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service providers. Their teamwork drives our students’ success and strengthens our district. I will advo- cate for their recognition in our classrooms and through fair compensation. Colchester Schools have an exceptional team, and I am dedicated to retaining and nurturing this asset. Please consider voting for me to champion these priorities and serve our community with dedication.
Sincerely,
Cody McNeely – Colchester
Candidate for the Board of Education

Stewardship and Service
To the Editor:
The Board of Selectmen (BOS) serves as the leg- islative body for the Town of Marlborough, guid- ing our community’s future. This five-member board, elected to staggered four-year terms, holds critical responsibilities that shape daily life and long-term prosperity.
The BOS’s primary role is to support the town manager in administering the town’s affairs. This includes establishing town policies, overseeing personnel matters, and managing infrastructure and public works. A key duty is their central role in the budget process, where they assist in devel- oping the town’s operational and capital budgets, ensuring financial resources align with commu- nity priorities before sending recommendations to the Board of Finance.
Beyond policy and finance, the Board acts as advocates and representatives for residents. They engage with state and local officials, foster com- munity participation through public hearings, and collaborate with other agencies to coordinate services and secure grants. Their work ensures our town’s voice is heard and its interests are advanced.
As a candidate for the Board of Selectmen, I, Anthony Bratz, am dedicated to serving Marlbor- ough with the integrity and foresight these duties demand. I would be honored to earn your support and the opportunity to contribute my energy and commitment to our community’s success. Thank you.
Respectfully,
Anthony M Bratz, EIT
Marlborough Board of Selectmen Candidate

Dementia Talks No. 33
To the Editor:
Day turns to night
Night turns to day
I love you
I love you, too
The sun sparkles
The moon illuminates a path
I love you
I love you, too
The stars twinkle
The rays of the sun warm us
I love you
Eyes show their love
The sun sets below the horizon
The glimmer of day peaks above the trees
I love you
A smile is returned
The sky so dark, no stars to be seen
The sun rises, the clouds hide its rays
I love you
Silence
Snow slowly falls from the sky
One of my fears is the day Mom doesn't return
I love you in her own words, not in her expressions and then not at all while she is still breathing, still with us. This is one part of living grief.
At times we need to seek support from profes- sionals, from groups that feel and truly understand the parts of grief that only those that have had their hearts touched by it, will “get it.” Seek these kind souls out. They can help. Don't wait until “you are ready”, now is a perfect time than any. Dip your toe in, test the waters, seek comfort from those that “get it.”
Know you are not alone.
With much love and peace,
Tonya Maurer – Amston
Alzheimer’s Hot Line 1-800-272-3900

Hebron, RHAM School Boards
To the Editor:
I strongly encourage Hebron residents to re- elect Heather Petit and Nicole “Nikki” Matthews to the Hebron Board of Education, and to elect Jes- sica Hall and Rudy Dellafiore to the RHAM Board of Education. Each of these candidates brings a unique combination of experience, dedication, and skills that will benefit our town’s schools and students.
Heather Petit currently serves as chair of both the Hebron Board of Education and the most re- cent Charter Revision Commission. In both roles, she’s demonstrated a remarkable ability to bring people together, build consensus across differing viewpoints, and deliver substantial results.
Nikki Matthews has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to public service. She has served as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, and as chair of the board of a preschool - in addition to her cur- rent role on the Hebron Board of Education. Her hands-on leadership and deep community roots make her a valuable voice in shaping our schools.
Jessica Hall is a seasoned educator who current- ly teaches in nearby Columbia and serves as her district’s union representative on their Board of Education. She brings direct, relevant experience and a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities in education today. She will be ready to contribute to the RHAM Board from day one.
Finally, Rudy Dellafiore is an accomplished IT executive and a passionate supporter of student programs - from sports and STEM to music and the arts. His professional expertise and deep com- mitment to education will help RHAM continue to thrive.
These four individuals represent the thoughtful, experienced leadership our schools need to main- tain Hebron as a town of choice in eastern Con- necticut. I hope you’ll join me in supporting them.
If you have questions or want to learn more, you can meet them at the Conversation with the Candidates this Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m., at the Russell Mercer Senior Center. I hope to see you there!
Sincerely,
Adam Ockman – Hebron

Preparing Students for Success
To the Editor:
I am honored to have recently been sworn in as a member of the Portland Board of Education, temporary filling the seat vacated by Angela Ham- mond, a champion for our kids. I am running for election to remain a member for a full term and am asking for your support at the ballot box on Nov. 4th.
I am passionate about making sure that fami- lies and the school district work hand in hand. Having raised our three children in the district, I have personal experience with navigating through the town’s schools and special education services. Classrooms where learning is the priority, budgets put dollars directly toward student achievement, and policies that reflect common sense and re- sponsibility must be the goal of our district.
I believe we can provide a world-class educa- tion while being good stewards of taxpayer money. That requires fiscal discipline. I also believe it is crucial to listen honestly to parents and educators and keep our eyes on what matters most: prepar- ing students for success.
Karen Renner
Candidate, Portland Board of Education

Supporting John Dillon
To the Editor:
I am writing in support of John Dillon as a can- didate for the Portland Board of Selectmen. I have personally known John and his family for over 45 years. John is hardworking, dedicated to his family, and committed to helping the Town of Portland move efficiently into the future.
John brings extensive experience from his back- ground in management at the State of Connecticut and his involvement in various community orga- nizations and town committees as well as his cur- rent seat on the Board of Selectmen. John listens, collaborates and acts with both integrity and in- telligence. He has demonstrated that he can work effectively with all members of our community re- gardless of political affiliation.
I encourage everyone to support John Dillon this November.
Sincerely,
Michele Grzeszczak – Portland
Note: Grzeszczak is a Town of Portland employee but said she is writing this letter as a private citizen.

Experience, Service, Dedication
Dear Portland Neighbors:
I am proud to support Jody Grosso, Erin Liv- ensparger, Kim Nagy-Maruschock, and Bethanne Vergean for election to the Board of Education. Together, they represent a remarkable breadth of professional expertise, community service, and dedication to our schools.
Each brings valuable experience that will strengthen the board’s ability to make thoughtful, informed decisions for Portland students. Jody Grosso, a mechanical design engineer with nearly three decades at Pratt & Whitney, combines ana- lytical skill with a deep appreciation for the strong school system that drew his family to Portland. Erin Livensparger, a foundation director with a long career in public health and social justice, brings expertise in education, equity, and com- munity engagement. Kim Nagy-Maruschock, an experienced special education teacher and current board member, offers unique professional insight into early learning and special education along with a measured approach to decision making that defines her time on the Board. Bethanne Vergean, a statewide leader in early childhood screening and intervention, brings a deep understanding of the needs of young children and families.
Collectively, they share a clear passion for pub- lic education and for ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive. Their professional and volunteer work reflects the values that define our district – collaboration, integrity, and high expec- tations for all learners.
In the years ahead, the Board of Education will need to work closely with the Board of Selectmen to advance a long-term plan to address our dis- trict’s significant facility challenges. These candi- dates are committed to doing this work thought- fully – balancing the needs of our students with the needs of our taxpayers, and ensuring Portland’s investments in education are both responsible and forward-looking.
The Portland Board of Education has a strong record of working together, setting politics aside, and keeping students at the center of every con- versation. Jody, Erin, Kim, and Bethanne will con- tinue that tradition while helping us build on the district’s success and advance achievement for all Portland students.
I encourage you to learn more about this out- standing team and join me in supporting them on Election Day.
Sincerely,
Laurel Steinhauer – Portland
Note: Steinhauer is chair of the Portland Board of Education but said she is writing as an individual.

Running for School Board
To the Editor:
I would like to introduce myself, Nathan Jaycox, as a Republican candidate for the East Hampton Board of Education. While my profession has been Engineering and Auditing, I am also uniquely qualified as a state-certified high school physics teacher after completing the Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) Program in 2022. This experi- ence, which included a Student Teaching Assign- ment, has solidified my commitment to enhancing the educational experience of our students, while experiencing the current challenges teachers face every day, as my father, also a teacher, did in the past. My extensive leadership experience in non- profit organizations has also been valuable in pre- paring me to serve the community as a member of the Board of Education.
While our schools do many things well, as I have seen while attending Board of Education Meetings since January 2025, I believe we can do much bet- ter to serve our students. We are in a vicious cycle of escalating cost, for small improvements in the academic performance of our students. This has resulted in parents looking for other options for their children that will better support their future and is one cause of declining enrollment. This status quo is unsustainable, and the defeat of the first BOE budget referendum has shown us that. Hence, it is time to say ‘no’ to the status quo at the voting booth this November and bring on new leaders that believe in raising standards while con-

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★ Letters, cont. from page 27
statewide Program Director for the Connecticut Office of Child Support Services with 300+ employees; Chairman of St. Mary’s Parish Council and Church Lector for 50+ years; Justice of the Peace; member of Freestone Council #7 Knights of Columbus; former Chair of Portland Board of Assessment Appeals, former Vice President of the Portland Agricultural Fair; former Portland Inland Wetlands Commissioner; lifetime Portland resident.
As individuals, we bring unique knowledge and experience to the BOS. As a team, we are committed to promoting economic development to broaden Portland’s tax base, delivering a reasonable and cost-effective solution to our school facilities question, and realizing water independence with a new town well. We will educate ourselves and others about the issues, strive to understand the short and long-term impacts of every decision we make, and put the best interests of Portland and our fellow citizens first.

I would be honored to serve my home town once again on the Portland BOS along with this amazing team. We would appreciate your consideration and support on Nov. 4th. Vote Row A

**Sincerely,
John Dillon, Incumbent Candidate for
Portland Board of Selectmen
It’s About Portland**

To the Editor:
As a proud Portland resident of more than 20 years, I have had the privilege of raising my two sons here with my wife, Sandie. Portland is more than just where we live — it’s our community, and I care deeply about its future.
For over nine years, I served on the Board of Education, where I worked to strengthen student achievement while promoting transparency and accountability. Professionally, I have led human service programs across Connecticut, managing budgets and resources to improve lives. This experience has given me a strong foundation in fiscal responsibility and thoughtful decision-making — qualities I believe are essential for serving our town.
Beyond my professional and public service, I am active with the Men’s fellowship at First Congregational Church and the Portland Exchange Club. These connections continually remind me of the importance of community engagement and working together for the common good.
Today, as a member of the Board of Selectmen, I bring a steady, experienced voice focused on fiscal responsibility, education, and strengthening Portland’s future. I am committed to ensuring that we preserve the qualities that make Portland special, while planning responsibly for the years ahead. I am honored to serve our community and respectfully ask for your support.

Also, please join me by supporting the Pelton Leadership Team for Portland, a group of both seasoned and new persons dedicated to Portland’s future. Learn more about the entire team at <https://www.goppportlandct.com/candidates>.

