

A Nurse’s Gift: The Journey to Becoming a Living Donor

By Toriana Williams

Michelina (Wilcox) Tanner made herself a promise that if no one in her family needed one of her kidneys by the time she turned 50, she’d give it to someone who did.

“I told myself that if I didn’t need it, or nobody in my family needed it when I was 50, then it could go to somebody else,” she said.

It wasn’t an impulsive thought – it was something that had quietly taken root over years of working as a nurse and seeing firsthand the toll of kidney disease.

“Working in the hospital in the community, I realized how much kidney disease affects people’s lives – not only the patients, but the families of the patients as well.”

Tanner, who grew up in Colchester, said the idea also came from personal experience.

“My grandmother needed dialysis at the end of her life, as did my husband’s grandfather,” she recalled. “[Donating] just made sense to me. ... It seemed like something that I could do to make a difference in somebody else’s life.”

“I waited until I was 51, and then I decided, all right, I guess I still don’t need this kidney,” Tanner said with a laugh. “So I started the process of becoming a living donor, which is actually a very simple process.”

She reached out to Yale New Haven Hospital’s transplant program. “Once they realized that I was a good candidate based on my age and comorbidities, things like that, I started the process of going through all the testing,” she said.

The process, though described as simple, was thorough.

“The first testing was basically an oral ques-



Michelina Tanner, who grew up in Colchester, recently made the altruistic decision to donate one of her kidneys – to a total stranger. Pictured here, the Tanner family sits together. From left to right, there is daughter Emma, 24, Michelina, Lily, 9, her husband Steve and Charlotte, 22.

tionnaire,” Tanner explained. “They ask you a bunch of questions about your family history, comorbidity, habits – specifically health habits.”

From there, she met with a social worker,

testing I would never, ever have done had I not wanted to do this,” she said. “It included blood work, urine testing, a CAT scan, an X-ray, and EKG – basically, any sort of testing that you could ever need was done prior to making sure that I was a good donation candidate.”

When all results came back positive, Tanner was “activated” – cleared to donate – and her information was entered into the National Kidney Registry.

That’s when things became personal.

“It turns out that a good friend of my cousin had just started dialysis recently and needed a kidney,” she said. “So I proceeded kind of with that in mind- knowing there was somebody out there that I would be able to help.”

Unfortunately, Tanner wasn’t a direct match for her cousin’s friend. But the National Kidney Registry provided a way for her donation to still help.

“The person that ultimately I wanted to receive a kidney was not a match, but registering through the National Registry allows them to basically get a living donor more quickly than they would without having a donation from me,” she explained.

In simple terms, Tanner’s kidney went to an anonymous recipient, and her donation helped move her intended recipient up on the registry list to receive one in return.

“They transplant my kidney into somebody that is compatible,” she said, “and then they start basically looking immediately for a kidney for the person that I was hoping to better.”

Her surgery took place eight days ago at press

See A Nurse’s Gift, page 4

Colchester’s Shea Leaves Lasting Legacy

By Josh Howard

On Sept. 27, Colchester lost a legend in Dave Shea.

Following a brief illness, Shea passed away at the age of 91, leaving behind a legacy in the athletic arena and beyond.

Shea was best known for coaching basketball at Bacon Academy for 49 years, first coaching the boys program for 23 seasons before taking over the girls program for 26 more seasons. He won a state title with the boys in 1981 and would later capture two more state championships with the girls in 2009 and 2012.

Over his nearly five decades on the sidelines, Shea won 72% of his games, finishing with an overall record of 778-308 and his team’s qualified for the state tournament in 48 of his 49 seasons.

Kevin Fennell, who guided Bacon Academy girls basketball to the program’s third state championship this past winter, received his initial coaching job as an assistant under Shea.

Fennell said that Shea had a competitive fire, yet coached with class and called his mentor, “the single biggest influence on me in regards to

coaching and teaching.”

“What stands out the most was his ability to motivate each player individually,” noted Fennell, who coached under Shea from 1998-2007. “He loved to engage and motivate every single member of the team, and that always stuck with me.”

Along with serving as an assistant coach under Shea, Fennell was a student at Bacon Academy when Shea was a physical education teacher at the school. Shea taught locally since the early 1960s, also teaching science and working as a guidance counselor during his nearly 40 years of service.

Colchester to the Core

Shea’s local roots date back to his early childhood when he grew up in the center of Colchester. He would become a three-sport star (soccer, basketball, and baseball) in high school before graduating Bacon Academy in 1952.

During his time on the local courts, Shea was an all-state basketball player and initially cemented his name in the record books by becoming the first 1,000-point scorer in the school’s history.

Following graduation, he pursued a professional baseball career, where he moved his way through the ranks and played at the Triple A level for the Philadelphia Athletics.

Eventually realizing that teaching and coaching were his next passions, Shea received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Connecticut. He later got a master’s degree from Eastern Connecticut State University before obtaining a sixth-year degree in administration and supervision from UConn.

Along with his long tenure coaching basketball at Bacon Academy, Shea was the baseball coach for 24 seasons where he guided the team to over 300 victories – giving him over 1,000 victories between basketball and baseball – and also served as the school’s athletic director.

Bacon Academy’s current athletic director, Kevin Burke, referred to Shea as “a legendary figure in Colchester and Bacon Academy.”

“He was known not only as a great athlete, coach and storyteller, but as the heart and soul of the community’s sports scene,” stated Burke. “His natural athleticism and sharp mind for the

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History Museum Open Saturday

The Andover Historical Society will open its Museum of Andover History, this Saturday, Oct. 18, from 2-4 p.m. New items are continuously being added to the display, so if you haven't visited in a while, stop in and see what is new.

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

Bingo & Basket Raffle Night

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold Bingo & Basket Raffle Night on Friday, Oct. 17, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$12 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required. Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 with questions.

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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.

Funky Monkey Artisan Fair

The semi-annual Funky Monkey Artisan Fair is Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., in Andover, hosted by Over AndOver Barntique and Fitch Family Farm.

The fair will take place on the grounds of Over AndOver's store location and Scott's Tree Farm, with an open trail connecting both properties, featuring crafters, food trucks and a gift basket gallery to benefit charity partner, Shine Your Light CT. Come out to see all the vendors selling such items as jewelry, furniture, glass art, salvage finds and treasures, reclaimed metal and wood, lighting & functional art, pottery, wall art, soaps & candles, mixed media, repurposed fabric goods, handbags, holistic and intuitive resources, decorative signs and homespun bath and body products.

For food trucks, you will see Square Peg Piza and Skyscraper Sandwiches, plus The Local Lemon for delicious fruity drinks. Live music by Steve McCarthy will be from noon-2 p.m. and karaoke will kick off the day from 10 a.m.-noon. Also, don't miss the RHAM High School Soccer "Popcorn & Corn Hole" fundraising tent and the 3D Haunted House (run by Spirits Rising, with fee at door to raise funds for Haunts for the Homeless).

Parking will be at 11 Bunker Hill Road (which you can access from Route 6 before the detour). Be sure to peruse both sides of the fair to see all of the vendors and food trucks by walking up and down the trail to and from the farm and Over AndOver. Golf cart rides are available, sponsored by MyTech Plumbing & Heating. Visit the gift basket gallery, filled with handcrafted items donated by the participating artisans to raise funds for Shine Your Light (SYL) and their mission to provide healing experiences, such as art and yoga, to those who are most in need.

For a full list of participating vendors and weather updates, visit www.overandoverct.com. For inquiries, call Wendy at 860-306-3858.

Storyteller to Visit Library

Andover Public Library welcomes Connecticut storyteller Denise Manning Keyes Page to the library on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 6 p.m.

Page will tell the story about her ancestor, John Wesley Manning, an enslaved man in Edenton, N.C., who purchased his freedom and moved to New Haven, registered a patent for his invention, bought property, and sent two of his sons to Yale University, from which they graduated in 1880 and 1881.

All are invited to attend the program. While an RSVP isn't necessary, if you plan to attend, call the library at 860-742-7428.

See More Andover News, page 5

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

First off, congrats to all of you who made the new early deadline for letters to the editor. Yes, a few seemed to have missed the memo – and don’t worry, folks, you’ll see your letters next week – but for the most part, everyone cooperated and got their letters in by noon on Monday.

I hope you all enjoyed the early deadline – because, remember, you get to do it all over again next week! For every *Rivereast* until Election Day (in other words, the Oct. 24 and 31 issues), the deadline for letters to the editor will be **noon Mondays**. The deadline for all other copy – such as press releases, event listings, senior and church news, etc. – will remain Tuesdays at noon. But if you want a letter in, it must be in by **noon Mondays**. No exceptions will be made.

Speaking of those letters, I imagine some of you are asking: Where are they? After all, don’t the letters to the editor usually start on this page? Well, yes, usually that’s the case – but this week, the letters are in a special, bonus section of the paper (“Section II,” as we’ve creatively called it). There are also additional news articles and advertising in that section. So be sure to check out Section II this week!

Speaking again of letters to the editor: As I just mentioned, after this week there are only two *Rivereasts* until Election Day. That means next week’s issue, the Oct. 24 *Rivereast*, will be the LAST CHANCE for any writers to send in letters critical of candidates or attacking them in any way. That’s so that the candidates can have a chance to respond to any of those attacks in the Oct. 31 issue, before the majority of people head out to the polls.

So if you want to say anything negative about anyone running, next week is it, folks. Speak then or forever hold your peace.

Accordingly, all letters for the Oct. 31 issue must be positive in nature. No negative letters about any candidates will be accepted. You

have your chance to be negative next week. For Oct. 31, keep it light, keep it sunny, keep it positive.

So, to recap: Next week is your LAST CHANCE to be negative. Get it off your chest. It might be therapeutic. And then, for the Oct. 31 issue, it’s endorsements only, or letters that are otherwise positive in nature.

Earlier this year, Connecticut lawmakers began exploring whether to, or how, the state should regulate homeschooling. It’s proven to be a divisive issue.

According to *CT News Junkie*, homeschool advocates have said restrictions simply punish responsible parents who homeschool their students, many of whom are successful academically. Others, however, have said additional oversight is necessary to ensure all children are properly educated and safe.

Next week, state Rep. Irene Haines (R-34), whose district includes East Hampton, will host a public forum entitled “Hands Off Homeschoolers!” – a fairly dramatic name if you ask me, but I wasn’t consulted. Anyway, the forum will bring together parents, educators, and legislators for an open discussion on the state’s approach to homeschooling and parental rights in education.

The discussion will take place Wednesday, Oct. 22, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the East Haddam Grange Hall, 488 Town St., East Haddam.

Haines will be joined by four other Republican state representatives, including Steve Weir, whose district includes Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

“Educational choice is a parental choice,” said Haines. “Homeschooling families in Connecticut deserve to have their voices heard and their rights respected. This forum is an opportunity for us to listen, learn, and ensure that parents – not bureaucrats – remain in charge of their child’s education.”

Editor’s Desk continued on page 5

Bulletin Board

My mother tried very hard to “raise me right,” as the saying goes, and I’d like to think that she did a pretty good job overall, though I suspect if we put it to a popular vote the result would be far from unanimous.

One of Mother’s routine admonishments was that I should treat people the way I want to be treated. This is fine, but only to a point. I mean if I actually tried to treat people the way I would like to be treated, I’d be giving them free motorcycles, paying some total stranger’s restaurant bill out of the so-called goodness of my heart and assuring total imbeciles that they couldn’t possibly be as stupid as they appear to be. I’m sorry but there’s a difference between being a good person and setting yourself on fire in the name of brotherly love.

Still, I try to be considerate within reason. I make a reasonable effort to avoid running over squirrels that dart out in front of my car and I stop for people using the crosswalk even though it’s inconvenient. I pretend to be delighted when a nephew gives me a picture of himself for Christmas (hopefully, I’ll be able to use the frame for something worthwhile) and I would never dream of telling a certain elderly relative that her cabbage rolls would gag a seagull. (I really don’t care for cabbage rolls, but I’m willing to choke them down on the off chance that she’ll leave me something in her will.)

I’m far from perfect, but I try (with mixed success) not to openly hate or disparage certain people or organizations with at least one notable exception:

I simply detest the New York Yankees.

That’s right. I admit it. When it comes to baseball, I’m a Red Sox fan and if the Red Sox aren’t playing, my motto is ABY (Anybody But the Yankees).

And so it was last week that I found myself cheering on the Toronto Blue Jays as they humiliated the Devil Spawn Yankees, winning their American League Division Series three games to one. The final victory was all the more delicious in that it took place at Yankee Stadium before tens of thousands of Satan’s minions (all decked out in obnoxious Yankee shirts and hats) who straggled home weeping like distraught children as a bunch of Canadians (Yes, Canadians!) romped joyfully around New York’s home field.

If this sounds mean-spirited of me...well, it is. But I can’t help it.

And believe me, it’s reciprocal. After all, it was some vicious Yankees fan who came up with the so-called joke that goes: What’s the difference between a Fenway Park hotdog and a Yankee Stadium hotdog? Answer: You can buy a Yankee Stadium hotdog in October.

Oh yeah. Simply hilarious.

This is the same team that thinks winning 27 World Series Championships gives them the right to dominate the Baseball Hall of Fame, totally poisoning my then ten-year-old son’s visit to Cooperstown a couple of decades ago. A dedicated Red Sox fan in his own right, he emerged from the exhibition hall in a complete funk muttering “it’s just a shrine to the Yankees.” Even a moment of reverence in the presence of Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling’s legendary bloody sock failed to cheer him up.

And so (Mother’s efforts through the years notwithstanding) it pleases me that the Yankees have not made it to the World Series since 2009, a fact that has to be driving those annoying perennial winners absolutely crazy. Once again this year, they (like the Red Sox unfortunately) will be “participating” in the World Series only as disappointed spectators.

If there’s any consolation to be shared between bitter rivals, it’s that at least neither of us will be forced to watch the other compete for the title. Let us give thanks.

In the meantime, I find myself unable to stop humming the Canadian national anthem.

It’s quite a catchy tune actually.