**Sincerely,
Tim Lavoy – Portland
Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

Row C for BOE in Colchester
To the Editor:
Hello, it’s Donna again, incumbent Colchester Board of Education (BOE) chair. I’m reflecting on the past few years as a member of the BOE as well as my 14 years in Colchester. It has been my privilege and honor to serve Colchester residents, and I would love to serve another four years. My mother always asks me, “Why? It’s like another job.” The answer is simple: It brings me joy to do what’s right and good for the Colchester community and the students therein.

When I first moved to Colchester back in 2010, it was for the school system. I lived in Norwich, my son was only 2 years old and someone had just broken into my house. A change was needed! Several co-workers at the Norwich Bulletin lived in Colchester and told me that the school system is great. So, I set out to make a home for us in Colchester. The community was warm and welcoming. My son and I made new friends. I connected with some old acquaintances who became closer and are now good friends. One of them is on the BOE with me and serves on the opposing party.
Even before we were on the BOE, we debated politics. Discussions never ended in a fight. The friendship always came first, along with common decency and a willingness to hear the other person. If we were deadlocked, we just said we would agree to disagree — done. What’s wrong with politics in this country and sometimes in this town is a lack of listening and respect. When people make a statement like, “If you agreed with _____, just unfriend me.” Really? What has happened to civility? When I ran for BOE, my good friend said, “pot-holes aren’t partisan.”
It means that local government is all about the community that we share, not party politics. We all need to set aside politics and do what’s right and decent for Colchester and the children. Margo and I have been doing exactly that for the past four years and would like to continue collaborating to keep the school system great for the kids and the pride of the community. Thank you for your consideration in voting Row C for BOE.
**Donna Antonacci – Colchester
Note: Antonacci is chair of the Colchester Board of Education, but said she is writing as a citizen.**

No ‘Buts’
To the Editor:
The recent budget season was difficult as usual, yet the Board of Finance Republicans listened to the voters. Our validation was the significant voter turnout that was a cross section of Democrats, Un-affiliated, and Republicans.
The taxpayers sent a clear message: Reduce spending, and my taxes are too high!
Voters rejected the “sky is falling” annual tactic. Voters clearly saw through those claiming to understand our senior’s financial situation when their claim of concern was followed by “BUT”
The Republicans will continue being fiscally responsible for all residents.

**Respectfully,
Bridget McLennan – East Hampton
Note: McLennan is chair of the East Hampton Board of Finance, but is writing as an individual.**

Restrictions on Public Comment
To the Editor:
I was disappointed to learn that our Board of Education has chosen to prohibit public comment unless it directly relates to items on the meeting agenda. To many in our community, this feels less like a procedural adjustment and more like an effort to limit public expression following recent meetings where residents voiced concerns.
Most boards of education across the state welcome public input as part of maintaining transparency and trust. Reasonable limits – such as time restrictions or one comment per person – make sense. But preventing citizens from raising broader issues that affect our schools undermines open governance and public confidence.

We are in election season, and I hope both new candidates and incumbents take note: accountability, openness, and a willingness to listen should be foundational values for anyone running for public office. I encourage those seeking a school board position to commit to restoring full public comment, not tightening restrictions.
At a minimum, if the board feels it must limit comments to agenda items, it should consider hosting two or three town hall–style meetings each year, where the public can ask questions and share feedback.

Public comment is a vital part of community engagement and accountability. Our residents deserve to have their voices heard – even, and especially, when those voices express concern or disagreement.

**Respectfully,
Tricia Dean – Colchester**

Planning for East Hampton
To the Editor:
Our town planning process has been much improved recently by the addition of staff and other changes. We believe it is now responsive to the wishes of townspeople, consistent with the rights of owners and follows state and local laws.
The rewriting of our Plan for Conservation and Development (every 10 years) is now underway. We all have a chance to participate and provide input to this effort. A number of meetings have occurred in various locations. You can still provide input on what you want East Hampton to be like in the future. A simple note will get your ideas included in the planning process. This Plan for Conservation and Development should provide your town and its boards and committees with guidance on what we want to do and what we want to avoid.

For more info on the committee, see <https://www.easthamptonct.gov/pocd-steering-committee>.
**Jack Solomon – East Hampton
Candidate for Town Council**

The Best Choice for Town Clerk
To the Editor:
I strongly support Roberta Dougherty for Andover Town Clerk. She is absolutely the best person for this difficult job that has been staffed by temporary town clerks for several months.

Roberta has been our assistant assessor for 13 years and is the longest-running town employee in the town hall. She has spent several hours over the years in the Town Clerk’s office working with Carol Lee on land records for her assistant assessor’s job. Several times Roberta is the only one physically in the town hall due to our skeleton crew and several part time employees. She is always helpful with anyone who comes in and answers whatever questions they have or gives them information for the right department to help them. For Andover to have a person step into the Town Clerk role after the election, Roberta is the best choice. She has attended one of the classes to become a Certified Town Clerk and will strive to complete the process as soon as possible. She knows the job better than anyone.
Roberta has also been our Municipal and Social Services Agent for several years helping out Seniors and anyone else in town that is in need. She is knowledgeable of the people and agencies they can turn to for help. She has attended several conferences to accumulate knowledge to serve our town.
Vote for Roberta Dougherty to get the Andover Town Clerk’s office back on track.
**Elaine Buchardt – Andover
Note: Buchardt is chair of the Andover Commission on Aging and the Andover Economic Development Commission, but is speaking as an individual.**

Leon for Town Council
To the Editor:
In the 24+ years since I first met Joelyn Leon, I have rarely known a more honest, caring and hard-working person.
As a resident, she has been a tireless advocate for our students and parents. Her professional life is marked by the same ethic. Fighting for the rights of the employed.
Her family values and dedication to her grown children are a model for every parent.
She knows what’s at stake in our country and our town. She listens, regardless of which side you’re on. That is rare in today’s age.
Vote the person, not the party. I’ve supported both sides, as well as independents.
This local election season will bring out the same decades-old rhetoric. But that is meaningless without the right people representing our interests.
Joelyn Leon will bring much-needed vitality, balance and enthusiasm to our local issues, and I fully endorse her candidacy for Town Council.
Our town will be better for it.

**Paul Hoffman – East Hampton
Running for ZBA**

To the Editor:
My name is Liz Bransfield and I am writing to introduce myself as a candidate for the Zoning Board of Appeals in Marlborough. I grew up in eastern Connecticut and moved to Marlborough in 2020 with my partner, Justin, who is running for an alternate position on Marlborough’s Zoning Commission.
I recognize that serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals is vital to balancing the town’s regulations with the needs of both residents and businesses, shaping not only individual properties but also the character and growth of Marlborough. I believe this role requires careful listening, thoughtful judgment, and a fair approach that respects both the law and unique circumstances. I am committed to keeping the zoning process accessible, transparent, and fair for all, and I bring an open mind with a willingness to consider all perspectives. I am proud to be part of a Democratic slate of candidates spanning many different backgrounds and across multiple generations, alongside Matt Wilson and Bob Larson, also running for seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

I would be honored to earn your support and to contribute to the important work of the Zoning Board of Appeals. I believe that we can help keep Marlborough a community that respects its roots while thoughtfully planning for its future.
Early voting for this year’s election starts on Oct. 20, and Election Day is Nov. 4. Please make sure to come out and make your voice heard!

**Liz Bransfield – Marlborough
A Steady, Experienced Voice**

To the Editor:
Hebron’s strength comes from people who care about preserving its character while planning wisely for the future — and that’s why I support Davis Howell for the Planning and Zoning Commission.
For nearly 40 years, Davis has called Hebron home, serving his community through his church and professional work. As parish council president at the Church of the Holy Family, he learned how to listen, compromise, and get results. His career experience working with local planning groups gives him valuable insight into smart growth. His career included working on facility projects that required close collaboration with local planning and zoning groups, giving him real-world insight into how good planning supports smart growth.
Davis understands what makes Hebron special – its scenic beauty, sense of community, and neighborly values. He’s committed to protecting that while supporting the thoughtful progress our town needs. With his experience, steady leadership, and love for Hebron, Davis Howell will be a strong and trusted voice on Planning and Zoning. Davis will protect Hebron’s charm while guiding thoughtful, responsible development.
Vote for Davis Howell – a steady, experienced voice for Hebron.

**David Rose, Member
Hebron Democratic Town Committee
Drug Prevention**

Dear Colchester Neighbors:
Last week, I asked our Youth First Coalition to act quickly to protect drug prevention programs after the White House ONDCP yanked grant awards that fund youth drug prevention nationwide.
Earlier this summer, Colchester was informed that our five-year Drug-Free Communities grant would be extended for another five years. Last week, these awards were pulled back just one day before the new grant period was set to go into effect.
This grant helps fund our full-time prevention coordinator who works with students and programs like “After 2” at the Youth Center, Youth Action Council, and school mental health fairs.
The White House press release says they will “recompete” the grant to ensure funds are not spent by the “radical left”. I don’t usually weigh in on national politics in my role as first selectman, but I will on this issue: it’s a ridiculous statement and action that has punished programs like ours that are already fully compliant with CDC priorities.

In other towns, this led to immediate layoffs and programming interruptions. I am glad to report that our Youth First Coalition approved using funds from the class action opioid settlements to keep our full-time prevention coordinator position active. This can at least preserve programming through July 1, 2026. In the meantime, we will reapply for the DFC grant after the federal government shutdown ends. Given the strength of our program, we remain optimistic about funding, but we are in an unpredictable situation and can’t take that for granted. I will also explore other options and grants to fund these life-changing and life-saving programs.
I grew up in Colchester. I graduated from Bacon Academy. I have seen firsthand the impacts of drug and alcohol abuse among young people in our town. I have lost friends and former classmates. I have also seen how these programs make a real difference in the lives of young people and prevent others from falling into patterns of drug and alcohol abuse. I believe it is essential that we protect them and will work to safeguard them.
**Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler
Colchester First Selectman**

Supporting John Dillon
To the Editor:
I am writing in support of John Dillon as a candidate for the Portland Board of Selectmen. I have personally known John and his family for over 45 years. John is hardworking, dedicated to his family, and committed to helping the Town of Portland move efficiently into the future.
John brings extensive experience from his background in management at the State of Connecticut and his involvement in various community organizations and town committees as well as his current seat on the Board of Selectmen. John listens, collaborates and acts with both integrity and intelligence. He has demonstrated that he can work effectively with all members of our community regardless of political affiliation.
I encourage everyone to support John Dillon this November.
**Sincerely,
Michele Grzeszczak – Portland
Note: Grzeszczak is a Town of Portland employee but said she is writing this letter as a private citizen.**

Support Lawrence and Thiele
To the Editor:
As we approach the local election on Nov. 4th, I encourage my fellow Hebron residents to vote for Jan Lawrence and Tiffany Thiele for the Board of Selectmen.
Both Jan and Tiffany bring a much-needed commitment to transparency in local government—something our town deeply values. They’ve made it clear they’ll listen to the community and lead with fairness and integrity.
Their focus on building a responsible and balanced budget, while continuing to support our schools, is exactly the kind of leadership Hebron needs. They also recognize the importance of thoughtful business development, which will help grow our local economy and eventually lead to lower taxes for all of us.
Jan and Tiffany are collaborative, knowledgeable, and deeply invested in Hebron’s future. Let’s support candidates who reflect our priorities and work hard to make our town better!
**Sincerely,
Jessica Hall – Amston**