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

The offices of the *Rivereast News Bulletin* and *Glastonbury Citizen*, located at 87 Nutmeg Lane, Glastonbury, are open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The *Rivereast* can be reached any time via email at bulletin@glcitizen.com.



The New Record-Holder!... Meredith Weir (sixth from left) broke RHAM’s volleyball record for most aces in a career when she recorded her 212th ace. Weir is flanked by teammates to celebrate her accomplishment at RHAM High School.

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

★ A Nurse’s Gift, cont. from page 1

time and went as smoothly as she could have hoped. “It was about two and a half or three hours,” Tanner said. “I stayed overnight because they have to measure all your blood work and urine to make sure that your existing kidney is working enough to be able to sustain life.”

The day after surgery, she went home.

When asked if she ever doubted her decision, she didn’t hesitate. “No. No before and not since,” she said. “And it’s been eight days, so – so far, so good.”

Tanner said her recovery has been manageable.

“There’s been a little bit of pain, but nothing that is uncontrolled,” she said. “I have a few incisions that I have to care for, but that’s fairly easy to do. It’s just monitoring for signs of infection and making sure the sites look good.”

Despite having one less organ, Tanner hasn’t seen the downtime as an interruption. “I don’t really feel like it’s putting my life on hold,” she said. “I think it’s just giving myself time to recover so I can go back to my job of being a nurse and helping other people. Because with any job, if you don’t take care of yourself, then you can’t take care of anybody else.”

The emotional payoff has been profound, Tanner admitted.

“I did find out that the person that received the kidney [had] a successful transplant,” she said. “The only thing I know so far is that the kidney has been successfully transported to somebody in Georgia.”

“It feels good,” she added. “It feels good knowing that somebody may not have to go through dialysis or go through trying to live with end-stage renal disease. Because I know

how that affects somebody’s whole life as well as their family.”

As a nurse, Tanner knows the reality of dialysis all too well.

“Dialysis really takes a toll on somebody’s physical, as well as mental, health,” she said. “It affects everything – from what the person can eat to whether or not they can go on vacation, to what kind of job they can have.”

Even after giving up one kidney, Tanner’s health remains strong.

“Somebody can live a very long and productive life with only one kidney,” she said. She just has to “watch for things like salt and protein” to protect her remaining kidney, and maintain healthy blood pressure.

To anyone considering becoming a living donor but feeling hesitant, Tanner’s message is simple: “Reach out to your local hospital. Yale and Hartford both have programs. They could also reach out to the National Kidney Registry or to somebody that’s gone through the donation process. I would be willing to talk to anybody about it.”

Tanner said she also hopes more people start thinking about organ donation in general.

“I don’t think people talk about organ donation all that much unless it directly affects them,” she said. “I just don’t think people know about it. It’s not really discussed unless somebody in your life is at the end of their life, or if you have somebody in your life that actively needs a donation.”

For Tanner, the experience reaffirmed both her compassion and her calling.

“It’s important,” she said. “The more people know, the better.”

RIVEREAST

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

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Standout Athletes of the Week (Double Dose)

By Josh Howard
Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts for the week of Sept. 29-Oct. 5:
Hayden and Breckin Burke – Portland High School (Cross-Country): The Burke brothers were the top two finishers at the 13th Annual Harry Geraghty Invite at Nevers Park in South Windsor. Hayden won the event with a time of 16:48.30 and Breckin was an eyeblink behind with a time of 16:48.60. The pair easily bested the third-place finisher, Jason Rycerz of Windsor, by over 32 seconds. The duo then placed first and second in the small school division at the 42nd Wickham Cross-Country Invitational, with Hayden conquering the hills at Wickham Park in 16:45.13 and Breckin finishing in 16:46.57.
Mia Hageman – Bacon Academy (Soccer): Hageman scored the only goal of the match as Bacon Academy edged Stonington, 1-0, on Oct. 4 as the Bobcats remained perfect (11-0) this fall. Hageman, a senior captain, has been

a clutch performer all season, also scoring the game-winner in a 2-1 victory over Waterford the previous week.
Caiden Rojas – RHAM High School (Soccer): Rojas scored five goals over the course of two games last week. Rojas, a junior, first scored a pair of goals during the team's 3–2 victory over Glastonbury on Sept. 30 and then netted a hat trick, scoring all three of the team's goals during a 3-3 tie with East Hartford on Oct. 3.
Cassie Owocki – East Hampton High School (Soccer): Owocki, a sophomore, was in net as the Bellringers blanked a pair of opponents. Owocki first stymied Westbook, 6-0, on Oct. 2 and the following day she kept the net clean in a 3-0 victory over Cromwell. It was the fifth time that Owocki and the Bellringers have held an opponent scoreless this fall and the wins improved East Hampton to 9-0-2.
Here are the *Rivereast* Standouts for the week of Oct. 6 – Oct. 12:
Meredith Weir – RHAM High School (Vol-



Portland High School twin brothers Breckin Burke (left) and Hayden Burke finished in first and second place at both the Harry Heraghty Invite and Wickham Invitational over the last month. The two are pictured racing at Wickham Park on Oct. 11. Photo by Ron Knapp from MySportsResults.com.

leyball): Weir broke the school record in service aces, recording her 212th career ace at the varsity level. As of Oct. 8, Weir had posted 217 career aces, including 47 this season. Weir, a senior captain, has also racked up 235 kills, 215 digs and 11 blocks for a Raptors team that entered the week on an eight-game winning streak and have won 12 of 13 games overall.
Jocelyn Gustavson – East Hampton High School (Cross-Country): Gustavson placed seventh overall at the 66th Nonnewaug Cross-Country Invitational on Oct. 3. Gustavson, a senior, crossed the finish line in 20:35 to placed ahead of 91 other competitors at the annual race held at Nonnewaug High School. The Bellringers placed fourth overall as a team, besting 11 other programs as the meet.
Kiersten Page – Bacon Academy (Cross-Country): Page placed third overall in the small school division at the Wickham Cross-Country Invitational on Oct. 11. Page, a sophomore, finished the course in 21:13.83 to earn a spot on the podium and place ahead of 92 other runners in her field.
Lily Tabellione – Portland (Cross-Country): Tabellione was named the Northeast Conference (NEC) Rookie of the Week twice in September. Tabellione, a 2024 PHS graduate now running at Central Connecticut State University, first earned the honor by finishing 11th at the Father Bede Invitational with a time of 15:36.1, the fastest time of any NEC freshman at the event. She was then recognized again after being the top Blue Devil rookie at the 21st Annual CCSU Ted Owen Invitational, completing the 5K course at Stanley Quarter Park in a time of 18:53, the fifth-fastest among all college rookies at the event.
To nominate an athlete as a Standout of the Week, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com. Please include as many details about the athlete or performance as possible.

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4
The forum will give attendees a chance to share their experiences, concerns, and perspectives on homeschooling and proposed state regulations.
The event is open to the public. For more information, contact Haines’ office at Irene. Haines@housegop.ct.gov or 800-842-1423.

And now for something completely different. Did you graduate from Lyman Memorial High School in 1980? If so, your 45th class reunion is coming up!
The reunion will take place Sunday, Nov. 9, at 6 p.m. For details, contact Lois Taylor via Facebook or at maqc6@aol.com.

From one Lyman to another... Lyman Orchards in Middlefield is once again going all out for Halloween. This year, its annual Evidence of Evil Haunted Attraction opened on Oct. 3. Horror enthusiasts can fully immerse themselves in a frightening experience in this interactive haunted attraction.
In a press release, Lyman Orchards stressed Evidence of Evil is not your typical haunted house. It combines cinematic storytelling, live actors, and what Lyman promised are “high-intensity scares.”
“We’re always looking for ways to provide

a unique and personal experience, something that sets us apart from other attractions,” said David Belas of Evidence of Evil.
At the heart of this year’s attraction is The Hunter’s Cabin, an all-new experience steeped in sinister folklore.
Deep in the woods lies a forgotten cabin... and the hunter who never left. In The Hunter’s Cabin, trophies line the walls, traps still snap shut, and something sinister stalks your every move.
“With The Hunter’s Cabin, we’re giving guests a completely new kind of experience – one that we guarantee you have not done anywhere else,” said Justin Coretto of Evidence of Evil.
Evidence of Evil is so intense, in fact, that Lyman has rated it PG-13. It’s not recommended for young children, and kids under 16 must be accompanied by an adult – no exceptions.
Evidence of Evil will take place every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through Nov. 1 – though it’ll be closed on Halloween itself, Oct. 31.
Tickets will be sold online only; no tickets will be available at the door. This is an outdoor event, so please dress accordingly. For more information, visit lymanorchards.com.

See you next week.

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

Community & Senior Center Happenings

The Andover Community and Senior Center (ACSC) is open daily from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The lounge is open for cards, games and puzzles anytime, and coffee is always on. All are welcome. For all senior-related events, call Director Tess Grous at 860-798-6862. The center’s monthly newsletter is available on the Town of Andover website, www.andoverconnecticut.org. Copies are also available at the center, Town Hall, and Andover Public Library. To receive the newsletter by email each month, ask for Haley at the center, at 860-742-7305 x4510.
Upcoming Events: Transportation available for all programs. For full event descriptions, call the senior center or see the online newsletter. Chair Yoga with Haley: Mondays, Oct. 20 and 27, 10-11 a.m. Food Pantry Transportation: Mondays, Oct. 20 and 27, 5 p.m., and Wednesday, Oct. 29, 8 a.m. There will also be transportation to the Foodshare Truck Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 8:30 a.m. For more information on other available dates and times for Foodshare Truck and the Food Pantry, call Joan Soucy 860-208-3226.
Movie & Snack: Mondays, 11 a.m. Dominos: Monday, Oct. 27, 11 a.m.; Setback: Monday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m. Shopping Trips: Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. – Willimantic on 10/21 8:30 AM Shop in Wilimantic on 10/21, and in Manchester on 10/28.
Open Sew & Stitch: Thursdays, Oct. 23 and 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Chess and Checkers Club: Thursdays, Oct. 23 and 30, 3-4:30 p.m. Free.

Community Yoga: Thursdays, Oct. 23 and 30, 5:45–6:45 p.m., cost is \$10. For more information, contact Linda Derick at 860-655-4409. Gentle Yoga: Fridays, Oct. 24 and 31, 8:30–9:30 a.m., cost is \$10. For more information, contact Haley Proto at 203-645-4933.
Strong & Steady – Resistance Band Workout: Fridays, Oct. 24 and 31, 10-11 a.m. For more information, contact Haley Proto at 203-645-4933.
Coffee & Crafts: Friday, Oct. 24, 12:30 p.m. Art Display: Kim Desrosiers is the October Artist of the Month.
Travel In Time Club: Call Grous to participate or for more information.
Flu/COVID Vaccine Clinic: Monday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Beginner Stained Glass Class: Friday, Oct. 24, 6-8 p.m., \$65.
Hair Care with Helen: Monday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Cost is \$20 for a dry haircut. Space is limited.
Harvest Parade: Friday, Oct. 31, 1 p.m. Free. Prepare a gift to hand out. Call Grous for more details.

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

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For info: IdentifyTheSigns.org

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RE2-28-25

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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.

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

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.

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 per week.

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.

Horseback Riding Lessons: Ages 5 and up,

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 stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com. The church website is www.stjfishchurch.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 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 fellow-

ship.

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.stjfishchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

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.

Event Highlights: Truck exploration & photos; trick-or-treating (costumes encouraged!); kids’ activities; local food trucks; and a bake sale.

For more information, visit the Marlborough Cooperative Nursery School on Facebook or email mcnsboard@gmail.com.

Resident Participates In Day of Service

Sean Fenton of Marlborough was among more than 360 first-year students at Emmanuel College in Boston to participate in the New Student Day of Service.

Rising early on the last day of summer vacation, the students volunteered at food shelves, homeless shelters, and other organizations that meet community needs.

Winter Clothing Drive

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.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is conducting a blood drive on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at St. John Fisher Church on 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Enter through the back parking lot entrance.

Homemade refreshments will be served and as a thank you, the Red Cross is giving a \$10 e-gift card plus a chance to win one of three \$5,000 prizes.

Register prior to the blood drive at redcross-blood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

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. If you plan to reuse the item next season, please remove and take home.

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RE10-17-25



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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.

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.

Chair Massage: Dawn is back for free 15-minute massages Tuesday and Thursday, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Appointment required.

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.

October 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.

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.

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

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

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

Sweet Picks – Free Bakery Items: Mondays and Tuesdays between 8:30 and 9 a.m., local grocery stores donate bakery items, such as breads and desserts.

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

President's List

Arriya Benitez of Marlborough made the summer 2025 President's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.

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 pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal or blanket.

Crafty Kids: Wednesdays at 4 p.m. through Dec. 17, for kids ages 4 and up. There will be two projects on hand each week to choose from, or kids are welcome to use our supplies to create their own projects. Registration is not required.

Read to the Dogs: Monday, Oct. 20, 6-7 p.m. Young readers are invited to come in and read to a certified Reading Education Assistance Dog. Register for a 15-minute time slot to secure your child's spot. Limit two children per time window (one per dog).

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. 19: The service will be led by Seaver and will include an infant baptism. Seaver's sermon title is "P2." The anthem will be performed by the Chancel 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.

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.

Stretch and Strength for seniors, led by certified instructor Barbara LeBlanc, starts Friday, Oct. 24, at 9:45 a.m., upstairs in the Thienes Lounge. The weekly drop-in fee is \$25.

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

Outreach: The church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for donations. A luncheon for Florence Lord Housing residents is held monthly. 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.

Glastonbury Apple Festival: Stop by the church booth this weekend and buy a serving of its famous apple fritters. The festival runs at Welles Street Riverfront Park in Glastonbury on Friday, Oct. 17, from 5-10 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 19, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

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.

ENTERTAINMENT

THE Hideaway Pub

Amston, Connecticut
— EST. 2022 —

Halloween Party
Fri. 10/24
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Drink Specials
Hors d'oeuvres

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Democrats Look to Build Upon Current Projects

By Anne Lilburn

Incumbent **Jim Tripp** is running for reelection following his sixth year on the board. Tripp says he prides himself on being a part of the board's success working on economic development in the community, including the Brainerd Place redevelopment project, as well as the cleanup of the riverfront, which he called an "enormous resource."

Tripp's previous roles in town governance include being a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, chair of the Water and Sewer Commission, and a member of the Portland Board of Education. He said Portland's long-standing traditions of civic involvement made him want to be a part of its leadership.

"Portland is a terrific community in that way," he said. "There's a lot of opportunities. We have a very engaged citizenry."

Tripp said his current priorities include building up water independence and consolidating schools with a comprehensive plan. He said he believes that voters told the town what they wanted last year when they voted no on the school referendum, and that "we need to respect the voters' decision on that."

At the same time, Tripp said he believes that voters need more information about costs, and he hopes that in the future, the town will be able to provide that so that voters can make an informed decision.

Tripp said he prides himself on working collaboratively on the board with members of both parties.

"I think I've always tried to work with people to get a positive result," he said. "I think that it doesn't matter in terms of working, it's not

about party. It's about getting the right result for Portland."

Incumbent **John Dillon**'s roots in Portland go back four generations.

"My great-grandfather came to Portland to work in the brownstone quarries back in the late 1800s," he said. "And my wife that we both met in Portland High School. I've said that many people I feel it's important to get back to the town what it's given to me."

Prior to being elected to the Board of Selectmen, Dillon had served on the Inland Wetlands Commission. He is recently retired from his career at the Connecticut Department of Social Services Office of Child Support, where he was a program director.

Dillon said the town has some important issues coming up, among them getting the new well fully tested and developed so that Portland can become self-sufficient instead of relying on the Metropolitan District (MDC) for its water needs. Dillon said the water issue is a great example of spending now to save later.

"Once we get our well up and running, we can control our future water consumption and the cost structure," he said.

Likewise, on the issue of school consolidation and renovation, Dillon said he believes "we don't have a choice to do nothing. We have to do something and that something costs money."

That's why, he said, he supports smart economic development to ease the tax burden on residents.

"Portland is a great little town," he said, "but the upside of a small town is that small town community the downside of a small town is you

have very few people to pay all the bills."

That's why he says he's hopeful that continued development of Brainerd Place, along with the arrival of the spa and the recent riverfront cleanup will attract businesses and visitors, saying he aspires to have a downtown Portland that resembles Essex or Chester, but with a nod to its quarry history.

Dave Kuzminski began his career with the Town of Portland over 50 years ago, "digging ditches," he said, for the town's water division over the summer in high school and college before advancing to higher roles in the water department and then moving into other departments. He eventually retired just last year after serving as technology coordinator in his final role.

At the same time, Kuzminski, who holds a music degree, was also running a business, the Connecticut Valley School of Music and Dance, along with his wife.

Kuzminksi's years spent working for the town's water department make him uniquely knowledgeable and well-suited, he said, to tackling the town's water issues. He is the winner of both regional and national-level awards, including the American Water Works Association's prestigious George Warren Fuller Award.

He also says he is passionate about education, having worked in music education himself and also having taught a "Water and People" course at Portland High School.

Kuzminksi's father was a first selectman, and he said that's part of the reason he wants to run, to "follow in my dad's footsteps."

Andrea Alfano is the current Democratic Town Committee chair and is running for the

Board of Selectmen for the third time this year, after failed campaigns in 2023 and 2019. The return candidate is retired from her career with the state Department of Social Services and the UConn School of Social Work.

She may be retired, she said, but "what I do have is still that pull to public service, as well as the fact that I have the time and the energy still to do something and now to support the town that I live in."

Alfano cited three main issues as her priorities: encouraging responsible economic development in order to expand the tax base, consolidating and modernizing schools, and working towards water independence.

"Water is very expensive in Portland," she said. She also pointed out that not every resident in town has access to municipal water, and added that she thought the project might potentially eventually enable the town to provide access to more residents.

Alfano also prided herself on her party's overall slate of candidates.

"We've all known each other for many years," she said, adding that they considered themselves a team and that she hoped voters would see them that way, too.

Alfano added that, if elected, she wanted to work with the Republicans on the board as well, adding that in Portland, the parties often find consensus.

"We're not going to agree on everything, but when it's about Portland, some of these priorities, I'm sure that you may hear the same thing from their side," she said. "And that's a good thing."

Hoping for 1,000 Bags of Food to Honor Manning

By Anne Lilburn

Kelly Mainetti never thought that the little door-to-door food drive that her mother-in-law Pat Mainetti started in the fall of 1994 with Kelly's young children in tow would still be going strong over 30 years later.

It was a simple project: leaving brown paper bags at people's doors, along with an explanatory note, and then returning a week later to collect any donations and bring them to the Portland Food Bank. Over the decades, it had become a family tradition.

Mainetti definitely never thought she'd be doing it this year without her brother, Shaun Manning. The Board of Selectmen member was killed last December, when he was hit by a pickup truck on his way to be sworn in as the town's new first selectman.

Now Mainetti, along with family members, friends, and volunteers, is hoping to collect 1,000 bags of donated food in the next few weeks to give to the Portland Food Bank. It was a goal that her brother Shaun had set not long before he died. Mainetti said he started talking about it right after they had finished last year's collection, after he had gotten a final bag count from Kevin Bankman, the manager at the Portland Food Bank.

Mainetti said she asked her brother how they had done that year.

"I said, did you get a final from Kevin about what how many bags?," she said. "And he said, 'It was about 800.' I just looked at him. He said, 'Thousand next year.' I just looked at him and he goes, 'We can do it.' I said, 'OK' – and that was

actually the last time I saw him in person."

She said that others told her he had shared his thousand bag goal with them as well.

"He was always pushing for 1,000 bags," said Bankman at the food bank, "so we're hoping to get 1,000 bags this year in memory of him, in honor of him."

Funnily enough, Mainetti said, Manning only got involved in the food drive in 2019, after years of watching from the sidelines. Once he jumped in, though, he gave it his all. She said it was his involvement, and his connections with so many people in the community, that took the food drive to the next level.

"It was a learning curve for him, but then he knows every everybody in Portland," Mainetti said. "He was so outgoing!"

She said his big personality motivated people to both donate and to help with the collection, but it also meant that the family felt his loss strongly once he was gone.

Right after he died, Mainetti said her son Josh told her, "Mom, it's so quiet here without Uncle Shaun."

Mainetti moved to Florida several years ago for her husband's work, but she still makes the trip up to Portland every year to coordinate the drive. She said no one else quite understands how to make it all work, how to coordinate the volunteers. This year, a local store donated the brown paper bags, which will be dropped off at homes on Oct. 26. Volunteers will return Nov. 2 to pick up the bags and bring them to the food bank.

Bankman said donations are always appreciated, adding that the food received from the drive is typically enough to take the food bank almost through to summer.

While Mainetti says that she's proud to be honoring her brother, she also admits it's hard at times and she's wondered if she could do it this year.

"Well, you know, I said I'm gonna do it," she said, "but as it gets closer, it gets harder and harder. I told my husband yesterday, I just feel like calling everybody [and saying] I'm not gonna do it because I don't know now."

And while she says that, Mainetti keeps going. Luckily, she has her grown kids, who have been there since the start, to help her, along with other family members.

"It's gonna be tough on all of us," says her

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, UCC, located at 554 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

During worship this Sunday, Oct. 19, the church will celebrate Heritage Sunday, honoring its longtime members.

Also, at 10 a.m., elementary aged children

Halloween Concert For Police Union

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

The band includes Tony Rome on vocals, percussion and harmonica, Glenn Carta on guitar and vocals, Alex Cadlieux on guitar and vocals, John Henle on bass, and Bryan Caudle on drums.

All donations can be sent to the Portland Police Union, attention Captain Scott Cunningham.

Costumes are optional but welcome!

daughter, Casey Pisani, who was only a baby when the first food drive started. "It is gonna be a little bit harder this year and you know, I've known that since everything happened last year. I'm like, going into this is gonna be rough."

Mainetti's son, Josh, said that he's glad that this food drive was one of his family's childhood traditions.

"I think it was really good for us," said Josh. "You know, growing up, to be shown you should be giving back as much as you can, wherever you can. You know, you don't have to have a whole lot of money or anything like that to give back to your community; just donate your time where you have it."

Anyone interested in volunteering for the food drive or finding out more can contact Kelly Mainetti at kellar@snet.net.

Portland Election Enrollment Session

The Portland registrar of voters will hold an enrollment session at Town Hall, 33 East Main St., on Friday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., in advance of the upcoming municipal election.

Residents may register to vote, and the Registrar of Voters will also hear requests for adding names to the registry list by persons removed.

Oct. 17 is also the last day to register to vote using the Connecticut secretary of the state's online registration portal, at voterregistration.ct.gov. Same-day registration will be available during early voting, and at the polls on Nov. 4.

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, as well as other groups and organizations, to set up in front of Brownstone Intermediate School. Reach out to Courtney Fitzkee to sign up, at cfitzkee@portlandct.org or 860-342-6758.

Also at Halloween on Main, the Friends of the Portland Library will be giving away books in front of the police station again.



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Republican BOS Candidates Say They’re a Strong Team

By Anne Lilburn

Portland’s citizens will head to the polls on Nov. 4 to vote for candidates for the Board of Selectmen. Current First Selectman Mike Pelton is running unopposed for reelection, with four fellow Republicans joining him on the ballot.

The Republicans

Vin Pitruzzello has lived in Portland for 36 years. He is running for the Board of Selectmen for the first time after recently retiring from a long career in the aerospace industry and as a consultant.

Pitruzzello has been involved in the Portland community in the past as a youth sports coach and referee and on the board of the Portland Soccer Club. He currently sits on the Long-Range Capital Improvement Commission.

Pitruzzello said he was running because he wanted to bring a “private sector perspective to town government,” adding that he valued fiscal responsibility “so we can continue to invest in what matters most, especially our educational system, which is my number one priority.”

To that end, Pitruzzello said he would advocate for financially responsible decisions while on the board. He said he would vote for “smart growth,” noting the importance of “striking a balance between increases to the tax base and preserving the small town we all love.”

Incumbent **Tim Lavoy** has been a Portland resident for over two decades. He is a former Board of Education member who has been involved in the community through youth sports, church, and civic groups, including the Portland Exchange Club. In his professional life, Lavoy has worked as a manager for human service pro-

grams for people with intellectual disabilities.

Lavoy spent nine years on the Portland Board of Education, where he said he was proud of his work to promote “transparency, fiscal discipline, and the effective use of resources to strength educational outcomes for our students.” He is seeking a full term now on the Board of Selectmen after entering office this past January.

“I’m running for office because Portland is more than just where we live,” he said. “It’s our community, and I care deeply about its future.”

Lavoy said his priorities included fiscal responsibility, limited tax increases, and government transparency. He also said his goals included promoting strategic economic development to “support Portland’s grown while providing business-friendly processes.”

Lavoy said that, at the same time, he believes in supporting capital improvements and “long-term planning that maintains and improves town infrastructure, facilities and schools.” He also mentioned his support of public safety, police and fire services and commitment to strengthening education and student performance.

Lavoy said he wanted voters to know that his experience would guide his work, but that he was also committed to listening to what they had to say.

“I will listen to residents and make thoughtful, community-first decisions that reflect Portland’s values,” he said.

Incumbent **Bobby Hetrick** is a third-generation Portland resident who is running for his third term on the Board of Selectmen. He is a corrections officer for the State of Connecticut,

and has served on Portland’s Inland Wetlands Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, and as a youth sports coach, volunteer firefighter and EMT.

Hetrick said he advocated for fiscal responsibility, but also for smart spending.

“I am concerned how the town has spent money in the past, and how we haven’t kept up with infrastructure, and with repairing roads, water and sewer.”

Hetrick said he wanted spending to be done right, so that patch-up style repairs wouldn’t need to be made as frequently.

Hetrick said he’s excited and optimistic about the new economic development, including Brainerd Place and the Nordic spa, adding that “it’s a lot happening all at once.” He said he wanted to support development in a smart way.

“You know, people want to keep the small town feel of Portland, but at the same time, we’re such a small town and we have such a good size school system,” he said. “We need the tax dollars to pay for the school.”

“Our taxes for a small town, they’re going up quickly,” he said. “And, you know, some people, they just can’t keep doing that. They can’t keep affording their taxes that go up to, \$300 on their house every year. So what, how, what’s the solution then? We have to control our spending.”

Hetrick says he supports consolidating schools, and says working to gain water independence is a big priority for him.

“We’re tied into MDC right now,” he said, referring to the water company the town buys its water from. “It’s expensive. And we have no control of rates. But it’s beyond that, [this project means] expanding our water system so that we can get new customers on it, and replacing existing lines because we keep having water breaks on old lines. So that’s something where when you talk about spending, it’s like, yeah, but

you’ve got to spend on something like that.”

Joe Spada has lived in Portland for 30 years, after growing up in Middletown. He said he always wanted to live in Portland as a kid, and eventually moved “across the bridge” after getting married. He works for the State of Connecticut as a building construction specialist, overseeing state facilities and ADA home modifications for children with special needs.

Spada said he got involved in politics about 12 years ago, and describes himself as “pro-business, pro-development, but keeping it small.” He said he wants the town to avoid big box stores and to attract businesses that would attract people from the area to do shopping and boost the tax base.

He said the school consolidation issue was one of his priorities and said that he believed his experience in the construction industry and working for the state on public buildings made him well-suited to figuring out solutions to that challenge. He said he preferred building a new building to renovations because it gives “more bang for your buck.” He also described the water independence project and the new well as “a no-brainer.”

Spada said he considers the Republican slate to be a team. “You’re not hiring or you’re not electing one person. You’re electing a team of four of us,” he said.

Incumbent and former Board of Education member **Mike Pelton** is running unopposed for a full term after entering office in January of this year. “The reason why I’m excited to be able to continue doing the job is I feel like I’m having a real impact on the town,” he said. In a town that he described as “purple,” he says he hopes to unite people from a range of political persuasions.