Team with Proven Leadership
Dear Colchester Residents:
I am a Democratic candidate for the Colchester Board of Education. I am writing this letter in support of the great Democratic team: Bernie Dennler for First Selectman, Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner for Board of Selectmen, Jillian Vinci, Sean Gillespie, and Krista Kardys for Board of Finance, Andrew Cournoyer and Eric Jackson for Board of Assessment, Dave Koji for Treasurer and Gussie Gilberti and myself, Nancy Nelson for Board of Education.
A few of the Democratic team’s priorities are:
-Maintaining fiscal stability and professionalism within our town government.
-Keep Colchester affordable by aggressively seeking efficiencies and grant opportunities
-Bipartisan collaboration to keep Colchester moving forward.
-Drive smart growth to create jobs, lower taxes, and enhance local services.
-Support education by ensuring our Board of Education puts every tax dollar to work for our students.
Since 2023 Bernie, Rosemary and Denise have worked to move Colchester forward and have found common sense solutions for citizens’ top priorities like building maintenance, fiscal planning, and road improvements. Financial transparency and stability have been restored in town, but there is much more work to be done. This election is as important as ever.
We are the team with proven leadership who want to ensure a stable future for the Town of Colchester. You can learn more about our candidates and platform by visiting colchesterdemocrats.org.
Please vote Row A on Nov. 4th or vote early Oct. 20-Nov. 2nd. We promise to work hard for a stable future for Colchester.
**Nancy Nelson, Democratic Candidate for
Colchester Board of Education**

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

Unaffiliated Candidates?
To the Editor:
Last week Andrea Alfano asked readers to support her candidacy for the Board of Selectmen and to support the rest of our “Democratic team” to serve the town of Portland. In the prior issue, Meg Scata encouraged readers to support “Democratic candidates” for the BOE to keep “Portland’s schools strong, inclusive, and forward-looking.”
As I read letters to the editor and speak with Portland citizens, I am repeatedly reminded that letter-writers and candidates who offer no party affiliation in their requests for support are Republicans. When Democratic candidates ask for support, they identify themselves as Democrats.
Our Democratic Party is far from perfect but when we ask for your vote, we do so as proud Democrats. If Republicans cannot publicly support their own party, why should their voters?
According to Portland Republicans, “It’s About Portland, Not Politics.”
It’s 2025, armed militia are dragging citizens from their homes and people speaking out against the Republican president’s agenda are being investigated and jailed. Now, more than ever, it’s about politics!

Cynthia Tyler
Democratic Candidate for
Portland’s Board of Assessment Appeals

I Prefer Boring
To the Editor:
I was going to write a letter to the editor about something else, so I decided to rewatch some of the old budget meetings for context. Big mistake. I thought watching the old meetings might help make a point about how little oversight we got from John Thomas and Tim Vaillancourt, but instead, I just ended up watching a highlight reel of dysfunction.
Those past meetings were brutal. Everyone is talking over each other, arguing just to argue, and turning every issue into drama. And there they were, John Thomas and Tim Vaillancourt, snickering, whispering, and clearly enjoying the chaos like it was their favorite show.
These days, meetings are calm, respectful, and honestly a little boring. I fall asleep sometimes, which is probably the best sign of progress you can ask for. Once in a while, a citizen rant shakes things up, but mostly it’s just people doing the work.
Back then, a lot of money was wasted, a lot of mistakes were made, and the budget was a mess because some folks preferred fighting over fixing. If anyone’s thinking about voting for John Thomas or Tim Vaillancourt again, just remember that you’re voting for a return to the chaos.

John Farrell – Colchester

Seeking Support for BOE
To the Editor:
My name is Salvatore Nucifora and I am a current Board of Education member seeking your support this November for my reelection.
I understand the great dismay regarding the Board of Education budgets and if you have watched or attended our meetings you may have noticed my many questions to both educate myself and the general public regarding the manner and expectations our administrators place on themselves and our students. Maintaining a high level of expectations keeps everyone on their toes.
As an engineer I have a unique perspective that others may miss. I require that our special needs children are not pushed aside though they represent about 1 of every 5 students in the district. This increased cost of educating the needy needs to be kept to a minimum while creating the best environment they may need on an individual basis.
Tough choices are required and I understand the special issues that mental or physical disabilities require. We must keep the BOE budget as low as possible under these circumstances.
Please vote for Sal Nucifora for Board of Education to keep pressure on our school district.

Salvatore Nucifora – East Hampton

Stacking the Deck!
To the Editor:
The Town Council chairman wants to ‘stack the deck’ with three Town Council members regardless if they win reelection on Nov. 4th? Do you smell something fishy? I do!
And then he, Mr. Markham, suggests that it will take 12 months for this ‘new’ committee to research and provide recommendations for the new firehouse versus Mr. Hintz’s recommendation of 6 months? Really starting to smell!
Ted Hintz is experienced in problem solving as demonstrated with his work with the EH Ambulance. He is an EMT himself, served our town in various elected positions and will always be the ‘elephant’ in the room to question and challenge! Not a bad thing in my estimation when the Democrats want to rubber-stamp everything!
Ted represents us, the residents of our beautiful community, and when it is not always comfortable, he will push the envelope and work on behalf of all the citizens of East Hampton. So ask yourself, do you want your voices stifled or do you want someone like Ted Hintz to question/challenge and look out for your best interest? My vote is going for Ted, and all of the Republican Town Council members! Let’s take back control of our town and rein in spending and emotional decision-making!

Mark Philhower – East Hampton

Marlborough Municipal Elections
To the Editor:
In a world that feels increasingly divided and mean-spirited, I find comfort in remembering what truly matters — our community. Here in Marlborough, we know how to show up for one another, even when the national headlines make it hard to believe kindness still exists.
Local government shouldn’t be about partisanship or self-interest. It’s about neighbors helping neighbors — making sure our kids have good schools, our roads are safe, and our seniors feel supported. It’s about listening to every voice, even when we don’t agree, because everyone matters here.
When we look out for one another, we all do better. When everyone thrives, we all thrive. This year’s Democratic slate brings the fresh energy, broad experience, and collaborative spirit our town deserves. They are ready to listen, to lead with integrity, and to strengthen the ties that make Marlborough thrive.
Municipal elections matter — please show up, vote, and support this capable and dedicated team committed to progress, unity, and the common good. Early Voting – Oct. 20-Nov. 2. Election Day – Nov. 4.

Sincerely,
Marcus Wilkinson – Marlborough

Earley for Board of Education
To the Editor:
I am Linda Earley, secretary of the Marlborough Board of Education and seeking your support for re-election this November. It has been my honor and privilege to serve on the board for the last three years.
I have lived in Marlborough for 35 years and have been in public education for 40 years. I have been in classrooms as an English teacher, a special education teacher and then supported students and staff as a school psychologist for the past 18 years. This experience has given me a firsthand understanding of what factors contribute to successful students and schools.
Being on the BOE requires active listening and an open mind to consider the opinions of other members that represent the diverse population of voters. It also requires working collaboratively and respectfully with each other and a superintendent to make the best choices for our students regardless of political party endorsements. I understand the difficulty in creating a balance to find a budget that can be supported by resident taxpayers while still providing a quality education that allows our students to excel and be competitive.
Our Marlborough school is one of the town’s greatest assets that make it a desirable community to live in and the reason many families choose to purchase a home here. I look forward to continuing to listen, question and support my fellow board members and superintendent as we continue our SCIP vision and mission - to provide a school that inspires wonder, awe, and curiosity, and to motivate young minds to embrace learning in partnership with families and community.
Please support me for Board of Education and vote Line A – Democratic this November.

Linda Earley
Marlborough Board of Education Secretary and
Democratic Candidate for Board of Education

Portland BAA and ZBA
To the Editor:
In addition to the candidates for the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education, Portland voters will also be casting their votes for individuals seeking seats on the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) and the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Please join me in supporting four strong candidates who round out the Democratic ticket in Portland. They are Kathy Richards and Cindy Tyler for the Board of Assessment Appeals, and Chris Darby and Lauren DeCaprio for the Zoning Board of Appeals.
I have had the opportunity to work with all four of these individuals in different capacities over the years, and their professionalism and commitment to community service will be an asset to the board positions they seek. Kathy Richards, along with her husband, ran a construction company in Portland for over 50 years. She served briefly on the Board of Education, as well as spending 14 years on the Board of Selectmen. Cindy Tyler has 40 years of government service, as both a psychiatric nurse, and an attorney for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. She is the current chair of the Committee on Solidarity.
Chris Darby is a high school English teacher in Middletown. He currently serves on the Board of Assessment Appeals. In addition, Chris was an elected member of the Board of Education for eight years. Lauren DeCaprio also served on the Board of Education for two years and stepped down to turn her focus to attending law school. Just last month she passed the bar exam and is beginning her new career as an attorney.
Additional information about all of the Portland democratic candidates can be found on our website, portlandctdtc.com.
Local elections matter! Please vote Row A during the early voting period 10/20 to 11/2, or on Election Day, 11/4.

Sincerely,
Andrea Alfano – Portland

Running for Town Clerk
To the Editor:
My name is Jayne Jurovaty and I am running for town clerk in Andover. I have been an Andover resident for over twelve years, and have friends and family who have been here a lifetime. I have strong ties to the town and it’s community members and wish to serve them with care. I believe that the town clerk position requires someone with compassion and dignity and I would like the chance to prove that I am the best candidate for the job.
I am eager to gain experience and able to adapt to ever changing situations. I look forward to bringing new skills, organization and knowledge to the position.
The past four years, I have worked for the United States Postal Service delivering in Andover and the surrounding towns. During this time connecting with the community, I have heard many of their needs and concerns. I feel confident that I will be able to continue with diligence in this post as set by the previous town clerk. I appreciate the support I have already begun to feel in Andover and look forward to carrying on a proud legacy while building an even stronger future together. I humbly ask for your vote and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jayne Jurovaty
Candidate for Andover Town Clerk

Why I’m Running
To the Editor:
My friends and family have asked why I’ve decided to run for the Andover Board of Education. My answer is simple: after years of participating in the town’s budgeting process as a resident, I’ve realized the best way to make a meaningful impact is to serve on the board itself. It’s important to me that our schools provide an excellent education for our children while remaining fiscally responsible.
As a local business owner, I know firsthand the importance of managing money wisely and working within a budget. This is something every Andover resident can relate to, as we all live within financial constraints influenced by local taxes. I’ve been engaged in understanding how the Board of Education allocates its funding and yes, Scott I have written letters regarding the budgeting process. Fellow residents have thanked me for alerting them to inconsistencies within the board.
No, Scott, I did not write that anonymous letter. My submissions to the paper have all been signed letters. Over the years, I’ve found the budgeting process to be challenging. I’ve tried to follow along and have asked questions. The process is never simple nor easy to follow along. This is why it’s important that we seek to elect members from diverse backgrounds so that every aspect of our community is represented. It’s essential that we work together to address the difficult questions. When those questions go unanswered, it creates a lack of trust and transparency.
The strongest boards are made up of individuals with diverse perspectives who collaborate to achieve the best outcomes for the community. I am ready to be the kind of elected official who insists on clear, honest answers. Limiting dissent at any level of government does not serve the public good.
I would be honored to earn your support this November.