“I think I appeal to them,” he says, “because they know at the end of the day that I’m trying to do the best thing for the town.”

Zion Lutheran News & Notes

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

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

Learning: Children’s Sunday School is back in session. Classes for children ages 3 through 8th grade meet the first and third Sunday of each month, from 10:15-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Sylvia LeShane at 860-342-0658.

The Adult Education group is back in session. Episodes of *The Chosen* are viewed on the first and third Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Discussions will be held the second and fourth Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Contact the church for details.

Year-Round Giving: Church members are

collecting soup to be donated to the Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown. The pantry serves food to over 900 families a month in eight neighboring towns, including Portland. There is a dire need for canned soup. All varieties except vegetable are needed. There is a collection box in the church.

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

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

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, 10/20: Light Aerobics,** 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 10/21: 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: shepherd’s pie, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies, dinner roll and butter, string cheese, applesauce; **Coupons for Troops,** 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize,** 5-6 p.m.; fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 10/22: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30-11:15 a.m., \$5 – donation to instructor.

Quilt Guild Meets Monthly

The Heart of the Valley/Greater Middletown Quilt Guild welcomes new members. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., from September through June.

For more information, call 860-670-5351.

Bereavement Support Group

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

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

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

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 goportlandct@gmail.com

Thursday, 10/23: Tone & Stretch, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: baked potato, veggie chili, sour cream, broccoli, cheddar biscuit, yogurt with berries and granola; **Mahjongg (FULL),** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 10/24: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Mahjongg,** 10 a.m.

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

Cooking for One with Marilyn: Monday, Nov. 3, 11:45 a.m. This class will feature Appetizers for the Holidays. Fee is \$10 and registration is required.

Scam Prevention Mini-Class *Holiday Edition*: Monday, Nov. 3, noon, with Sean Condon from Ageless Insurance. Registration required.

Fairfield Museum & History Center Trip: Wednesday, Nov. 5, leave the center at 10:30 a.m. There is a \$5 ride fee and \$3 admission fee. Bring your own bagged lunch. Registration required.

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BOE Candidates Agree School Consolidation Necessary

By Anne Lilburn

Voters in Portland will head to the polls on Election Day to choose four members of the Board of Education to replace those whose terms are expiring. Four Democrats, three Republicans, and one Independent candidate are on the ballot.

Democrats

Incumbent **Kim Nagy-Maruschock** serves on both the Curriculum and Buildings and Grounds committees of the current Portland Board of Education. She has been a special education teacher for over 23 years and works as a Preschool Coordinator for the early intervention preschool program in Cromwell.

“During my time on the Board of Education, the school facilities have been the main concern,” she said, “and will continue to be until concrete decisions are made and steps are taken to improve the conditions of Portland’s schools. I hope to be reelected so I can be a part of this important work.”

Nagy-Maruschock said her background working with students with special needs and at-risk families gives her a unique perspective.

“I am always mindful of the impact each decision that is being proposed will have on those students, and consider the options carefully,” she said.

Bethanne Vergean has lived in Portland for 16 years. She works at UConn Health, where she focuses on early interventions for young children with disabilities. She said she wants to prioritize communication between the board and families, while also supporting educators.

“I’m not making decisions on what they should teach,” she said. “What I’m doing is supporting what the teachers need, what the superintendent needs, and then just making sure that school is successful.”

Vergean says she is in favor of school consolidation, in part, she says, because she believes it would be better for students.

“Kids do have a lot of transitions going from school to school in Portland. There’s five different schools,” she said. “Kids start one school go to another school for three grades, then go to another school for two grades and then they go to another school for two grades and then they go to high school, so that’s a lot of transitions.”

Jody Grosso is an engineering manager at Pratt and Whitney, and he says that his job reminds him of the value of education on a regular basis. “I interview a lot of prospective appli-

cants,” he said, “and one of one of the first things we screen for is their education, so I understand how critical it is to be well educated.”

Grosso said one of his big priorities as a candidate will be communication. He believes the school consolidation topic has not been communicated with the public as clearly as it should have been in the past.

“Frankly, the first go around, there was too much information and much of the important details were lost in the volume of information,” he said, adding that voters needed to know the approximate final cost so they could make an informed decision. He said he would work to get the word out in a concise, easy to understand way.

Erin Livensparger brings 20 years of experience working for nonprofits on reproductive healthcare and social justice work to her campaign. She said she has been involved in local politics through the Democratic Town Committee in the past and has made public appearances at local meetings, but has not run as a candidate before.

Livensparger said her concerns, as a parent, educator and community member, often involve social justice and says making sure that marginalized communities are represented is a big priority for her.

“I advocate for anti-bullying policy whether somebody’s gay, straight, trans, black, white, or queer,” she says. “And I’m also thinking about the young people that come to school hungry or the young people that you know maybe don’t have a traditional family [and who] live with grandparents, with aunts and uncles, young people that are experiencing mental health crises. So how can we support them, and also support the teachers and the staff so that they can help the young person that’s coming to school hungry.”

As a mother of two teens, Livensparger said that “just making sure that the youth voice is heard and respected, that’s a big motivator for me.”

Independent

Independent candidate **James Motes** is a former teacher and principal turned family law attorney who is running for the board of education for the first time. Motes said his history as a former educator gives him a unique perspective and said that, in addition to school consolidation, his priorities include student mental health, social learning and emotional development, adding that he hoped to foster an inclu-

sive student environment district-wide. While he favors school consolidation and building or renovating schools, Motes also prioritized teacher retention and acquisition as key goals.

“A big building is great, but if we don’t have the institutional knowledge, if we don’t have the staff that’s able to deliver, that doesn’t matter because the kids aren’t gonna get the education that they need,” he said. “It looks good for a politician to say look at this big beautiful building that we got, but if you don’t think about what’s gonna happen in five years when all of your teachers leave because you can’t afford to pay them, then your big beautiful building is it gonna be an empty shell.”

Republicans

Karen Renner is a Portland resident and realtor who is a mom to three children, including a daughter with autism, which she says inspired her to become an advocate for children with special needs and for parents navigating the special education system. She is running for a full term after being sworn in recently to fill a seat after someone resigned. Renner says her main goal is to strengthen communication between the board and families, as is making sure that schools are financially supported.

Incumbent **Dave Murphy** is running for his third term on the Board of Education. As a retired planning manager with Stanley Tools, he

says he is well suited to addressing the financial challenges that the board faces, including issues that come up during contract negotiations with school staff. He said he was proud of his work to cut costs on special education transportation services by encouraging the district to buy its own van as opposed to using an outside vendor. He described the school consolidation efforts as “much-needed” and said it is a priority for him to find a solution to deal with the “overwhelming needs of our three elementary schools.”

Anne Whalen is a middle school teacher with a doctorate in educational leadership and a mother of two young girls who will soon be entering Portland schools. Whalen says that her experience in the classroom, as well as her coursework in school budgeting and leadership, give her “firsthand experience of how policy and budget decisions affect classrooms every day” and said that she supports the school consolidation project.

Whalen said her two biggest priorities are academic excellence, which she said starts with a strong curriculum that “encourages critical thinking, creativity, and real-world problem solving,” and school safety, which she said should include physical and emotional safety.

“A safe environment is the foundation for effective learning,” she said. “Every student and staff member deserves to feel secure at school.”

News & Notes

Kids’ Blast: This is an afterschool (3-6 p.m.) child care program available to students enrolled in grades K-6 in the Portland Public School system. Registration is now open.

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

Pinkalicious & Peterrific Dance Party

Dance with Miss Alicia invites families to join a Pinkalicious & Peterrific Dance Party Friday, Oct. 17, from 4:30-5:15 p.m. (for ages 2-4 years) or 5:30-6:30 p.m. (ages 5-8 years), at 332 Marlborough Street (lower level of The Inner Circle).

This special event promises dancing, games, and crafts inspired by the beloved PBS Kids characters Pinkalicious & Peterrific. Children are encouraged to dress in pink, bring their sparkle, and enjoy an hour of creativity and movement in a playful, judgment-free environment.

The cost to participate is \$20 per child, with all proceeds benefiting the goPINK Project at

Harvest Festival Farm-to-Table Dinner

The Brownstone Quorum volunteer group is sponsoring the Harvest Festival Farm-to-Table Dinner fundraiser event Saturday, Oct. 25, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the Hemlock Grange Hall, 17 Sage Hollow Rd.

The dinner will be an autumn-themed four course menu prepared by “Sarah’s on Main” restaurant, using fresh ingredients from local farms and gardens. There will be live music and door prizes as well. Tickets are \$75 and can be ordered online at brownstonequorum.org or through a link on the Brownstone Quorum Facebook page. The event flyer with the menu

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 kellar@snet.net.

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 Klemmba at kl-embajane@comcast.net.

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.

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.

Early voting starts Monday, Oct. 20, and runs daily through Nov. 2, at Portland Town Hall, 33

East Main St. Early voting hours are from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. On Tuesday, Oct. 28, and Thursday, Oct. 30, there will be extended early voting hours from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. For curbside early voting assistance, residents can call 860-342-6740.

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

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. **Holiday Closing: The library will be closed all day Tuesday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day.**

Late Fall Storytimes: Start Nov. 12; registration begins Monday, Oct. 27. The schedule is: **Preschool Storytimes (ages 3-5):** Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2 and Dec. 9. Stories, songs and rhymes that encourage literacy and social skills and help get your preschooler prepared for kindergarten. A craft will be offered each week that can be done at the library or brought home. **Toddlers and Tots Storytime**



Silver Bowl Award... At the annual luncheon of the Portland Garden Club held at Terrazza Restaurant on Oct. 1, **Maurleen Rich** was honored with the “Silver Bowl Award” for her dedicated service to the club. Rich was recognized for her many years serving as the club’s secretary and for being an invaluable team player, the club said.

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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.

Trinity Episcopal News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., invites all to services on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Bible Study starts at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday.

Upcoming Worship: The church will celebrate the Feast of All Saints on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 9:30 a.m. All are asked to bring pictures of their loved ones who have passed to be placed on the altar during the service. On Nov. 9, there will be a recovery service at 9:30 a.m. to celebrate how “Life and Love” for each other has brought people together.

Service Projects: The church continues to write letters to the people in the Middle East

Little League Golf Tournament

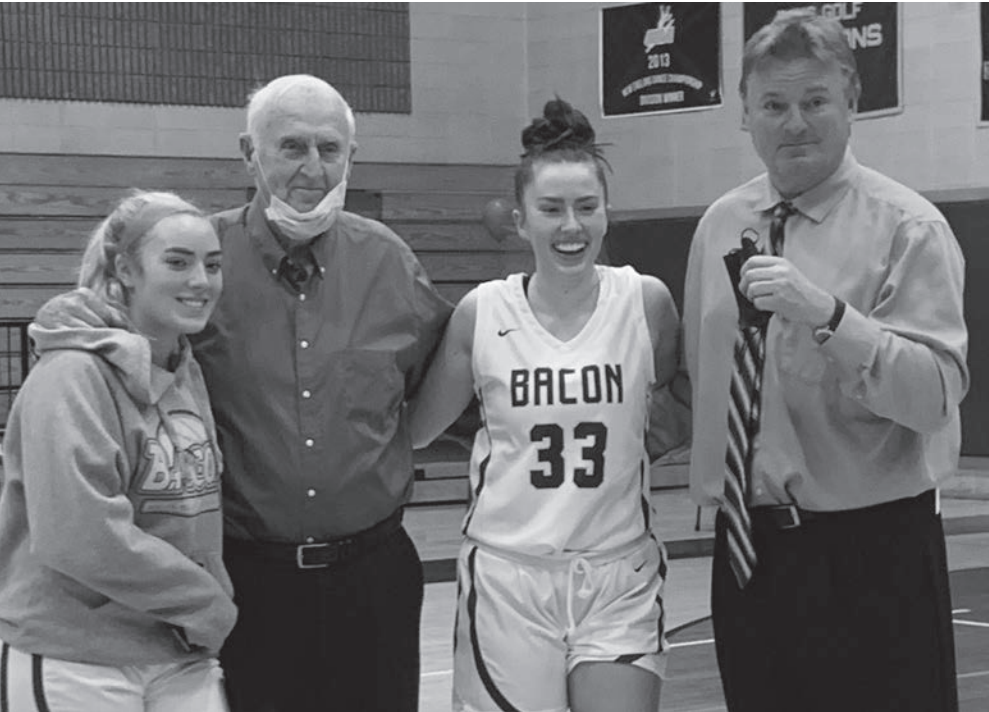
Portland Little League will hold its annual Golf Tournament Friday, Oct. 24, at Portland Golf Course.

This community event serves as one of the league’s largest fundraisers, helping to keep baseball affordable for families, maintain fields, and support programs for local youth athletes.

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

In addition to golfer registration, sponsorship

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



Dave Shea, who coached basketball for nearly five decades at Bacon Academy, passed away last month. Shea (second to left) is pictured with his son, John Shea, along with his granddaughters, Caitlin Shea and Cara Shea, following a game in 2021.

★ Lasting Legacy,, cont. from page 1

game made him a standout on the field, but it was his leadership and wisdom that truly set him apart.”

A Family Affair

Outside of athletics, Shea wed his high school sweetheart Dorothy – better known as Dottie – and the two were married for 62 years before Dottie passed in 2022.

The couple had two kids, John and Mary Ellen. John was a member of the 1981 state championship team and followed in his father’s footsteps, scoring over 1,000 career points and later having a successful tenure as the girls basketball coach at Bacon Academy.

Shea also coached his granddaughter, Katie Mahoney, who was on the 2009 state championship team and is the program’s all-time leading scorer with 1,790 points. Additionally, he coached his granddaughter, Caitlin, for two seasons prior to his retirement and his granddaughter, Cara, was an all-conference player for John.

Well-Deserved Honors

Following his retirement from coaching, the playing court inside Bacon Academy was renamed the Dave Shea Gymnasium in his honor. He was also inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA)

Hall of Fame, the New England Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame.

Following his induction into the Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame in 2023, Shea credited the high school and surrounding community for his longevity.