Marcie Miner – Andover

Kind of Leader RHAM Needs

To the Editor:
Jessica Hall is the kind of candidate our community can be proud to support for the RHAM Regional Board of Education. As both a dedicated educator and a RHAM parent, Jessica brings the experience, insight, and heart needed to serve our students well. Jessica has spent 28 years in public education, including 27 years in the Columbia School District, where she continues to teach. She holds dual certification in elementary education and special education, giving her a deep understanding of how to meet the needs of all learners. Her leadership extends beyond the classroom as well. Jessica has served as treasurer on the executive board of her local teachers’ union since 2021, and she previously volunteered as secretary of the PTO at Coventry Grammar School.
Colleagues and parents alike know her as highly organized, attentive to detail, and deeply committed to collaboration. In 2015, Jessica was honored as Columbia’s Teacher of the Year, a testament to her dedication and excellence in education. She has also played a key role in the district’s shift to the Science of Reading, a research-based approach that will strengthen literacy instruction across all grade levels, including at RHAM. As the parent of two RHAM students, Jessica understands firsthand the challenges and opportunities facing families today. She is committed to ensuring that RHAM continues to provide a supportive, well-rounded education that prepares every student for success. Jessica Hall’s blend of professional expertise, community involvement, and parental perspective make her a thoughtful, capable, and compassionate choice for the RHAM Board of Education.
Please join me in voting for Jessica; our students and our community will be better for it.

Heather Petit – Amston

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

Keeping Hebron Affordable
Dear Hebron Residents:
One of the things that makes Hebron such a special place is the balance we’ve achieved between small-town character and the services that make our community strong. Protecting that balance depends on responsible financial management.
I am running for the Board of Finance because I believe strongly in fiscal responsibility. Every decision must weigh community needs against affordability for residents. Families, seniors, and businesses alike deserve the peace of mind that their tax dollars are being used wisely, with both today and tomorrow in mind.
As a business owner, I’ve learned how to make thoughtful choices with limited resources, prioritize what truly matters, and plan carefully for the future. These same principles will guide me in helping Hebron maintain its financial stability while keeping our town affordable for all.
If elected, I will work hard to ensure:
-- Taxpayer dollars are managed responsibly.
-- Community priorities are balanced with fiscal discipline.
-- Hebron remains affordable while planning for long-term success.
With your support, we can continue to make smart financial decisions that protect both our quality of life and our future.

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

Collaboration and Progress
Dear Colchester Community:
Hopefully you’re all aware that this is a municipal election year, with many key positions on the ballot this Nov. 4th. As the chair of the Board of Finance, I’d like to highlight that three positions on the Board of Finance are up for election. The Board of Finance plays a key function in our town and I’m proud of what our current group has done over the past two years.
We successfully passed the town and Board of Education budgets on the first try for the past two years. This is due to a combination of full transparency and the collaboration of the board with citizens. Key drivers for the board were improving budget proposal materials, creating sessions for both the board and citizens to ask all kinds of questions, and holding tough discussions ‘out loud’ in our meetings. Collaboration via budget surveys, citizen comments, and open forums is valuable, as creating budgets that satisfy everyone is difficult.
In addition to passing the budgets, we’ve also made major progress in improving overall financial planning and transparency. For the first time in years there is a Vehicle Improvement Plan that’s been fully reviewed, the ClearGov site is now online and available for the public, there are clear, understood plans on how concerns like the RecPlex field improvements or town building maintenance is being supported. None of this is possible work by different departments, boards, and individuals, but a thriving and focused Board of Finance is key to all of it.
Please support our progress by voting for Sean Gillespie, Krista Kardys, and Jillian Vinci in the upcoming Board of Finance election. All three of them bring strong perspectives, skills, and a desire to do the right thing on behalf of our community. They share my commitment to maintaining the positive momentum built by our Board of Finance over the past two years.
Thank you once again for your continued support and engagement. We are proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to achieving even more in the future.

Warm regards,
Karen Belding
Chair, Colchester Board of Finance

A Town That Works Together
To the Editor:
When the town and school system work together, both town services and taxpayers are better off. Many people don’t realize that the town and school budgets have shared services, income and expenses. Even though we vote on two separate budgets the town and school work together to save the taxpayers money. For instance, the town does not have custodial services in their budget. Instead the school budget carries the expense of custodial services for all the town buildings like the library, town hall, fire department, senior center, schools, etc. This leaves the taxpayer with one custodial union and a more efficient way to budget. The outside maintenance for the town and schools is done by our town’s recreation department. They do all of the mowing, weed-whacking, brush cutting, tree trimming and more. throughout the town fields, the green, Ruby Cohen woodlands, outside the buildings like the library, town hall, the schools, school fields and more.
Another way the town saves the taxpayers money is by being self-insured; this means we carry what is called a health reserve fund that both the town and school budget put money into each year to cover the cost of healthcare for all employees. There are also employee salaries that come out of the shared town and school budgets where one person’s salary may be paid by a percentage of each budget.
Debt service is an area where the town budget pays for all debt on all town real estate for example the school buildings like the middle school project

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and town projects like the senior center, etc. When reimbursements are made to the town, like some excess reimbursements for special education or refunds on building projects, those payments go directly to the town.

What this all comes down to is when people say things like \$.75 for every tax dollar goes to a specific budget it's not accurate. We are one town and we shouldn't be dividing ourselves. It is imperative for the three town boards to work together and even more important for the individual boards to work collaboratively for the success of our community. When the town and school system work together, both town services and tax payers are better off.

Donna and I would like to continue the collaborative work we have achieved in our community. Please vote Row C for BOE on Nov. 4

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

Hebron's Mother Hickory

To the Editor:
A new addition from Hebron has been accepted by the Connecticut Notable Trees database hosted by the Connecticut College Arboretum. Nicknamed “Mother Hickory,” this spectacular example of a Shagbark Hickory, *Carya ovata*, ID #226971, features significant age, impressive size and exceptional natural beauty. It is estimated to be between 150 and 175 years old, with the circumference of the truck measuring 125 inches, a height of at least 80 feet, and an average spread of 31 feet. Mother Hickory can be found proudly standing in the middle of a historic stonewall on the town owned property at 17 Kinney Road, also known as the Horton Property. Together with two other Notable Trees identified in 2022, the ancient White Oak trees Moonracer and Mr. Gnarly, Mother Hickory raises the count of significant trees on this one property to a remarkable three. The fact that they all have survived together for nearly 200 years, and possibly over 200 years in the case of the White Oaks, is a testament to the environmental and historical importance of this unique property.

The nickname Mother Hickory is a tribute to the groundbreaking research by noted forest ecologist and professor Suzanne Simard, who published “Finding The Mother Tree” in 2021. Through years of peer-reviewed research Dr. Simard has brought to light a remarkable interdependent relationship between trees in the forest and fungi mycelium living entwined with the tree's root system. The Mother Tree is the elder of the forest and may in fact share nutrients and water, directing and encouraging the younger trees around it to flourish. These important connections go well beyond the trees and the fungi, according to Dr. Simard, “The forest itself is part of much larger cycles, the building of soil and migration of species and circulation of oceans. The source of clean air and pure water and good food. There is a necessary wisdom in the give-and-take of nature – its quiet agreements and search for balance.”

As Mother Hickory and the other Notable trees at 17 Kinney Road work towards “quiet agreements and search for balance,” the residents and town leaders in Hebron are faced with a pivotal moment. The preservation of this historic farmland and notable trees offers us an opportunity to create a bright future based on education and appreciation of our culture and the natural world. For more information please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Vote for a New Path for Finance

To the Editor:
We have an opportunity to set a new path forward for the Hebron Board of Finance – one focused on future budget planning, leadership, and collaboration. I'm excited that Adam Ockman and Ryan Herrick have decided to step forward for these critical roles in our community, and I hope you join me in supporting them this election day.

Adam and Ryan are your neighbors, and no doubt, you've seen them around town. Adam was a member of the successful Charter Revision Commission, attending countless meetings to update our most important town document and present it for your consideration this November. You can also find him regularly at our Swap Shack! Ryan has served this country as a veteran, and he serves his community as a youth coach who has done it all, from soccer to basketball, in support of our children's athletic pursuits.

Together, Adam and Ryan bring decades of experience in actuarial work, business development, and budgeting – all key assets we need on our Board of Finance. Town budgets will only grow more challenging in this financial environment, and we need creative thinkers with new ideas and perspectives to lead the way.

On Nov. 4, please join me in supporting Adam Ockman and Ryan Herrick for the Hebron Board of Finance.

Sincerely,
Tiffany V. Thiele – Hebron

Note: Thiele is a member of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but is writing this letter as an individual.

(Dis)honesty in Colchester

To the Editor:
There was a time when honesty in Colchester politics still counted for something. That time has passed. Today, dishonesty is not only tolerated, it is rewarded. Tell the truth and you are ignored, mocked, or attacked. Twist it just enough to fit the narrative, and you are praised as “informed” and “reasonable.”

John Farrell's recent letters to this paper are a perfect example. They are so shamelessly propagandistic they would make Orwell blush, yet few seem to question a word of them. He writes with confidence, not accuracy, and that seems to be enough. It does not matter whether what he says is true. It only matters that he says it loudly, with conviction, and in defense of the right people.

The same pattern has played out with my case before the Freedom of Information Commission regarding access to referendum ballots. Bernie and his supporters continue to claim that it has something to do with elections or voter privacy. It does not. It concerns public access to public records. They know that, yet they repeat the lie because it is politically useful. Those who attempt to correct the record are not thanked for clarifying – they are chastised by the very people who spread the falsehood in the first place.

Then there is the Board of Education, which quietly cut nearly two hundred pages from the budget books. These are the same people who boast about “fiscal transparency,” and the same political voices who ran on that very promise have applauded them for it. In Colchester, honesty is treated as a liability while deception is applauded as strategy.

Our political culture has not improved; it has only grown better at pretending. The anger and division that once played out in public are now hidden behind rehearsed smiles and carefully managed talking points. The language has softened, but the deceit runs deeper than ever.

We deserve better than a culture that rewards dishonesty and punishes those who speak plainly. Until that changes, Colchester will keep getting the government it earns – one built on spin, silence, and the comfort of a well-told lie.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

WARNING

November 4, 2025, Municipal Election

HEBRON

The Electors of the Town of HEBRON are hereby warned to meet at their polling place in said town on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, for the following purposes:

I. To cast their votes for the Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning & Zoning Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate and Regional Board of Education.

II. To vote on the following questions for approval or disapproval, a vote of "YES" being a vote of approval and a vote of "NO" being a vote of disapproval.

1) "Shall the Town of Hebron adopt the amendments to the Hebron Town Charter, as approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 10, 2025 except for the specific amendment being voted on separately in Question #2?

2) "Shall the Town of Hebron adopt the amendment to the Hebron Town Charter to transition from an elected to an appointed Town Clerk, as approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 10, 2025?"

The vote on the proposed amendments is taken pursuant to Sec. 9-369 of the General Statutes.

In accordance with Sec. 9-369(a) of the General Statutes, the full text of the proposed questions and the full proposed Charter Amendments are available at the Town Clerk's Office and on the Hebron CT town website: www.HebronCT.gov.

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place on Election Day for all Hebron voters is as follows:

Election Day Polling Place

Hebron Elementary School

92 Church Street, Hebron, CT 06248

Absentee ballots will be counted at the Election Day Polling Place at the close of the polls.

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened November 4, 2025 at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.). On Election Day, Same-Day Registration (SDR) will be available during polling hours 6:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. at the Election Day Polling Location.

Early Voting Days / Hours

October 20 – November 2, 2025: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Extended Hours on

October 28 & 30, 2025: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m

Dated at Hebron, CT, this 10th day of October, 2025.

Town Clerk, Francesca Villani

Town of Hebron

Early Voting / SDR Location

Hebron Town Office Building

Lower Meeting Room

15 Gilead Street

Hebron, CT 06248

1 TB 10/10

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★ *Trashy Art, cont. from page 1*

cited and nervous because I made the dress and I didn't know what people would think about it and if they would actually get the message I was putting out there.”

On Sunday, Gretta was back in the tent, sewing an embroidered pocket in a Visible Mending class led by local costumer Liz Saylor. Roughly 10 women and girls sat around a table, where they practiced different techniques to repair, decorate and salvage clothing that had fallen into disrepair. Like all of those leading events in the Crafts and Community Tent, Saylor had volunteered her time, and she encouraged curious menders to dive in. She said she loves teaching this kind of work because it involves “taking something that's old and making it valuable again.”

Tent organizer Kelley said pulling all these activities together was a full-time job in the run up to the fair, but that it had been worth it, even if she is just a volunteer. She said she was grateful to all the community support that made the tent possible, and gave shoutouts to local businesses and sponsors like Mary Ruth Shields of United Sewing and Design, who emceed the trashion show, and Brianna Bergamo of Revive Arts and Crafts, which made the winner ribbons.

Kelley said planning for next year's fair begins almost right away and that the tent will have a different theme next year, but she said there will definitely be a trashion show.

‘Trashion Show’ Runner-Up Gretta Chenier poses in her recycled creation at the Portland Fair on Friday, Oct. 3. *Photo by Christopher Chenier.*

Gretta Chenier, for one, is ready. Her mom says she already has a *Secret Garden* theme in mind.

TOWN OF COLCHESTER

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on October 7, 2025, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:

W2025-3130 - 128 McDonald Rd; Hunters Pool Center Inc.- Applicant/Owner; Assessor's ID 03-07/006-000, Proposed 20' x 40' inground pool within 100' Upland Review Area.- **APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS**

Dated October 7, 2025

Conservation Commission

Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1 TB 10/10

Legal Notice

Andover Inland Wetlands

and Watercourses Commission

The Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission **APPROVED** the following application at their Regular Meeting on October 6, 2025:

- Permit Application **IWWC #25-13:** Walter Tedford, **25 Lakeside Drive**. Installation of a 4-foot by 20-foot "T-shaped" prefabricated aluminum dock within Andover Lake.

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission **APPROVED** the following application on October 7, 2025:

- Application **#IWWC 25-11:** Daryn Clark, **115 Bunker Hill Road**- Excavation, clearing, grading, well installation, and driveway construction within the 100-foot Upland Review Area of an unnamed pond.

If you have any questions, please contact the Andover Wetlands Agent at 860-742-7305 x4221 or email (preferred) at wetlands@andoverct.org

1 TB 10/10

TOWN OF PORTLAND

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.

Application #25-02: 381 Glastonbury Turnpike. Request for a variance from Zoning Regulation Table 3.17.C for the minimum distance from the street for a pool with a setback of 50 feet where 75 feet is required. Application and property of Alicia and Parker Strong. Assessor's Map 68, Lot 10-18. Zone R-25. At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department.

Dated at Portland, CT this 7th day of October 2025.

Joan Giesemann, Chair

2TB 10/10, 10/17

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CT

WARNING OF TOWN ELECTION

In accordance with Section 9-226 of the General Statutes of Connecticut and Public Act 23-5, the Electors of the Town of Marlborough are hereby warned to meet at Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall School, Community Room, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, Connecticut, on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, for the following purposes:

To cast their votes in the Municipal Election for the following offices:

Board of Selectmen

Board of Finance

Board of Finance Alts

Board of Education

Board of Assessment Appeals

Planning Commission

Planning Commission Alts

Zoning Commission

Zoning Commission Alts

Zoning Board of Appeals

Zoning Board of Appeals Alts

Region #8 Board of Education

Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will open at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 am) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 pm). Absentee Ballots will be counted at the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough CT.

During the 14-day early voting period before said election, the hours and location of early voting will be as indicated below. Each early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).

Early Voting Day and Hours

October 20-27 & 29, 2025: 10 am-6 pm

October 28 & 30, 2025: 8 am-8 pm

October 31-November 2, 2025: 10 am-6 pm

On Election Day, the hours and location of SDR will be as follows:

Election Day Hours

November 4, 2025: 6 am-8 pm

Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut, this 9th day of October 2025.

Lauren A. Griffin, Marlborough Town Clerk

Early Voting / SDR Location

Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main St., Marlborough, CT

Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main St., Marlborough, CT

Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main St., Marlborough, CT

SDR Location

Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main St., Marlborough, CT

1 TB 10/10

Obituaries

East Hampton

Paul F. Fachini
Paul “Nilo” F. Fachini, 66, of East Hampton, beloved husband of 42 years to Lisa (Ladyga) Fachini, tragically passed away Wednesday, Oct. 1, at Hartford Hospital, after sustaining life-threatening injuries from a pedestrian accident. Paul was born May 21, 1959, in Bristol, and was raised in the Forestville section. He was the son of the late Nilo and Margaret (Conroy) Fachini.



He was a resident of East Hampton for over 36 years and a parishioner of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton as a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus St. John Paul II Parish Council 6190. Paul loved spending time with his family and friends, cooking, fishing and gardening. He could often be found on his porch listening to music, reading a book, making pickles or in the backyard in his woodworking shop. Paul also enjoyed the game of baseball and was a lifelong New York Yankees fan.

Paul spent his career in construction at Manafort Brothers retiring just four years ago as a concrete superintendent. Paul was extremely dedicated, hard-working, and dependable. Paul was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He was very generous with his time, always willing to lend a helping hand. Paul was a jack of all trades and nothing made him happier than being able to pass down his skills to his children and grandchildren.

Paul is survived by his wife, Lisa; his children, Angela Hruska (Buddy) of Colchester, Allie Fachini of East Hampton, Neil Fachini (Maggie) of Port Jefferson Station, N.Y., Kelsey Fachini of East Hampton; his brother, John Fachini (Theresa); three sisters, Margaret Fachini, Kathi Knapp (Steven), Bernadette Dunn (Bob); and his six beloved grandchildren, Mason, Max, Harper, Declan, Lilly, and Shane. Paul is also survived by several family members and close friends.

A Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated today, Friday, Oct. 10, at 11 a.m., at St. John Paul II Parish of St. Patrick Church, 47 W. High St., East Hampton. There will be no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Ayer Neuroscience Institute at Hartford Hospital, giving.hartfordhospital.org/tribute.

The family expresses their deepest gratitude to the Emergency Department and the Neurotrauma ICU at Hartford Hospital.

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

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Hebron

Dorothy Ann Sellman
Dorothy Ann Sellman, fondly known as Dot, passed away peacefully at Hartford Hospital Thursday, Oct. 2, with her loving family attentively by her side. She was 86 years old. Dot was born March 2, 1939, in Manhattan, N.Y., the daughter of the late Harry and Rowena (Kurland) Hirsch. She grew up in Jackson Heights, Queens, and after graduating high school, went on to earn a master's degree in education. With her giving nature and patience, Dot found her calling as an elementary school teacher. Over her long career with the East Hartford Public Schools, she touched countless young lives with her joy for learning, encouragement and steady kindness.



In 1961, Dot married the love of her life, George Sellman. Together they shared 64 years of marriage, living in East Hartford, Glastonbury, and later retiring to Hebron. They raised two children who brought them immense pride and joy, and in time, Dot welcomed five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren into her heart.

Dot was a longtime member of Beth Tefilah Synagogue in East Hartford, where she continued her spiritual journey, educated her children and made many lifelong friends. She loved to travel, visiting many sites in the U.S. and across Europe; and had a lifelong connection to Long Pond Lake in the Adirondack Mountains, where she visited as a young girl, as a mother and grandmother, over the course of 70 years.

Throughout her life, she loved to play table games, playing many times a week with her friends in Hebron after her retirement. Whether it was bridge, mahjong, or canasta, Dot often seemed to hold the winning hand. But more than anything, she will be remembered for her unwavering devotion to her family. Her family shares their memories in their own words:

From her husband, George: “Dot was my partner in everything. She was my center of gravity, the one who steadied me and gave meaning to everything we shared. She was there in the big moments of our lives, but just as importantly, she was woven into every small detail of our days. From the grandest celebrations to the quietest mornings, she was the heart of it all. Not a day went by that I didn’t admire her strength, her humor, and her heart. She was the center of our family and my greatest blessing.”

From her son, Michael: “As a teacher, my mother sparked my curiosity and helped shape me into a lifelong learner, which has been instrumental in shaping my life and in any successes I may have had. Later in life she gave this gift to her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Having her as my mother was truly a blessing. She will be missed every day.”

From her daughter, Karen: “My mom was my anchor. She always had time to listen, really listen, without judgment. Her love was constant, and her presence was my safe place. I’ll miss her every day, but I’ll carry her voice and her laughter in my heart.”

Dot is survived by her loving husband, George; her son, Michael and his wife, Deirdre Sellman of New York; her daughter, Karen and her husband Kevin Goding of Lebanon; her

brother, Robert and his wife Gail Hirsch of New Jersey; her grandchildren, Nicholas, Heather, Sarah, Jacob, and Corey; her great-grandchildren Declan, Ezra, Damian, Hailey, Jonathan, and Laddie George; along with many extended family members and friends.

A graveside funeral service will be held privately in the Jewish/Interfaith Cemetery. The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements. A celebration of life will take place at a later date where friends and family can gather to share their memories.