“No program is without the support of the administration. I was very fortunate to have this kind of support,” expressed Shea. “The town of Colchester has been great to me. They gave me the opportunity to teach and coach all of these years and I don’t take it for granted.”

Shea’s ties to the town ran deep as he served as town Burgess and as a Colchester Lion. Additionally, he volunteered as a youth baseball coach and directed the Tri County Baseball School for over three decades.

Burke stated that Shea’s impact on the school and community will not soon be forgotten.

“As a coach and mentor, Dave always knew the right things to say – whether it was to lift a player’s spirits, guide a fellow coach, or rally the fans,” added Burke. “His stories weren’t just entertaining – they taught lessons, preserved history, and brought people together. Dave Shea’s legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, both on and off the field.”

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Death and Burial Practices in Early New England

Death was a frequent part of life in early New England. At a program later this month, you can learn how death and burial rituals evolved and what customs were handled by family and friends in the days before undertakers and funeral parlors.

Why is the face covered with a sheet? Why is the body buried facing east? Why is it called a wake? What styles and color of clothing did mourners wear?

All are invited to this program with historian

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

Adult Bible Study: Every Sunday starting Sunday, Oct. 26. The study, on the First Epistle of Peter, will be led by Elder George Logan. The theme is “Standing Firm in Grace: A Call to Holiness in a Hostile World.” All adults welcome to join in this study, where together you’ll learn what it means to “stand firm in the true grace of God” (1 Peter 5:12)

Kingdom Women: Women’s Bible Study: The study will continue in the Book of Psalms

Upcoming at the Library

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

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

Art History Film Series: Every Monday in October, 6 p.m. Celebrate National Arts and Humanities month by learning about art and artists with these films.

Access Health CT: Every Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Have questions about insurance? Turning 26 and will soon be uninsured? All are invited to come learn about enrolling in Access Health CT insurance.

Cookbook Club: Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m. This month, read and cook from *New England Soup Factory*. Cookbooks are available for checkout.

Medicare Info Session: Wednesday, Oct. 22. Learn the ins and outs of Medicare and the differences between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage with Mark Macrina, a local insurance agent with an office in Colchester.

Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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

This Week’s Scheduled Events/Meetings: Saturday, 10/18: No Yoga Today; Sunday, 10/19: Worship Service at 10 a.m. with Fire Prevention and Community Emergency Response Team presentation (in-person in the sanctuary, as well as online and livestreamed); Sunday, 10/19: Youth Group monthly meeting at 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall; Monday, 10/20 – Bible study at 9:30 a.m., online via Zoom; Tuesday, 10/21 – AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 10/22 – Yoga at 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, 10/22 – Choir Practice at 7 p.m., sanctuary.

Fire Prevention Presentation: Worship this

Resident Heads to Hamilton

Brighton McMahon of Hebron recently matriculated as a member of the Class of 2029 at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y.

Selected from a pool of 8,904 applicants to the college, McMahon joins a college community of about 2,000 undergraduate students.

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RivereastNewsBulletin

Bev York at Douglas Library, 22 Main St., on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 6:30 p.m. York is curator of America Museum in Willimantic and an adjunct history instructor at Quinebaug Valley Community College. York will supply answers to everything you’ve always wanted to know about early death but maybe were afraid to ask.

This is a collaborative offering by the Hebron Historical Society and Douglas Library. The program is free and appropriate for all ages. Donations are appreciated.

every first and third Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the church.

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship! Mug-Making: Friday, Nov. 7. All middle and high school youth are welcome for food, a lesson, mug-making, and more. Kids are welcome to come either at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and the whole event, or arrive at 8 p.m. for dessert and activity. Pick up is at 9:30 p.m.

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

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

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

President’s List

Chelsea Hall of Hebron made the summer 2025 President’s List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.



Picturesque Potown!... On their three-month cross-country camping trip, Sarah and David Levine recorded their hike across the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge on the Hudson River, the second-longest footbridge in the world.



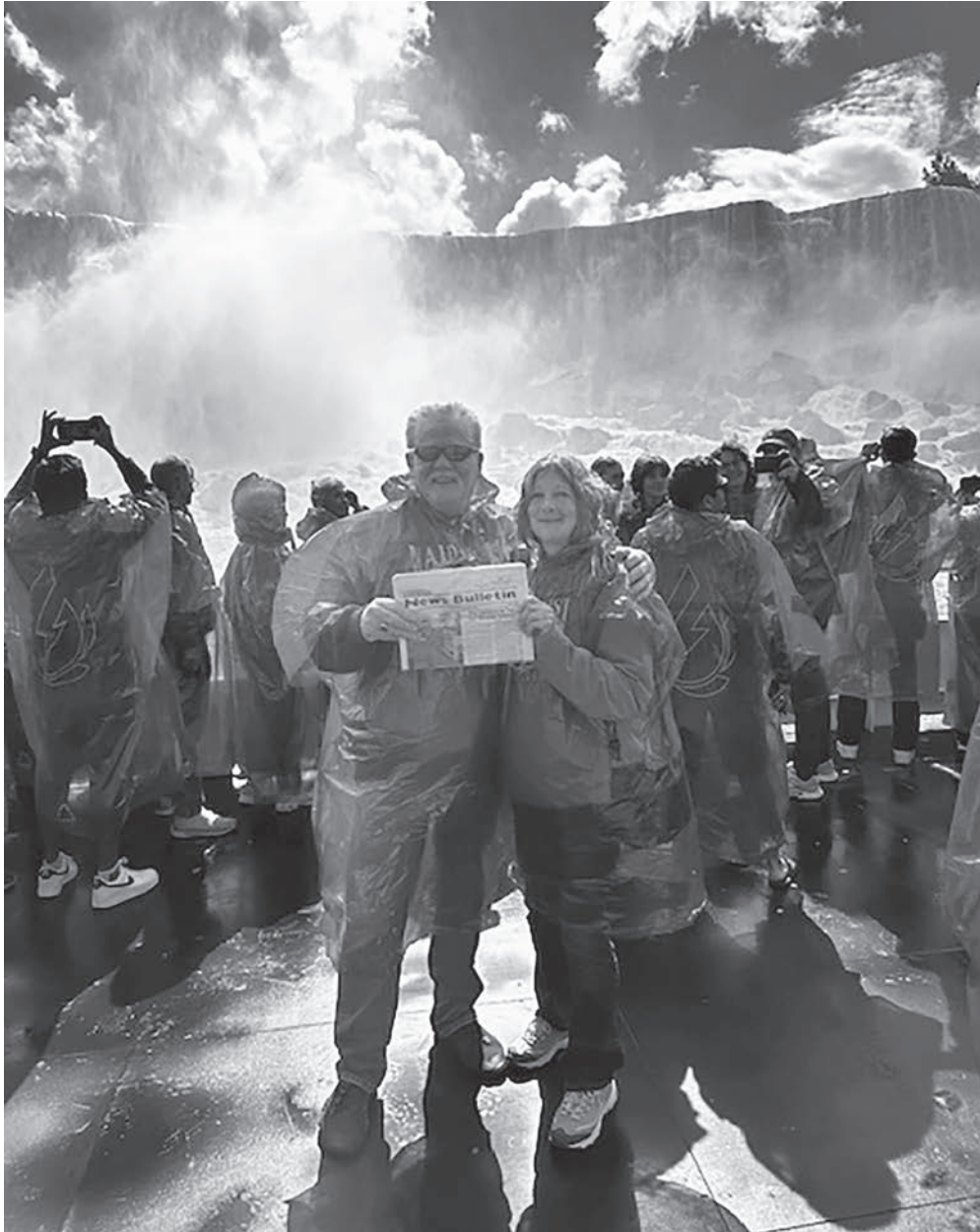
Sunny Sturbridge... Karen Renner of Portland and her daughter Katrina Renner of Portland brought the *Rivereast* along when they recently went to Sturbridge, Mass., to visit Karen's older daughter, Hannah.

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!



Beautiful Bay... Pictured are Alaina Fillback of Portland and son Emmitt recently visited Netarts Bay in Oregon on a family vacation.



All's Fair at the Falls... Ray Chagnon and Diane Klemyk, both from East Hampton, are shown here enjoying Niagara Falls.

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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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.ct-draftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ct-draftrescue. 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.

Scarecrows in the Park: At Sears Park through Oct. 31; park open from sunrise to sunset. Enjoy a whimsical display of scarecrows created by local residents, businesses, and organizations. Vote for your favorites!

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.

Afterschool Programs at Memorial School (Grades K-3) – Ghost Busters Fun Club: Make Your Own Ghost Poppers, Tuesday, Oct. 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m., \$25.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

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

Adult Programs: 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: 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.

Magic: The Gathering (Grades 7-12): Wednesday, Oct. 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Whether you already know how to play the card game, or want to learn, come together and play with people of all skill levels. Bring your own decks or use one of the library's.

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.

STEMtastic: Owl Pellet Dissection for Grades 2-8: Monday, Oct. 27, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Come dissect an owl pellet and see if you can identify key parts of an owl's diet.

Halloween Happening: Ages Birth-5: Thursday, Oct. 30, 10:30 a.m. Join us to share some Halloween-themed stories, songs, and crafts. Costumes encouraged.



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Fireball Cinnamon Whisky 1.75 Liter \$26⁹⁹	Apothic Assorted Wines 750 ml \$9⁹⁹	Lunazul Blanco or Reposado 1 Liter \$21⁹⁹	Sip of Sunshine IPA 4 Pack 12 oz. Cans \$12⁹⁹ plus dep.	Heineken 0:0 Alcohol Free 12 Pack 12 oz. Cans \$14⁹⁹ plus dep.
Miller Lite or Coors Light 30 Packs 12 oz. Cans \$25⁹⁹ plus dep.	High Noon Variety 12 Packs 12 oz. Cans \$26⁹⁹	Shipyard Pumpkinhead 12 Pack 12 oz. Bottles \$16⁹⁹ plus dep.	Chateau Ste. Michelle Chardonnay 750 ml \$9⁹⁹	Method Cabernet Sauvignon 750 ml \$19⁹⁹ 2023 Vintage #1 Best Buy Wine Enthusiast Top 100 - 93 Pts.
Svedka Assorted Vodka 1.75 Liter \$17⁹⁹	Patrón Silver Tequila 750 ml \$39⁹⁹	Josh Cabernet, Merlot, Pinot Noir or Legacy Red 750 ml \$12⁹⁹	Down East Cider Donut 4 Pack 12 oz. Cans \$11⁹⁹ plus dep.	Michelob Ultra 30 Pack 12 oz. Cans \$27⁹⁹ plus dep.
Fulton's Harvest Pumpkin Pie Cream 750 ml \$10⁹⁹	Tanqueray Gin 1.75 Liter \$32⁹⁹	Bacardi Assorted Rum 1.75 Liter \$19⁹⁹	Confetti Assorted Sweet Wines 750 ml \$3³³	Hi5 or WYNK 3mg THC Seltzers Asst. 4 Packs 12 oz. Cans \$14⁹⁹

All Items Subject To Availability. Not Responsible For Typographical Errors.

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Upcoming Educational Events

How VA and Tri-Care Works with Medicare at office Tues. Oct. 28 th 6-7pm Mon. Nov. 3 rd 6-7pm Tues. Nov. 10 th 6:30-7:30pm Mon. Nov. 17 th 6:30-7:30pm	Medicare Advantage Vs. Supplemental at Office Tues. Oct. 21 st 6-7pm Thurs. Oct. 30 th 6-7pm Tues. Nov. 4 th 6-7pm Sat. Nov. 8 th 6-7pm Thurs. Nov. 27 th 6-7pm
Douglas Library – Hebron Oct. 22 nd 3-4pm & 6-7pm Nov. 12 th 3-4pm & 6-7pm Dec. 2 nd 3-4pm & 6-7pm	Cragin Library Colchester Nov. 6 th 3-4pm & 6-7pm Dec. 4 th 3-4pm & 6-7pm
Richmond Memorial Library Marlborough Nov. 5 th 3-4pm & 6-7pm Dec. 4 th 3-4pm & 6-7pm	Columbia Library Dec. 3 rd 1-2pm & 6-7pm
Verterans Rally Nov. 19 th 5-6pm	East Hampton Nov. 19 th 5-6pm

Enrollments at Office Drop in or RSVP
Fri. Oct. 24th 8am-5pm • Fri. Nov. 7th 8am-5pm
Fri. Dec. 5th 8am-5pm

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- Ensuring high-quality education

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Annual Coat Drive

The East Hampton Lions and St. John Paul II Parish are holding their annual coat drive. All are invited to donate any coats that you no longer wear – as well as sweaters, gloves, and other fall/winter clothing – to the drive. Items may be dropped off at Ace Hardware and St. John Paul II Parish (formerly St. Patrick Church) in the parish hall from now through Oct. 22. Please donate items in good, clean condition. The items do not have to be dry-cleaned but please no stains or holes, the Lions said. People are invited to come and “shop” on Thursday, Oct. 23, from 9-10 a.m. and 5-7 p.m., and on Friday, Oct. 24, from 5-7 p.m. For more information, call Lion Mary Krogh at 860-977-5760.

Lions Raffle for Scholarship Program

The East Hampton Lions Club is conducting a raffle to support their annual scholarship program. The Lions will offer four \$1,500 awards to graduating East Hampton students. Applications are available by contacting the East Hampton High School guidance office. The raffle offers a \$2,025 grand prize. First place is \$225 with two winners, second place is \$125 with two winners, and third place is \$55 with two winners. Also, the first-, second- and third-place winners will be reentered for the grand prize draw. A total of 700 tickets will be sold, at \$10 per ticket. The raffle runs through Saturday, Oct. 25, with the drawing to take place that day at the East Hampton Lions Club picnic pavilion at 62 N. Main St. Time for the drawing is 2:25 p.m. For information or tickets call Lion Tim Denman 860-519-4951.