Donations in Dot’s memory may be made to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center – giving.mskcc.org.

For online condolences or to share a story of Dot with her family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Dorothy “Dot” Sellman will be remembered for her boundless spirit and chutzpah, devoted friendship and constant love for her family – a legacy that lives on in the generations she nurtured.

Colchester

Louis Joseph Del Pivo
Louis Joseph Del Pivo, 90, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, Sept. 24, with his loving grandson Kyle by his side.



Born June 10, 1935, in Waterbury, Louis was the only son of the late Louis and Josephine (Battistelli) Del Pivo. He grew up in Naugatuck with his three sisters, all of whom predeceased him: Esterena (Rena), Enes (Bob Davis), and Alice (John Di Nola). He was also predeceased by his daughter, Tina Marie Del Pivo, and niece, Linda (Del Pivo) Riley.

Louis is survived by his children Richard, Robert (Bridgette), and Cindy (Brian Mellor); grandsons, Andrew (Amber) and Kyle Del Pivo; daughter-in-law, Marjorie; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and extended family.

In 1956, he married Margie Vassak, and together they raised their family in Waterbury and later Naugatuck before moving to Colchester in 1981. They were married nearly 69 years before Margie’s passing in April 2025.

A devout Jehovah’s Witness, Louis was baptized in 1949 and served at the world headquarters in the 1950s and later as an elder in Connecticut congregations. He worked over 40 years as a deli manager and was proud that his grandson Kyle followed in his footsteps – not only in work, but more importantly, in faith.

The family expresses deep gratitude to neighbor Bill and his dog Hero for their daily visits and to their spiritual brothers and sisters for their loving support during Louis’s illness and passing.

Memorial Service: Saturday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m., at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 297 Westchester Rd. (Route 149), Colchester.

Zoom Info: Meeting ID: 819 1336 4935, Passcode: 112233.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made at Donate.JW.org.

To leave a condolence or share a memory of Louis, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Edith Bleeker Perry
Edith (Bleeker) Perry, 89, of Portland, passed away peacefully at Cobalt Lodge Healthcare on Tuesday, Sept. 30. Born in Ziegenfurt, Germany on July 4, 1936, she was the daughter of the late August and Wanda (Fritz) Dijer.



Edith lived in East Hampton and then moved to Portland and was the owner and operator of two restaurants, first Pete’s Diner and later Edie’s Place (now the Eggs Up) both in Portland. She was proud to be a business woman. Edith was married to the late Peter Bleeker, with whom she had her three children, and then to William Perry, who passed away in 1990.

Edith is survived by her two sons, Petrus Bleeker and his wife Laurie of East Hampton; Chris W. Bleeker and his wife Rebecca of Rhode Island; her daughter, Sonya Duquette of Georgia; her brother, Helmut Dijer and his wife Rose of East Hampton; also, her three grandchildren, Emery Duquette, Alana Clark (Geoff), Rebecca Pike (Stephen), and her two great-grandchildren, Blakely Clark and Colton Pike.

She was predeceased by her brother, Otto Dijer, and her sister, Ellie Klisowski.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, Oct. 6. There was a graveside service on Tuesday, Oct. 7, in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

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

Portland

Charlene Raynor O’Brien
Charlene Raynor O’Brien, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Sept. 30, at the age of 87.



Charlene was born June 22, 1938, in Glen Cove, Long Island, N.Y. She met the love of her life, Francis J. O’Brien, in seventh grade. They dated throughout middle school, high school and college, and they were married Aug. 29, 1959, in Freeport, Long Island.

Charlene went to business school at Mrs. Skinner’s Secretarial School in Long Island and proudly graduated first in her class with a legal secretary degree; she also received the highest score in Nassau County on the civil service exam. Fran and Charlene raised their four children in Portland, and developed friendships that would last a lifetime. In 1967, Charlene started the Portland Junior Women’s Club, and she proudly became their first president. Charlene also loved collecting recipes and studying new languages and she always had a crossword puzzle book nearby.

Charlene’s family, including her husband, four children, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandson, were the joy and center of her life. Charlene loved to travel with Fran, and over the years, they visited Hilton Head, S.C., England, Ireland, Italy, Germany, and Scotland. Perhaps

See Obituaries, page 32

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Obituaries cont.

her favorite adventures were the many summers spent in Mabou Harbor, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, where she and Fran designed and built a house and spent many hours listening to fiddle music, enjoying Irish culture, dancing, and being with friends at the Red Shoe.

Charlene is survived by her daughter Terri O'Brien (Dave Domogala), daughter Sandy Miniati (Peter Miniati), daughter Julie Coiro (Charlie Coiro), and son Charlie O'Brien (Laura O'Brien); and her grandchildren Meghan Occhialini (Anthony Occhialini), Derek Domogala, Michael Miniati (Jenny Miniati), Sarah Coiro, Claire Domogala, Kelly Domogala (Anas Fadli), Maggie Miniati, Jack Miniati, Emma O'Brien, Abby O'Brien and Paige O'Brien; and her great-grandson, Beckham Occhialini.

Charlene was also predeceased by her husband, Francis J. O'Brien; her mother, Isabella Raynor; her father, Charles W. Raynor; and siblings Lois Leys and David Hull.

Charlene will be remembered by many dear friends. Thank you to the caregivers at Colebrook Village in Hebron and Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center in Marlborough for their gentle caring and support.

A funeral was held Monday, Oct. 6, at the First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., Portland. Burial followed in the family plot in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Friends called at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Monday, Oct. 6.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society (cancer.org/donate.html).

Hebron

Mary Alice Tulumieri

Mary Alice (Campo) Tulumieri, beloved wife of Dennis M. Tulumieri Sr., was called to her heavenly home Tuesday, Sept. 30. She left this world surrounded by her adoring family, leaving an enduring legacy of compassion and faith.



Mary Alice was born in the North End of Boston on July 21, 1945, the daughter of Mario Campo and Eleanor (Fyfe) Campo. Her deep commitment to family began with her dedication to her parents, sisters and brothers; Ellie (Campo) Alfieri, Rosemarie (Campo) Ferrara, Richard Campo, Sr., Thomas Campo, and Michael Campo.

As a student at the all-girls Catholic school Julie Billiant Central High School, Class of 1963, Mary Alice was spotted from across the playground by her future husband. Soon they were slow dancing together during school mixers with the companion boys school Christopher Columbus High School. It was a true romance from the beginning and evolved into a legendary love story. Mary Alice and Dennis were married on July 24, 1965, joyously celebrating their 60th Anniversary just a few months ago. In time, they were joined by a house full of four rambunctious children and embarked on a life of endless hockey games, baseball games, soccer games, dance recitals, occasional Bushnell shows and school events. The boundless love of Mary Alice and Dennis is also illustrated by the committed embrace of a teenage foster daughter, Elaine Freer, while still in their early 20s themselves.

In 1979, Mary Alice became co-founder of Tulumieri Associates, Inc., serving as CFO with Dennis serving as CEO. During an impactful business career, Mary Alice put the human in human resources long before that title even existed. In addition to business support, Mary Alice also served as off ice support during the 40 years of Dennis' continuing tenure as head coach of the Wethersfield High School hockey team. Outside of the arena, Mary Alice provided organizational and road support during Dennis' decades of riding in the Pan-Mass Challenge, raising funds for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. For the past 26 years, under the banner of Team Lindsey, Mary Alice and Dennis have raised over \$280,000 for cancer research, but more importantly established an enduring affection for their Pedal Partner, and granddaughter by choice, Lindsey Kimball Sylvain.

Lately, Mary Alice was an active and fond member of the Senior Luncheons at Saint Dunstan Parish. She enjoyed the company and conversation, particularly the opportunity to share, and listen to, stories about children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It was in the role of caring mother, dedicated grandmother, and as a truly great great-grandmother, that Mary Alice excelled.

She leaves her loving memory in the hearts of her children and their spouses, Dennis M. Tulumieri, Jr. and Kim Renée Thibodeau of Old Saybrook, Kevin J. Tulumieri and Jean Eaton Tulumieri of Hebron, Daryl J. Tulumieri and Riina Tehver of Granville, Ohio, and Lisa Marie (Tulumieri) Thibodeaux and Kevin Thibodeaux

of Marlborough. Joining in their affection are her grandchildren and their spouses, Maxwell Tulumieri and Mary Lee Sperl, Duncan Tulumieri, Chloé Tulumieri, Kyle Thibodeaux and Molly Andrade Thibodeaux, and Gabriella (Thibodeaux) Bouchard and Tyler Bouchard, and her great-grandson Bennett Bouchard. A lengthy list of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends join in the grateful appreciation of Mary Alice and her beautiful spirit.

She was predeceased by her brother, Agripino Campo.

With a gentle and charitable heart, Mary Alice extended her generosity beyond family to Saint Dunstan Parish, the Archdioceses of Hartford and other worthy causes.

The Tulumieri family would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the skilled and compassionate doctors, nurses and staff of Saint Francis Hospital, particularly Assistant Nurse Manager Stella Kimball, and the kind caregivers at Glastonbury Center for Health & Rehabilitation, including Ashley and Dennise.

Please join the family for calling hours on Sunday, Oct. 12, from 1-3 p.m., at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Mary Alice loved flowers and you are invited to send a bouquet of your choice. A funeral Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 10 a.m., in Saint Dunstan Church, 1345 Manchester Rd., Glastonbury, followed by burial at Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury.

For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

Colchester

David Jeremiah Shea

David "Dave" Jeremiah Shea, 91, of Colchester, treasured husband of the late Dorothy (Hannon) Shea, passed into the arms of the Lord at Hartford Hospital Saturday, Sept. 27, after a brief illness.



Dave was born in Norwich to the late John and Eileen (Sullivan) Shea and grew up in the center of his cherished Colchester. He was a 1952 graduate of Bacon Academy where he excelled in sports, playing soccer, basketball and baseball. He was the first 1,000-point scorer in Bacon's history and an All State selection as well. When he graduated from Bacon, he pursued a professional baseball career with the Philadelphia Athletics, where he reached the Triple A level before his career was stymied by a shoulder injury sustained while playing off season semi-pro basketball.

Concurrent with playing ball, Dave kept his foot in the door at college, knowing that would be how he would eventually make his "bread and butter." Dave received his bachelor's from the University of Connecticut and went on to receive a master's from Eastern Connecticut State University, along with a sixth year in administration and supervision from UConn.

Dave and his beloved Dottie were college sweethearts and were married Aug. 20, 1960, at St. Bernard Church, Rockville. They made their home on Norwich Avenue in Colchester where they raised their two children. Dave and Dottie were married for 62 years, until Dottie's death in 2022.

Dave began his teaching career at RHAM in 1961 and after one year, he transferred to the Colchester schools where he moved from science to guidance counselor to physical education. He also served as the Bacon Academy athletic director where he saw the program grow from seven interscholastic teams to eighteen. Dave retired from Bacon Academy after 37.5 years of teaching, but his coaching career continued. Dottie was also a teacher in the Colchester school system, teaching second grade for 35 years.