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CHILDREN'S Harvest Fest

Saturday, Nov. 1 at 4pm

Pumpkin Decorating
Harvest Games
Non-scary Costumes Welcome
Hayride
Face Painting
Bonfire
Apple Cider & Donuts
Candy bags



WHERE: Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Rd, Colchester, CT 06415

By Mary Milewski

The former competitive cheerleader runs her own personal training business, Gym & Tonick, and began offering Mothers & Movement weekly fitness bootcamp classes in her private Glastonbury studio this past Sunday, after previously holding the class at Riverfront Park in Glastonbury.

Prior to becoming a personal trainer, McConville was a competitive cheerleader for 15 years and competed in a National Physique Committee bikini competition. She holds a bachelor's degree in health and science and kinesiology.

McConville's goals for Mothers & Movement include promoting healthy movement and boosting strength and endurance for each individual. Her biggest goal, however, is creating a supportive community she explained.

McConville's private studio is named Gym & Tonick. The name of her studio is a play on McConville's maiden name Tonick and the medicinal substance used to elicit feelings of wellbeing.

The classes have been a success since launching at Riverfront Park this summer.

“The bootcamp is amazing. We have a solid

According to McConville, the first session had a full house, but some participants needed a lot of instruction. That's where McConville worked her coaching magic. "I was able to form correct some people and make them feel comfortable," she said.

As a personal trainer, McConville is focused on form correction, she said, and works with all levels and individual goals from novice through advanced.

“My drive for Mothers & Movement is getting women who start out in an uncomfortable state in their fitness journey and help to make them feel comfortable in themselves and be able to one day go into a big box gym and feel like they know what they’re doing,” she explained.

According to Taylor Merritt, owner of Sweat as a Mother – a Naperville, Ill.-based fitness company that specializes in both pre- and post-natal fitness – McConville is driven to succeed.

"It is so great to see that she has the same kind of passion that I do for bringing connections, strength training and movement to all moms," said Merritt, who mentored McConville when she started her own personal training business. "She's really finding a space for moms to come together and sharing her knowledge of the body and movement for women."

Merritt said she has gotten to know McConville as both a mom and a new businesswoman.

“She built her business around her passion for fitness and health and trying to bring joy and strength to their lives,” said Merritt. “I am so proud of her for taking the leap and bringing this to her town. It’s so great to see everyone showing up to these bootcamps.”

McConville said she really loves being able to educate women on how to exercise properly in relation to their fitness goals and grow their confidence.

“Whether you’re brand new to working out, returning to exercise after taking time out, or

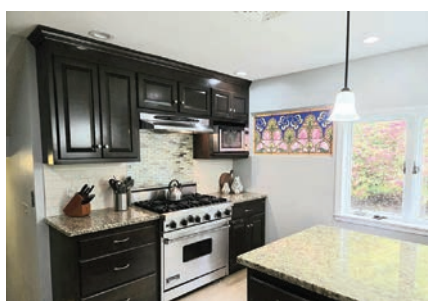


Personal trainer Katy McConville runs Mothers & Movement, a weekly fitness bootcamp in Glastonbury.

just looking for a space where you feel like you belong, I'm here to guide and encourage you – every rep, every session, every step,” McConville said. “I hope to work to develop as big of a com-

For a schedule of Mothers & Movement classes, visit gymandtonick.com/bootcamp.

A Lifelong resident of Glastonbury with 30+ years, Jody has been making homeownership a reality for countless individuals and families in the Glastonbury and surrounding area.



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Glastonbury Store Delivers More Than Just Carpet

By Mary Milewski
Selling carpet and flooring is about more than just the product – it’s about the people and the relationships that are built over the years with customers, said new owner of Glastonbury Carpet & Flooring Gerson DaSilva.
Working in commercial banking, DaSilva said he wasn’t satisfied, and didn’t think twice when he got the opportunity to purchase Glastonbury Carpet & Flooring. He took over ownership of the company in April.
DaSilva said he enjoys working with and helping people. He said he knew the basics of business from his time as a landlord managing his own properties before taking over Glastonbury Carpet & Flooring. The rest he has learned since taking over.
“Six months of ownership feels like six years because I have done so much and learned so much in that time,” DaSilva said.
Now in its 52nd year, Glastonbury Carpet & Flooring celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023. Started by Jim and Fran Nicol, Glastonbury Carpet – as it was then known – has done many notable projects over the years, including work at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and the governor’s mansion. The business has even done projects as small as a cat’s scratching post.
DaSilva purchased the business from Brian McGuire and his wife Carol. McGuire started

at Glastonbury Carpet & Flooring while still in high school. He said that when he drives down the street, he often thinks that he has probably been in just about every house in town.
“Carol and I thank all of the people in Glastonbury and area towns who helped us succeed for so many years,” McGuire said.
While he no longer owns the business, McGuire still helps with training when needed. “My goal is that [DaSilva] can continue and be a success as well,” he explained.
Originally just Glastonbury Carpet, the business has evolved over the years – diversifying to other types of flooring.
Today Glastonbury Carpet & Flooring – as it is now called – also sells hard flooring, including engineered wood, solid wood and luxury vinyl that looks and smells like wood and can even get wet. The business also sells tile, Vinyl Composition Tile (VCT), carpet and more.
“I’ve had people my age say, ‘Who does carpeting anymore?’ but you’d be surprised at how much carpeting we do,” said DaSilva.
The products Glastonbury Carpet & Flooring offers don’t stop there, however. “We also do hardwood finishing, a lot of epoxy flooring in garages and basements, carpet and area rug cleaning, rug binding and even fabrication of custom area rugs,” DaSilva explained.
Any rug can become an “area rug,” according to DaSilva.

“We can make them round, star, square – even the shape of a dinosaur,” he said. “We can do anything. We even did custom carpeting on a boat. So, if you have a yacht, come on in or call us.”
The company’s tradition of turning dreams into reality is something that DaSilva said he is proud of. According to Glastonbury Carpet & Flooring’s new owner, the moment customers walk in to the showroom or call he asks questions and helps them determine the best product for their goals.
That process of course starts with asking questions. How much traffic will the carpet or floor get? Will the customer mostly be wearing shoes or be barefoot while walking on it? How plush would they like the carpet?
Choices are based on thickness, durability, look, feel, padding needs, budget and even pets. “I think about things that some people don’t consider,” said DaSilva.
Since taking the reins in April, DaSilva has had an eye toward the future and updating the business.
“I’m working with designers to completely redo the showroom, bring it up to 2025 and bring in the most modern choices and contemporary styles,” he said.
DaSilva said he enjoys showing customers different products and helping them with their projects. “I really like the people,” he said. “My heart is in Glastonbury.”
The showroom – located at 192 Oak St. in



Gerson DaSilva is the new owner of Glastonbury Carpet & Flooring.

Glastonbury – is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The store is closed Sundays and Mondays. For more information, visit glastonbury-carpet.com.

Vaccination Clinic Schedule

Chatham Health District has announced its upcoming Vaccination Clinic Schedule, and clinics are scheduled in the *Rivereast* towns of Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland. The schedule is:

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.

National Take-Back Day

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

Fall Into Art

AHM Youth and Family Services will hold Fall Into Art, an autumn-themed community art show, on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 1:30-6:30 p.m., at AHM, 25 Pendleton Drive.
This event will take place during Hebron Harvest Moon Festival. There will be a rain date of Sunday, Oct. 19.
This free event is in collaboration with the Hebron Creative Collective. If you are an artist interested in showing your work, please register, by contacting AHM at ahmyouth.org.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 3*

ideas of their colleagues. I promise to be an active, respectful listener even if others’ opinions are different than mine.

It is essential that the public understand the decisions being made by the BOE and the administration. The community should know how decisions tie into the school’s vision and goals. Open public discussion helps everyone understand the ‘why’ behind each problem and the “how” of each proposed solution. Before decisions are made, situations need to be explained and the public must have a time to give their perspectives and ideas with the board members and administration listening intently. It is important that each step of a process toward solutions be communicated clearly. This is how true transparency happens and I commit to it.

Information needs to be communicated clearly with the citizens of Colchester, those who have children in the school system and well as those who don’t. Colchester has a large population of citizens who are not connected directly with the school system and the board needs to discover the best way to communicate throughout the year, not just the budget at budget time. Many means of communication must be used: the *Rivereast* newspaper, town, school and Board of Education websites, flyers on bulletin boards throughout town, and distribution and sharing of information to other town boards will help get information out to the entire public of Colchester.

I ask for your support on Election Day, Nov. 4, or by early voting Oct. 20-Nov. 2, so that I can make sure that everyone in Colchester feels as though they know about the great things happening in our public schools.

Sincerely,
Nancy Nelson
Democratic Candidate for
Board of Education

Now They Complain?

To the Editor:
My wife and I lived here in East Hampton for 30 years. In every local election, the Republicans complain about spending money. However, they never articulate or present a long-term plan to address the needs of our community.
Here again, the firehouse issue has been around for years; now they start to complain?
Kurt John Comisky – East Hampton

Right Person for the Job

To the Editor:
I am pleased to write this letter endorsing Roberta Dougherty for Andover Town Clerk. She has lived here, married here and raised her family here, so we’ve all had the opportunity to get to know her. She’s been the assistant assessor since 2012 and became the Social Services/Municipal Agent in 2019.
I have been privileged to avail myself of her knowledge and help when I needed information from the assessor’s office. There is a lot to learn about how one’s property is assessed. She’s always been helpful, kind and friendly. When she added her other duties as Social Services/Municipal Agent, she did it with the knowledge and dedication required to serve those needing these services. As always, being kind, friendly and helpful.
Now that she is running for the town clerk position, I can’t imagine why a person would vote for anyone else. Roberta has gained so much knowledge, experience and skills required to be a Town Clerk. She knows a great deal about the Town of Andover already, so she has a huge head start and is learning more each day. I know I will rest easily with Roberta handling all the duties of Town Clerk, and there are many, many duties. I know she will continue to be the kind, caring and friendly person that she is. She is just the right person to do the job.
Please join me in voting for Roberta Dougherty for Andover Town Clerk on Nov. 4.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgette Conrad – Andover

A Great Candidate

To the Editor:
Cliff O’Donal is a great candidate for the Board of Selectmen. He is a very experienced and successful businessman. He has served our town with thoughtfulness and integrity. He has a proven record of working well with others and making sound decisions. We are hopeful that Cliff will be elected and continue to serve Colchester on behalf of its citizens.

Carol Marchigiano and Bill Grabek
– Colchester

Elect Portland’s Team

Dear Portland Neighbors:
Please take a few minutes to look at the flyer insert in today’s edition featuring the Democratic team for Portland that appears on Row A of the ballot in this year’s municipal election. You can read about our team’s priorities and proven commitment to the Portland community.

For the first time in a municipal election, you will have options as to when to cast your ballot. Early voting begins next Monday 10/20 and continues through 11/2 at Portland Town Hall, with Election Day on Tuesday 11/4. Check out the flyer for times and location, and be sure to take the time to learn about all the candidates who are seeking election before you go to the polls.

The Portland Democratic Team consists of experienced and dedicated community leaders including; Andrea Alfano, John Dillon, Dave Kuzminski, and Jim Tripp for the Board of Selectmen; Jody Grosso, Erin Livensparger, Kim Nagy-Maruschock, and Bethanne Vergean for Board of Education; Chris Darby and Lauren DeCaprio for Zoning Board of Appeals; and Kathy Richards and Cindy Tyler for the Board of Assessment Appeals.
You will find more information about the Portland Democratic Team on our website, www.portlandctdtc.com or by following us on Facebook @PortlandDemocraticTownCommittee. We will also be knocking on doors and meeting residents in the community as we continue to listen to what is important to you in these final weeks leading to Election Day.
Please be sure to make a plan to vote, and consider supporting Portland Democrats on Row A!
Sincerely,
Andrea Alfano
Chair, Portland Democratic Town Committee
Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Toni for Hebron BOE

To the Editor:
The Hebron Republican Town Committee has proudly endorsed Toni Livernois as candidate for Hebron Board of Education. Toni has the experience of exposure to multiple school systems in a variety of communities throughout the country. Toni’s husband, Chad, was in the U.S. Navy, causing them to relocate frequently. Her experience includes teaching 4th grade in Westerly, R.I., teaching preschool in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and teaching 6th grade in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. Toni also has seven years of experience coaching competitive and high school gymnastics. Also, she coached elementary school track and volleyball. Toni believes that sports participation helps children develop dedication, work ethic, time management and teamwork.
Additionally, Toni organized a “Book Buddy” mentoring program and a STEM event for students to showcase their projects. Supporting our students and teachers with student centered classrooms, encouraging creativity and critical thinking, and meeting diverse learning needs, are priorities for Toni. She believes we promote excellence with high expectations and resources for success. Toni emphasizes strong family and community partnerships to prepare students for success.
Toni Livernois is an extremely qualified candidate for Hebron Board of Education! Please join me in voting for Toni.

Thank you,
Sue Custance – Hebron

Candidate for ZBA

To the Editor:
My name is Julie C. Ciucias and I am honored to run for East Hampton’s Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). I moved to East Hampton in 1998 upon completion of building a home on Viola Drive. Overseeing the construction of a home gives one a firsthand opportunity to deal with land use issues, permits and the building department.
Having a desire to contribute to the town, I have served on the Economic Development Commission (EDC), Brownfield Commission and Charter Review Committee. While on EDC, I was a member, Vice-Chair and Chair. During my tenure, I worked closely with Planning and Zoning Commission, Inlands/Wetlands and ZBA. While I was chair, the EDC researched and wrote the specifics for a Design Review Board which was eventually approved and implemented by Town Council. While on EDC, we also contributed to the 2016 Plan of Conversation and Development (POCD) and assisted in having streetscape/traffic-calming changes to the retail area of Route 66.
I have a record of active participation and well-researched contributions. I will not rubber stamp applications. As a member of ZBA, I pledge to honor town regulations, the POCD, and make principled and fair-minded decisions.