Dave coached basketball at Bacon for 49 years, 23 seasons with the boys, followed by 26 with the girls. He won two state titles (2009 and 2012) with the girls team and one with the boys team (1981). He had an overall record of 778-308 and qualified for the state tournament in 48 of his 49 seasons. Dave also coached baseball for 24 seasons where he won over 300 games.

Dave was recognized by his community when the Bacon Academy gymnasium was named in his honor as well as when the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees presented him with the Founder's Day Award. He was also inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the New England Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame. He is also a recipient of the Connecticut Sports Writers' Alliance's Gold Key Award.

In addition to teaching and coaching, Dave served his community in a variety of ways through the years, as town Burgess, a Colchester Lion, volunteering as a youth baseball coach, running town recreation programs, and speaking at historical events about the town's heritage.

He also enthusiastically directed the Tri County Baseball School for over 35 years. He was a life-long communicant at St. Andrew Church, Colchester.

Despite all his involvements, Dave's truest passion was his family. There was never a time that he did not come through with the most ardent support and love. He truly was bigger than life, our rock, and the impact Dave had on his family and those he loved was immeasurable.

Dave leaves his daughter, Mary Ellen Mahoney and her husband, John, of Colchester, and his son, John Shea and his wife, Dawn, also of Colchester. He also leaves five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren who adored him and were the apple of his eye: David Mahoney, his wife, Valery and their son, Léo and daughter, Juliette; Katie (Mahoney) Jensen, her husband, Eric Jensen, Megan Mahoney, Caitlin Shea and Cara Shea. Dave was a second dad and constant teacher to his grandchildren, leaving them with an enduring appreciation for the simple things in life; a loving family, a strong faith, and a good ball game! He will be dearly missed by his sisters, Mary Shea Sweeney of Colchester and Eileen Shea Williams of Columbia and sister-in-law, Shirley Hannon of Orleans, Mass., as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10:30 a.m., at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. Colchester. Burial will follow in New St. Andrew Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Bacon Academy Guidance Office, 611 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415, Attn: David and Dorothy Shea Memorial Scholarship.

To share a memory or express a condolence to the family, please visit: www.auroramccarthy-funeralhome.com.

Hebron

Dorothy Brehant Taggart

Dorothy Brehant Taggart, fondly known as "Dottie," left her earthly residence of 101 years to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She passed away at her home Sunday, Oct. 5, with her loving family by her side. Dottie was born April 17, 1924, in Hebron, the daughter of the late Frederick and Ethel (Rogers) Brehant. She grew up in Hebron and attended school there.



Dottie married her beloved husband, Robert Joseph Taggart, whom she met when they were both living in Hartford. The couple settled in Columbia where they made their home and raised their son, Dan. "Joe" predeceased her April 16, 1996.

She earned her bachelor's degree from the Willimantic State Teachers College, now Eastern Connecticut State University, and her master's degree in English literature from the University of Hartford. She was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the honor society in education.

Following in her mother's footsteps, she had a long and successful career as a teacher at the Horace W. Porter School in Columbia. A strict teacher with a no-nonsense approach, her focus was on learning. She took a keen personal interest in her students; many of whom contacted her over the years to acknowledge the positive impact she had on their lives. She was also known for her elaborate school plays that created lasting memories.

Dottie was a woman of strong faith. Throughout her life, she delighted in singing in the church choir. She sang at the First Congregational Church of Hebron, the Columbia Congregational Church, the Goshen Hill Congregational Church and most recently as a member of the Gilead Congregational Church. She was also a member of the Voices in Praise vocal group.

Particularly in retirement, she was active in church and in local affairs. Among the church projects, during her tenure as church Historian of the First Congregational Church of Hebron she initiated the replacement of the footstone monument of the Rev. Doctor Benjamin Pomeroy, a noteworthy yet overlooked pastor of the church in the 1700s. She coordinated the restoration and relocation of the World War II Observation Post. That building was located on church grounds and had been used as a storage facility. It is now a museum in the center of Hebron. For that effort Dorothy was made an honorary member of the Rosie the Riveter Society.

Dottie enjoyed time with her friends in the Original Hebron Women's Club, of which she was secretary. She belonged to the Pumptown Quilters. She was a member of the Daughters of the British Empire, Britannia Chapter and served as Regent. In Hebron, she also served as a voter registrar at the polls on election day.

A Renaissance person, Dottie enjoyed garden-

ing and practiced many arts and crafts. Among them were quilting, painting, spinning yarn, playing piano, autoharp and Celtic harp; and most noteworthy, writing poetry. She self-published a book of her poems, entitled *Flowers in the Grass*. Several of her poems appeared in local publications and in Ideals magazine. Each year at Christmas she would gift a poem to friends, in the form of a laminated bookmark/ornament.

Her life was well-lived, and her longevity a testimony to her energy, resolve and sense of purpose. She was proud of her heritage, home, community, and especially her family. She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by all who knew her.

She leaves her son and his family, Daniel E. Taggart and his wife, Beverly of Lebanon, their children Daniel E. Taggart Jr. and his wife, Renee Scott Taggart of Amston, Andrew R. Taggart and his wife Katherine Cipriano Taggart of Wolcott; her great-grandchildren, Kyla Scott, Fiona and Alana Taggart. She also leaves a sister, Winifred Chase of Willimantic. She is predeceased by sisters Barbara Burks, Bertha Fontaine and her brother Fred Brehant.

Funeral services will be held today, Friday, Oct. 10, at 10:30 a.m., beginning with a celebration of Dottie's life at the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron. Following the church service, a brief burial service will be held at Peter's Cemetery, Church Street, Hebron. Immediately following the burial, a reception will follow at the Gilead Congregational Church. Donations in Dottie's memory may be made to the Gilead Congregational Church.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences or to share a story of Dottie for her family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Beverly A. Tilden

Beverly Tilden, 80, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Sept. 25, surrounded by her loving family. Born Oct. 3, 1944, Beverly lived a life devoted to her children, her family, and the simple joys that made life beautiful.



She never missed a single event in her children's lives, always showing up with love and pride. Beverly adored her mother, Cecilia, and shared a special bond with her beloved cat, Misty. Her heart belonged to her husband, Robert (Bob) Tilden, whose love and companionship were the foundation of a joyful life together.

Beverly was an avid league bowler for many years and found great happiness spending time at the marina with her boat and her dear friends there. Her infectious laugh could light up any room and brought joy to everyone lucky enough to hear it.

She was deeply religious and began each day with prayer, finding comfort, strength, and guidance through her faith.

She is survived by her two children: Robert (Rob) Tilden Jr., and Craig Tilden and his wife Christina; and by her cherished grandchildren: Dylan, Tyler, and Chase. Her legacy of love, loyalty, and kindness lives on in each of them.

She will be deeply missed, forever remembered, and always loved.

Visitation and funeral service were held Friday, Oct. 3, at Dillon-Baxter Funeral Home, 1276 Berlin Tpke., Wethersfield. Burial took place immediately after the service at Cedar Hill Cemetery, 453 Fairfield Ave., Hartford, CT 06114.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or National Shrine of St. Jude in memory of Beverly Tilden.

LEGAL NOTICE

MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of Marlborough that a sewer usage charge is due in one installment on October 1, 2025. The last day to pay without interest is November 3, 2025. Interest for a late payment is 1.5% per month reverting to the due date. Minimum interest is \$2.00. The usage charge set for the Fiscal year 2025-2026 is \$633.00 per EDU. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the fee or interest. Contact the tax office immediately if you do not receive a bill. Please make checks payable to MWPCA (Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority). Payments may be mailed to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. There is a lock box to the left of the Town Hall door for check payments only (do not leave cash), or at the Tax Office in the Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT. The tax Office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted
Barbara Lazzari, Tax Collector

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

Obituaries cont.

Portland William E. Evison Jr.

William E. Evison, Jr., beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away peacefully Saturday, Sept. 20, surrounded by his wife and children.

Born in Boston, Mass., on Feb. 21, 1943, William graduated from Newton High School in 1961 and went on to earn his degree from Florida Southern College in 1965. He dedicated his professional life to working as a financial advisor.

William spent most of his years in Portland, where he raised his family and pursued his passions. He dedicated time to participating with his Evison Associates volleyball and softball teams. He also enjoyed fast walking, running marathons, golf, and swimming. Known for



his love of a good joke, singing, and attending live concerts and sporting events, William embraced life with enthusiasm and joy.

Following his retirement, William and his wife Janet relocated to Venice, Florida, to bask in the sunshine and enjoy year-round golf.

William was predeceased by his parents, Elinor F. Evison and William E. Evison Sr. and daughter, Kathryn E. Evison. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Janet; his son, William E. Evison III (wife Amy) of Connecticut; his daughter, Carrie L. McDaniel of Virginia; and his cherished grandchildren, Eli Evison, Ava Evison, Benjamin McDaniel and Naomi McDaniel.

A private burial will take place at a future date in New Hampshire alongside family members.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At its Regular Meeting of October 1, 2025, the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decision (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). **Approved, with conditions.**
Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1 TB 10/10

LEGAL NOTICE
EAST HAMPTON POLICE

The East Hampton Police have recovered the following items as lost property. If you are the owner of the following property, please contact the East Hampton PD at (860) 267-9544 during business hours.
Item 1. Laptop
Item 2. Money
Item 3. Headphones
Item 4. Cell phone
Item 5. Key fob
Item 6. Car Keys
Item 7. Knife
Item 8. Key
Item 9. Bicycle

2TB 10/10, 10/17

TOWN OF PORTLAND
LEGAL NOTICE
MUNICIPAL ELECTION TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2025

The electors and qualified voters of the Town of Portland are hereby warned and notified that a Municipal Election will be held at the polling place in said town on Tuesday November 4, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to elect the following: First Selectman (1), Board of Selectmen (6), Board of Education (4), Board of Assessment Appeals (3), Zoning Board of Appeals - 5 Year Term Begins 2025 (1), & Zoning Board of Appeals - 5 Year Term Begins 2026 (1)
Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places on Election Day is as follows:
**PORTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
93 HIGH STREET**
Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.). Absentee ballots will be counted at the polls.
During the 14-day early voting period before said election, the hours and location of early voting will be as indicated below. The early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).
Early Voting Day: Hours
October 20-27, 29 & 31, 2025: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
October 28 & 30, 2025: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
November 1-2, 2025: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
On Election Day, the hours and location of Same-Day Registration (SDR) will be as follows:
Election Day: Hours
November 4, 2025: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
ATTEST: Michael V. Tierney
Portland Town Clerk
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 6th day of October, 2025

1 TB 10/10

Town of East Hampton - Notice of Municipal Election

In accordance with Section 9-226 of the General Statutes of Connecticut and Public Act 23-5, the Electors of the Town of East Hampton are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, to cast ballots for the following offices: Town Council, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Term begins 2025, Zoning Board of Appeals Term begins 2026, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates.
Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places on Election Day is as follows:
East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple Street, East Hampton, CT 06424
Absentee Ballots will be counted at the polls.
Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.).
During the 14-day early voting period before said election, the hours and location of early voting will be as indicated below. Each early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).