Sincerely,
Julie C. Ciucias – East Hampton
Candidate for Zoning Board of Appeals

We’re All Here Together

To The Editor:
Like it or not, we are all here on this planet together. If we don’t find away sincerely to communicate with each other, we have no idea what could happen.
This is an open dialogue where ego must be pushed aside. Most disagreements are based on misunderstanding. I have been married for 31 years and I still misunderstand what my partner is telling me or asking me. I have a point of view that makes me interpret through that lens. If I think he means it a certain way, it is because that is how I would mean it.
We all have some responsibility. Those of us capable of understanding the true implications of the time we’re living in are more responsible than the other side, but we all have this burden to bear.
As many of us as possible needs to understand this. We have a dichotomy in our species (and everything in between) that makes each other necessary in our current existence, it feels like we are evolving to have whatever the multi-prong equivalent of dichotomy is. Now, it is just a matter of convincing the other side that maybe we share more in common than the disputes others are manipulating us to have.

Gravely,
Kristine VanRaalte – Colchester

United for Colchester

Dear Colchester Neighbors:
It’s morning again in Colchester. This year, the Republican Town Committee has assembled a diverse, energetic, and experienced team of candidates who share a common goal: keeping Colchester affordable, improving our schools, and making our town a place we’re all proud to call home.
Leading our ticket is John Thomas for first selectman – a successful businessman and active member of his church who understands community values and fiscal responsibility.
For the Board of Selectmen, we’re proud to offer trusted, bipartisan voices in Art Shilosky and Cliff O’Donal, both respected for their fairness and experience. Adding a fresh perspective to the board, Tim Vaillancourt brings a thoughtful, independent approach.
For the Board of Finance, two community-minded residents are stepping up to ensure smart budgeting and responsible planning. I, Michael Dubreuil, am honored to be endorsed for the six-year seat. I will work to move Colchester forward by implementing critical capital projects – like improvements to our athletic fields and the Bacon Academy roof – while keeping taxes reasonable. Joining me is Amber Webster, endorsed for the four-year seat, who shares my commitment to balancing Colchester’s needs with what families can afford.
For the Board of Education, we have an exceptional slate. Cari Duigou is a parent and teacher who understands classroom challenges firsthand. Olivia Duksa is a parent and small business owner of Iron Horse Equestrian Club, bringing strong leadership skills. Corrine Loyola is a grandmother, retired veteran, and attorney offering valuable legal and community insight. And Cody McNeely is a parent, retired veteran, and educator who teaches others how to share and apply knowledge effectively. Together, they will bring balance, accountability, and a focus on academic excellence to our schools.
For the Board of Assessment Appeals, Mike Begun and Glenn Shilosky will ensure your property assessments are fair and that taxpayers are treated equitably. Rounding out our team is John Ringo for Treasurer, a position he has already performed with excellence and dedication.
This is a team united by purpose and grounded

in service. Together, we’ll protect what makes Colchester special – our community, our schools, and our affordability.
We respectfully ask for your support and your vote. Early voting runs from Oct. 20th through Nov. 2nd at Town Hall. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4th.
Thank you for your consideration and for being part of Colchester’s bright future.

Sincerely,
Michael Dubreuil
Republican Candidate for Board of Finance

EH Deserves Steady Hands

To the Editor:
As much as ever, East Hampton deserves steady hands on its Board of Finance to steer us carefully and thoughtfully into the future.
We have a unique opportunity next month to elect two experienced financial professionals to Finance; namely, David Caterisano and Daniel Finn.
Both Dave and Dan have storied careers in financial management, helping guide individuals, businesses and organizations in the prudent use of their financial resources now and in the future, skills vital to maintaining our town’s secure financial wellbeing.
These guys not only know their business, but they hold down another challenging “occupation”: both are parents and homeowners who know full well the stresses of the economy and taxes. Their roots are firmly planted in our East Hampton community, and as much as anyone know that only careful, thoughtful management can keep us strong and hold us together.
And simply put, their heads are screwed on tight and their hearts are in the right place. Dave and Dan represent some of the best new generation of leaders for East Hampton, and I hope you join me in supporting them for the Board of Finance. Caterisano and Finn are right for our community!
Rich Knotek – East Hampton
Town Council Member and Candidate

Proud of Our Accomplishments

To the Editor:
It has been a privilege for us, the Republican team, to serve as your voice on the Board of Finance. We take this responsibility very seriously and remain committed to earning your trust every day.
Over the past several years, we have worked diligently to strengthen our town’s finances, protect taxpayer dollars, and improve our community. Some of our key accomplishments include:
1. increased funding for road maintenance to eventually bring all town roads up to proper standards where only routine maintenance will be needed.
2. renovated the Sears Park pickleball, basketball and tennis courts enhancing recreational opportunities.
3. provided funding for school security improvements including, internal locks, alert systems, glass protection, security personnel.
4. exposed the environmental issues at the 11 Skinner Street firehouse project, protecting our firemen’s health and taxpayer’s money.
5. maintained a AAA rating, saving significant costs when bonding or leasing large items.
6. saved every property taxpayer hundreds of dollars in property taxes each year while maintaining a quality school system. (You recall the referendum on the school budget this past summer?)
7. reestablished the Special Education Reserve Fund to cover mandated special education expenses.
8. approved a policy in 2023 allowing the Board of Education to retain any unexpended funds from its annual budget.
9. established a taxpayer transparency initiative, providing each taxpayer a letter detailing how their taxes are spent by department.
10. secured sustainable funding for the Ambulance Association, ensuring continued service while saving \$300,000 annually compared to the Ambulance Task Force’s recommendation. Special thanks to Ted Hintz for his leadership on this effort.
We are proud of these accomplishments and remain focused on protecting the interests of all taxpayers while maintaining the quality of life that makes our town special.
Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to work for you.
Please vote Row B on Nov. 4.

God bless,
Bridget McLennan,
Chairman, Board of Finance and Candidate,
Board of Finance
Alannah Danaher Coshow,
Vice-Chairman, Board of Finance
and Candidate, Town Council
Jim Radavich,
Member, Board of Finance
and Candidate, Board of Finance
Dr. Richard Brown,
Member, Board of Finance
East Hampton

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

Angela Corentin – Amston

Mark and Beth Vickery – East Hampton

As a board member, I've helped guide efforts to improve communication between the school and

Member, Andover Board of Education

The process itself is also broken. The Board of Education negotiates the contract but hires an attorney who works with these same administrators on a regular basis to represent the town's interests. That's a clear conflict of interest and hardly an impartial negotiation. Then the board rubber-stamps the agreement and forwards it to the Town Council, which has only three options: accept, reject, or ignore it – and ignoring it means automatic approval. If the council rejects it, it goes to binding arbitration, where the same attorney represents the town again. The arbitrator usually sides with the board, since they already deemed the contract “reasonable.” In other words, no one is truly looking out for the taxpayers.

Member, East Hampton Town Council

Note: Person is a member of the Andover Board of Selectmen, but said he is writing as an individual.



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★ *Letters cont. from page7*

financial needs and challenges faced by all different classes of people in our town. This broad perspective is crucial for a Board of Finance member who must balance the needs of various community groups while ensuring the long-term financial health of East Hampton.

A Balanced and Principled Approach: The Board of Finance requires members who are analytical, ethical, and focused on sustainable governance. David Caterisano possesses all of these traits. He understands the responsibility of managing public funds and is committed to an approach that is both fiscally sound and fair to all taxpayers. I urge my fellow East Hampton residents to cast their vote for David Caterisano. He is the principled, experienced, and dedicated candidate our Board of Finance needs right now.

Sincerely,
Michael DuBois – East Hampton

Portland Fair Thanks

To the Editor:
On behalf of the Portland Fair and myself, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Crafts & Community Tent such a success.

A special thank you goes to our Trashion Show sponsors — Savvy Swap, Reboot Eco, Revive Arts & Crafts, and United Sewing and Design — for their generosity and creativity in supporting this fun and meaningful event celebrating sustainability and art. We are also deeply grateful to artist Kat Owens, creator of Entangled and Ingested, for sharing her powerful work and perspective, and to Liz Saylor for leading our mending workshop and inspiring so many to repair and renew rather than discard.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the volunteers, both long-time helpers and new faces, who dedicated their time and energy to keeping the tent running smoothly all weekend long. Your efforts and enthusiasm truly bring our community spirit to life.

We're so proud of what we accomplished together and already looking forward to next year's fair!
With gratitude,
Melissa Kelley
Crafts & Community Tent Superintendent
Portland Fair

Marlborough Municipal Elections

To the Editor:

Across the country, record numbers of Gen X, Millennial, and Gen Z leaders are stepping up – bringing fresh ideas, broad experience, and a shared commitment to strengthen their communities.

The Marlborough Democratic slate reflects that movement. They are neighbors, parents, and professionals who've stepped forward to represent our whole community – adding value, quality, and care to every decision.

Early voting gives you 14 extra days (Oct. 20-Nov. 2) to make your voice heard. Election Day is Nov. 4 – show up for Marlborough and vote line A for fresh voices, broad experience and real commitment.

You can meet the Democratic Board of Selectmen candidates, Susan and Anthony, for Coffee with the Candidates at the Marlborough Bakery at 9 a.m. 10/24, 10/26, 11/1, and 11/2.

Sincerely,
Karen Wilkinson – Marlborough

Dems Brought Back Civility

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Town Council is in a much better place than it was two years ago. Under Chair Dean Markham's lead, there is a tone of civility, professionalism, and transparency that had gone extinct before the Democrats won the majority in 2023.

Perhaps we forget too quickly the tense and hostile meetings that took place when the Republicans held the council. Remember the raucous hearings over the budget, the condescension from almost the entire majority?

East Hampton Republicans would love for you to forget. Don't fall for the relentless social media attacks against Democrats. If the GOP regains power, so does the rancor and disfunction.

I know there are some who will say I'm full of it and try to twist my words to fit their narrative. But watch the recordings from past meetings of the Town Council and Board of Finance. Listen to the angry parents and other residents who felt ignored or humiliated. Remember the decisions that were made in private and who benefited from them.

When Markham became chair, the first thing

he promised was a return to civility. He kept his promise, with his fellow Democrats as well as the minority Republicans conducting meetings inside and outside of Town Hall with respect toward each other. The council began to address problems that the previous majority had punted on, especially infrastructure, transparency, and public safety.

We are facing important decisions about the future of the town. Against the backdrop of a federal government that has ignored small towns and a state that continues to underfund education, we need bright, kind, and civil local leaders to carry East Hampton forward.

Dean Markham, Karen Wanat, Jack Solomon, and Rich Knotek have already proven up to the task. Joelyn Leon will work hard on behalf of the town and constituents.

Above all, they will conduct themselves with the same dignity that East Hampton lacked for too long. Vote Row A on Nov. 4 and let's continue the civility that has been established.

Sincerely,
Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Note: Engelhardt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said he is writing as an individual.

Hebron Stronger

To the Editor:

For more than 20 years, our town boards have been largely led by one party. While many have served with dedication, it's time to bring in new ideas, new energy, and a more balanced representation of our community.

This year's municipal election gives us that opportunity. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4, and early voting begins on Oct. 20. In the 2023 municipal election, only 45% of registered Democrats in Hebron turned out to vote. Imagine the difference we can make if every Democrat votes — and if independents and open-minded Republicans join us in supporting change.

Together, we have the power to flip our boards and move Hebron forward with greater transparency, fiscal responsibility, and a renewed sense of collaboration. This isn't about partisanship — it's about progress and ensuring our boards reflect the full voice of our town.

Change starts right here, with each of us casting our vote. Let's work together to make Hebron stronger, fairer, and more united. Our candidates are ready to serve — all we need to do is show up and vote in the municipals.

Let's make our voices heard. Let's make Hebron stronger. Vote for Hebron. Vote Row A

Tiffany Thiele - Board of Selectmen; Jan Lawrence - Board of Selectmen; Francesca Villani - Town Clerk; Adam Ockman - Board of Finance; Ryan Herrick - Board of Finance;

Heather Petit - Board of Education; Nicole Matthews - Board of Education; Jessica Hall - RHAM Board of Education; Rudy Dellafiore - RHAM Board of Education;

David Sousa - Planning and Zoning Commission; Davis Howell - Planning and Zoning Alternate; Cathy McSweeney - Zoning Board of Appeals; Adam Thiele - Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate;

Maura Baker - Board of Assessment Appeals.
Cris Lawrence, Chair
Hebron Democratic Town Committee

Support EH BOE Democrats

To the Editor:

I am delighted to support Nancy Kohler, Corinne Clark-Barney, and Sarah Strange for the East Hampton Board of Education. I encourage you to do the same!

East Hampton students and families deserve smart, qualified, and open-minded representing their best interests. All three Democrats who are on the ballot have demonstrated - through past service, leadership successes, and community dedication – that they possess the qualities that we need in our board members.

Education is in a precarious position in East Hampton, just as it is in cities and towns throughout Connecticut. Safety nets that have provided needed services have been slashed and important grants have been withheld. With so much disruption, we need the best local leaders possible to increase the success of our schools while maintaining affordability.

Nancy has been an excellent board chair. Corinne and Sarah will be excellent additions to a well-functioning board, working with the incumbents in place.

Let's continue to make our schools the best they can be. Vote Row A on Nov. 4.

Sincerely,
Kevin M. Reich, Chair
East Hampton Democratic Town Committee

Stand Up for Our Town

To the Editor:

I always look for candidates who will do the work for the people of our town, regardless of label. I have found them. Our town needs those who will stand up for us and our neighborhoods, work in the interest of the people of our town, and preserve our small-town quality of life, in the upcoming town election.

I have been active in working for responsible development for many years. I have seen those who stood up for our town, preserving its character and neighborhoods; and I have seen those who don't care about preserving our neighborhoods, and small-town quality of life.

I have known Joelyn Leon for over 10 years and have seen her in strong support for working people like you and me. I have seen Karen Wanat standing up strong for our town in spite of attacks and threats from developers. Joelyn Leon, Karen Wanat and the entire Democratic Town Council slate will stand up strong for the people of our town, work to preserve our town, neighborhoods, and our quality of life.

There are some candidates who claim to oppose overdevelopment, but their voting records and affiliations, and actions tell a different story. Please check if their actions are true to that wording or are they using that wording to deceive you into voting for them. Actions speak louder than words. We need leaders who not only speak about protecting East Hampton's neighborhoods – but who act on it. It's about whether East Hampton is run for the developers or for the hard-working people of our town.