Early Voting Day: Hours	Early Voting / SDR Location
October 20-27 & 29, 2025: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	East Hampton Town Hall 1 Community Drive East Hampton, CT 06424
October 28 & 30, 2025: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	
October 31-November 2, 2025: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	

On Election Day, the hours and location of SDR will be as follows:

Election Day: Hours	SDR Location
November 4, 2025: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.	East Hampton High School 15 North Maple Street East Hampton, CT 06424

Dated at East Hampton, Connecticut, this 6th day of October 2025
Patricia Burnham, CCTC
East Hampton Town Clerk

1 TB 10/10

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER, CT
OF TOWN ELECTION

In accordance with Section 9-226 of the General Statutes of Connecticut and Public Act 23-5, the Electors of the Town of Andover are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, for the following purposes: To cast their votes in the Municipal Election for Town Clerk, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Planning & Zoning Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate, and Board of Fire Commissioners.
Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling places on Election Day is as follows:
Election Day Polling Place
Andover Town Hall Community Room
17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232
Election Day Hours
November 4, 2025: 6 am-8 pm
Voting tabulators will be used.
Early Voting / SDR Location
Andover Town Hall Community Room, 17 School Road, Andover CT
During the 14-day early voting period before said election, the hours and location of early voting will be as indicated below. Each early voting location will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).
Early Voting Day and Hours
October 20-27 & 29, 2025: 10 am-6 pm
October 28 & 30, 2025: 8 am-8 pm
October 31-November 2, 2025: 10 am-6 pm
Absentee Ballots will be counted at the following location:
Andover Town Hall Community Room
17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232
Dated at Andover, Connecticut, this 6th day of October, 2025.

Lauren A. Person, Andover Town Clerk

1 TB 10/10

TOWN OF HEBRON
ASSESSOR'S LEGAL NOTICE OF
PERSONAL PROPERTY

Pursuant to CGSS 12-40, all owners of tangible personal property are required to file a declaration of such property with the assessor of the town where the property is located for the October 1, 2025, assessment date. Failure to declare by November 3, 2025, as required by law, will result in a 25% penalty assessment.
Taxable personal property includes but is not limited to: unregistered motor vehicles, motor vehicles located in Hebron but registered in another state, mobile manufactured homes not assessed as real estate, construction equipment, manufacturing machinery and equipment, business furniture and fixtures, farm machinery, farming tools, mechanics tools, computers, telecommunication equipment, cables, conduits, pipes, poles, leased equipment for business purposes, business expensed supplies and other property, video games, vending machines, and leasehold improvements.
The Assessor's Office has mailed declarations to anyone the office is aware of conducting business in Hebron. Failure to receive a declaration in the mail does not negate the filing requirement. Failure to file in the form and manner prescribed by law shall result in a presumption that such personal property is owned by the person possessing it and will be assessed with any subsequent penalties as required by State law.
Blank declarations are available online (hebronct.gov), as well as in the Assessor's Office. Declarations must be received or postmarked by November 3, 2025, to be considered timely. Contact the Assessor's Office with questions about exemptions, filing requirements, or extensions of time to file. Any request for extension must be received by close of business October 31, 2025, and must demonstrate just cause for an extension to be granted.
Email: assessor@hebronct.gov
Phone: 860-228-5971 x147
Address: 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248

1 TB 10/10

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 -
7:00PM TO 9:00PM
TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
AND VIA ZOOM
17 SCHOOL DRIVE

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85391324375?pwd=fJYkXW4ZmkUjJw6vGBouHFcYVjWlD.1>
Meeting ID: 853 9132 4375
Passcode: 231513
One tap mobile
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+13092053325,,85391324375#,,,,*231513# US
The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on the evening of October 23, 2025 to allow the public the opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the following application:
#25-14 ZBA APPLICATION OF STEVEN ROCKEFELLER SEEKING A VARIANCE
Applicant is seeking relief from Sections 11.2 and 4.1.4 of the Andover Zoning regulations to merge lots within the Andover Lake District at 45 Lakeside Drive and 47 Lakeside Drive, demolish an existing residence on 45 Lakeside Drive, construct an addition to 47 Lakeside Drive and construct a workshop. The overall proposal intends to decrease rear yard and side yard non-conformities that currently exist. It will also require front yard and side yard variances for a proposed workshop. Interested parties may ask questions and/or offer comment, either verbally or in writing.
Please contact the Building and Land Use Office a minimum of 24 hours prior to the hearing date @860.742.7305, X - 4220.
William Desrosiers
Zoning Board of Appeals - Chairperson

2TB 10/10, 10/17

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on October 6, 2025, the Duty Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2025-3129 - 180 Wall St; Downing Park LLC- Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 10-00/008-000, Proposed grading, clearing, and erosion and sedimentation controls for a multi-family housing development within 75' Upland Review Area.
- APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS
Dated October 6, 2025
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1 TB 10/10

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

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 COLCHESTER
MUNICIPAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

The electors of the Town of Colchester are hereby warned to meet on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 between the hours of 6:00 am and 8:00 pm for the purpose of casting their vote in the MUNICIPAL ELECTION.
A complete list of nominees and sample ballot can be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours. Optical voting machines will be used.
Voting will take place at the following locations:
Election Day Voting:
District #1: Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT
District #2: Abundant Life of the Assemblies of God, 85 Skinner Rd, Colchester, CT
District #3: Bacon Academy, 611 Norwich Ave. Colchester, CT
The polls will be opened from 6:00am until 8:00pm
Early Voting will be at Colchester Town Hall from October 20-November 2, 2025: 10 am-6 pm except October 28 & 30, 2025 which will be from 8 am-8 pm Each early voting day will also offer Same-Day Registration (SDR).
On Election Day, the hours and location of SDR will be offered only at Town Hall from 6 am-8 pm.
Absentee Ballots, Early Voting and SDR will be centrally counted on Election Day at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave, Colchester, CT
Dated this 6th day of October 2025.
Gayle Furman
Town Clerk

1 TB 10/10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

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

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

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

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

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

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-heeltraining.com.

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CT1-12-23

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RE10-10-25

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RE10-10-25

CJT4-4-24

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL For Help Call 888-247-4401

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

RE10-10-25

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RE10-10-25

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RE9-26-25

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The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

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RE10-10-25

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.

POSITION WANTED

HOME HEALTH CARE AID SEARCHING: for full-time, live-in position with elderly. Over 19 years' experience. Cooking, bathing, dressing and much more. Excellent references. 203-815-2690.

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.

Colebrook Village at Hebron: NOW HIRING! Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) 2nd shift- 3 Full Time (32 hours)

We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k, Meals... Call Marie DeCoste at 860-801-1114 or email **mdecoste@colebrookvillage.com**

CJT10-9-25

RE10-10-25

EMPLOYMENT

GOODSPEED MUSICALS

PROPOSALS FOR SNOW PLOWING

Goodspeed Musicals is accepting snow plowing proposals for all of our East Haddam facilities.

Contact Tim Garland, Director of Facilities at **tgardland@goodspeed.org** for details and to schedule a mandatory site visit.

Deadline for proposals is end of business day on 10/23/2025.

RE10-09-25

New Beginnings for Life is a smaller company with a big heart that cares for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are seeking kind, patient, and passionate candidates to join our team. We have individuals who need care and companionship in Colchester and surrounding towns. We have great benefits, and the rate of pay is \$17.25 per hour. For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester. For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am. These positions are in Colchester. If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please feel free to call us and ask for more information at **860-531-9426**

RE3-15-24

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RE10-12-21

East Hampton Public Schools is seeking Substitute Teachers, Paraprofessionals, and Interventionists

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree OR must be over 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent and documented experience working with school-age children. The position reports to the principal or designee at the location to which they are assigned and is responsible for providing instruction and managing the learning environment.

Applicants for Paraprofessionals and Interventionists require two-year associates degree or equivalent. Substitute Teacher per diem rate is \$120.00 per day. Intervention Specialist pay range: \$21.90-\$30.11 hr. depending on experience Paraeducator pay range:\$19.52-\$27.23 hr. depending on experience

Please apply on-line at **http://www.applitrack.com/easthampton/onlineapp/**. For further information contact Mary Clark, **mclark@easthamptonct.org**. The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

RE10-3-25

RE9-19-25

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RE9-19-25

RE10-10-25

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TREE & LANDSCAPING

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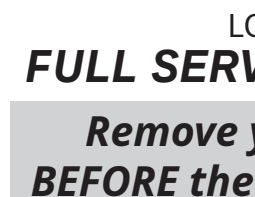
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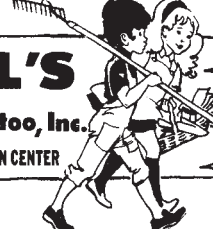
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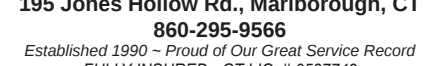
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TAG SALES
GIANT YARD SALE: All must go! Furniture/Tools/Housewares/Toys/Patio Items/Tables/Chairs & much more. Great condition. Saturday, October 11th, 8am-2pm. 168 Belle Woods Drive, Glastonbury.
MULTI FAMILY TAG SALE: 10/11&12 8a-3p @ 30 Becker Ave, Berlin Household items, furniture, apparel, sporting goods, toys, tools, small engines, vintage and antiques. Too much to list, Rain or Shine!
END ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT: Great for art projects, wrapping and packing, table coverings for public dinners, etc. The Glastonbury Citizen. 87 Nutmeg Lane (off Oak Street) 860-633-4691.
HALF-PRICE GARAGE SALES: Fri-Sat, October 10th-11th, 9am-3pm. Great selection of new, used, collectible, & vintage items remaining from previous sales — now 50% off! Solid maple entertainment center/storage cabinet, dehumidifier, indoor/outdoor decorative accessories, dining/kitchen, household, linens, bedding, jewelry, clothing, golf shoes, games, seasonal, plus more treasures for everyone. 50 and 51 Hope Valley Road, Hebron. R/S. No EBS.
TAG SALE: Friday 10/17 & Sat 10/18. 8am-3pm. 62 Coolidge Avenue, Newington. Household things, books, dvd's, collectibles. Glassware, picture frame, small furniture, kitchen things.
MULTIFAMILY INDOOR/OUTDOOR ESTATE: RAIN or SHINE Tools Electronics Yard/Office Furniture Housewares Appliances Records Collectables MUCH MORE! 9-4 Sat 10/11 Sun 10/12 64 Dickinson Rd Marlborough
TAG SALE: Oct 10th & 11th, 10am-4pm. 539 Hopewell Rd, South Glastonbury. Sale Items: crystal, pottery, action figures, storybook dolls, sterling, military, clocks, games, signs, postcards, the unusual.
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