Join me on Nov. 4th in voting in the interest of yourself and the people of our town for: Joelyn Leon, Karen Wanat and the entire Democratic slate on Row A.

Thank you,
Beth Angel – East Hampton

Hebron's in Good Hands

Hi Hebron:

This is a bit out of my comfort zone, but I wanted to let you know I'm running for Planning and Zoning this November. I was appointed to the commission about 18 months ago, and this will be my first election cycle.

I'm grateful to the HRTC for their support and encouragement of my involvement in the Planning and Zoning Committee, despite the fact that my political views don't fit neatly into what is traditionally considered Republican in this day and age. Truth be told, I am more of a Libertarian.

Fortunately, P&Z is about community and vision for the town, rather than the "R" or "D" next to the names of the committee members. We have a phenomenal chair, vice chair and secretary. All of whom I would endorse 100% if asked, despite the difference in party affiliation. I've learned so much from the chairman's professionalism and passion for the environment, which I share. From the vice chair's eloquence and well researched views, and of the secretary's careful, thoughtful and practical guidance.

Hebron is in good hands, and that's something that should continue. As with any rural town, we can see the concrete slowly creeping in. I'd like to manage that carefully and responsibly so that the qualities we all love about Hebron – the small-town charm and natural beauty – will remain for future generations to enjoy.

I've enjoyed my time on the commission and would like to continue. As someone who has spent more than half my life in the construction industry, I look forward to having the opportunity to continue using my knowledge and experience to serve the Hebron community. I welcome questions, comments, or conversation via email or over a coffee. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Chris Cyr – Hebron
Ccyr@hebronct.gov

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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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Walking Out on Colchester
To the Editor:
Last year, before the budget process even began, both Republican members of the Colchester Board of Finance, Tim Vallaincourt and John Thomas, walked out of a meeting over petty reasons. They objected because an experienced nurse and someone involved in local politics did not have what they considered enough experience. In reality, she had more experience with local issues than they did when they first joined the board. After walking out, they stopped showing up to meetings altogether, halting progress and abandoning their responsibilities to the town.
Now those same two want to move up to first selectman and the Board of Selectmen. If you care about Colchester, you show up and do the work. I will not vote for people who do not do their jobs.
John Farrell – Colchester

Dementia Talks No. 34
To the Editor:
This Sunday, the #HebronRocksAlz team will participate in the #Walk2EndAlz at Rentschler Field.
Last Saturday I was reminded why we do this. At least for me. It is because in pain we grow community. Community grows awareness. Awareness grows change. Change grows momentum.
I'm not here to say there will be a cure for Alzheimer's any time soon. I'm not a scientist and I don't play one on TV.
I can, with confidence, say there is momentum. Momentum that over time there will be more relief. Relief for those seeking early detection & diagnosis. Relief through additional treatment options. Relief through more robust training of all clinicians. Relief through prevention programs. Relief through new ways caregivers can find support. And most of all, more overall support and care options for our loved ones.
Last Saturday I completed my four-hour, 50-minute bike ride from Thompson to Portland to raise awareness; this Sunday we will complete our walk. These dates will come and go – but the fight isn't over.
I am grateful to those that read these messages and grateful to the #HebronRocksAlz team and the community cultivated through a silent disease. Thank you Cole, Erin, Jeanette, Donna, Deb, Katie, Riley & Freya for cheering me on!
Know you aren't alone.
**With peace and much love,
Tonya Maurer – Amston
Alz Hot Line 1-800-272-3900**

Peacemaker, Not Agitator
To the Editor:
I am honored to serve the voters of Colchester in our efforts to keep a lid on unwarranted spending throughout the many various departments that work every day for the benefit of Colchester's citizens.
I would like to think of myself as a peacemaker rather than a consistent agitator.
I think the Board of Education should work a little harder to provide our youth with a better education for less money.
I recommend that every citizen of Colchester come out on Nov. 4, 2025, and let their voices be heard for the good of our town.
**Cliff O'Donal – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

Reelect Nancy Kohler
To the Editor:
I've seen a lot of letters hoping for candidates and elected officials to work across party lines for the betterment of one's community. There's only one board in East Hampton that does this: the Board of Education. The leader of that board is Nancy Kohler. I wholeheartedly recommend Nancy Kohler for reelection to the East Hampton Board of Education. I have had the pleasure of serving alongside her on the board for several years and have seen firsthand the exceptional leadership, dedication, and integrity she brings to the role.
As our current chair, Nancy has guided our board with fairness, transparency, and a deep commitment to doing what's best for students and families. What stands out most to me is her ability to work collaboratively across party lines. I am a Republican, and she is a Democrat — yet I can honestly say that politics never get in the way of her judgment or her heart. She listens, considers every perspective, and always leads with the goal of strengthening our schools and supporting our community.
Nancy has earned the respect of everyone around the table because she treats every member's input with value and every decision with care. Her calm, thoughtful approach and genuine concern for our students make her not just an outstanding board chair, but an outstanding person.
I am proud to serve with Nancy and even prouder to support her continued service on the Board of Education. Our district is fortunate to have a leader who can bridge differences, find common ground, and keep the focus where it belongs — on the children.
Augie Arndt – East Hampton
Note: Arndt is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but is speaking as an individual.

Marlborough's GOP Candidates
To the Editor:
On Nov. 4th, Marlborough's voters will be going to the polls to select the candidates who will represent them on our various town boards and commissions.
I am pleased to be on the ballot as candidate for Board of Finance, a position I held previously from 2011 to 2023. I am also pleased to see Rob Fraulino as candidate for the Board of Selectmen. As a member of the Board of Finance, I look forward to the opportunity to both serve on the Board and to work with a newly configured Board of Selectmen. Rob will bring a fresh perspective to the Board of Selectmen and we look to Rob to help the Board of Selectmen get a handle on various issues that have troubled the town for several years, including the many years of delinquent audits.
There is a lot of work to be done and we need people on our boards and commissions who have the energy and knowledge necessary to tackle the challenges that face our community.
On Nov. 4th, you will be asked to carefully select the people who will best serve our community. The choice is yours. The choices you make will determine Marlborough's future.
**Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough
Candidate for Board of Finance**

Support Hebron Team on Row A!
To the Editor:
I've enjoyed speaking to folks as I knock on doors and heartened by the support for my reelection campaign. But it takes a team to be successful, and so I'd ask that Hebron residents consider supporting the great team I'm fortunate to have running with me.
I hope you'll consider Jan Lawrence's extensive experience in business and information technology as an important voice to have on the Board of Selectmen alongside myself. Jan has lived in Hebron for 26 years and has had a child graduate from our great schools. He is the state's P4 union president and has been endorsed by CSEA and SEIU 1199 labor unions, indicating his support for our middle class. I'm excited that Jan has stepped forward to serve, and I welcome the opportunity to collaborate with him on the board.
I hope you'll also consider two excellent candidates for the Planning and Zoning Commission – David Sousa and Davis Howell. David has been an outstanding vice-chairman and is committed to preserving our character while acknowledging the pressing need for more housing choices and businesses in our downtown center. Davis regularly attends meetings as an alternate, and as a long-time resident of Hebron, has experienced its growth firsthand. These two have important perspectives that we need on this critical board.
Last, but never least, many of you know my husband, Adam, from his service on the Parks and Rec Commission, Open Space and Land Acquisition (OSLAC), and of course his play on the tennis and pickleball courts. He truly is my better half, and I'm so lucky to have him as my life partner. He's running for Zoning Board of Appeals alongside my friend Cathy McSweeney, and so, I hope you'll vote for both! (Admittedly, I may be biased on this vote!)

As it is at home and in the workplace, it takes a team to get great things done. While I hope you will consider reelecting me, I would encourage you to get to know who I'm running with. Visit hebrondems.com to learn more and please vote on Nov. 4.
**Sincerely,
Tiffany V. Thiele – Hebron**
Note: Thiele is a member of the Hebron Board of Selectmen but said she is writing as an individual.

Response to Barstow Letter
To the Editor and Rob Barstow:
I am writing for two reasons. First as a voter and secondly, as the wife of Robert Fraulino, the other candidate for the Marlborough Board of Selectmen. After reading your editorial it occurred to me that you use the word “transparency” multiple times. What you did not mention was *how* your two candidates are the only candidates worthy of providing transparency. Robert has been open as to his qualifications on Facebook and in the *Rivereast Bulletin*. He provided a Facebook page (search -Robert J. Fraulino for Selectman - 2025 & email: rfraulino.for.selectmen.06447@gmail.com). Transparency is a word and without the how is pointless. To disregard a highly qualified individual based on their political party does not make sense me.
It is obvious to me the power of words and how people produce a narrative. My suggestion to you, as well as all the voters in Marlborough, is to go to the town website and review the Board of Selectmen minutes for the past few years. Yes, it's a lot of work, but isn't voting in the right people for the Board of Selectmen worth it?
I can appreciate your opinion, and I mean no disrespect to your said candidates; however, I am interested in what makes you allude there are problems with transparency within the Board of Selectmen on the Republican side. Your statement regarding Trump is an evident appeal to sway voters to the Democratic Party. Rather than accepting that all the candidates have their own qualifications that could suit them for the position, you are playing on your own opinion.
Personally, I think the Board of Selectmen campaign needs to be focused more on facts and less on political party, more on experience, including leadership skills. What do they bring to the table? How will they make transparency happen? What candidates will embrace the fact that elected officials are stewards to all the people of Marlborough?
Carey Fraulino – Marlborough
Note: Fraulino is running for the RHAM Board of Education but said she is speaking as an individual.

Vote Row A
To the Editor:
I've been involved in East Hampton politics for over 20 years. Many issues have come and gone like water under a bridge, but one remains constant – opposition to large-scale development. It resurfaces with every application that threatens our neighborhoods, our environment, and our small-town quality of life.
Another constant has been Republican alignment with and support for developers. Don't be fooled by laughable campaign promises that they are against “overdevelopment.”
As we head to the polls on Nov. 4th, voters concerned about how our town grows should join me in electing Democratic candidates – especially Karen Wanat and Joelyn Leon for Town Council, and Daniel Finn for the Board of Finance.
Karen Wanat is a proven, steady leader and thoughtful listener who always puts our community first, even in the face of personal attacks. Her work on the Town Council and the Plan of Conservation and Development Steering Committee shows her commitment to preserving what makes East Hampton special.
I've known Joelyn Leon since high school, and

I've seen firsthand her intellect and unwavering dedication to just causes. She will bring a fresh perspective and a deep love for our community to Town Council. Her energy, compassion, and collaborative spirit are exactly what we need in town leadership.
I'm also proud to support Daniel Finn for the Board of Finance. Dan is a skilled financial professional and small business owner who understands the importance of smart, transparent budgeting.
These are not just candidates – they're neighbors who care deeply about East Hampton. A Democratic majority on Town Council is essential to completing a POCD that protects the town we love and supporting town staff to implement the structural changes needed to control destructive overdevelopment.
Please join me in voting Row A this November.
Mary Ann Dostaler – East Hampton

Colchester, Did You Know?
To the Editor:
My fellow Colchester voters, that ballot can be confusing! I've done my homework on this one. I went to our town website, colchesterct.gov, and under the town clerk's office I found the “Sample Ballot - Municipal Election 2025”. There are several seats open on November 4th. It is critically important to read the line under each office at the top to understand. Under the Board of Education (BOE) it reads “vote up to four.” If I don't choose four candidates, I feel like I'm cheating myself!!
I'm Donna Marie Antonacci, and I am the incumbent chair for Colchester BOE. My colleague and friend, Marguerite (Margo) Gignac is the incumbent secretary for BOE. We are running together on Row C. Each week we have come into your homes in this paper highlighting why we want to continue the great work we have started. Better education, better communication and always better budgeting are a few of our commitments for progress in Colchester. We will continue in the spirit of collaboration and do everything with honesty and integrity. Consider Row C for BOE on Nov. 4th. That's two votes for BOE, the other two you choose are in your heart. Look for experience and make them count!
**Donna Antonacci – Colchester
Member and Candidate, Board of Education**

The Sacrifice Behind Our Right
To the Editor:
As the child of a proud Army father and a devoted German mother, I was raised with a deep appreciation for the privileges we often take for granted in this country. Among these privileges, the right to vote stands at the forefront. I was taught from an early age that voting is not just a right – it is a responsibility, one that was earned through the blood, sweat and sacrifices of countless individuals who fought to protect our freedoms.
My father served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army, defending the very principles that make this nation great. My mother, having lived through the aftermath of war in Germany, often reminded me of how precious freedom is – and how many people, both abroad and at home, have lost their lives defending it. They instilled in me a reverence for our God-given American rights, including the most powerful one: the right to vote.
Today, however, I am disheartened to see so
See Letters, page 10



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★ *Letters cont. from page 9*

many eligible citizens choose to ignore this responsibility. Many of us have become complacent, taking for granted what others fought and died to protect. Whether it's because of apathy, frustration, or a feeling that one vote doesn't matter, we are witnessing voter turnouts that fail to reflect the sacrifices made by our military, our civil rights activists, and countless others throughout history.

To those who have not yet voted: Please take a moment to reflect on the generations who fought to secure this right for you. It is not just a privilege; it is a sacred duty, one that was earned with sacrifice, perseverance, and blood. It is the very foundation upon which our nation stands.

As we approach the upcoming elections, I urge everyone eligible to get up, get out, and vote. Your voice matters. Your vote matters. And it is a reflection of the sacrifices made so that we can live in a country where our opinions, our beliefs, and our rights are not only heard but respected.

Do not let the sacrifices of those who came before us be in vain. Exercise your right, honor those who fought for it, and participate in shaping the future of our great nation.

I hope to see you at the polls and I would be honored to receive your vote.

**Sincerely,
Cari Duigou – Colchester
Republican Candidate for Board of Education**

Make a Plan to Vote

To the Editor:
I'm encouraging all Hebron residents to make a plan to vote in the upcoming municipal elections!

Early voting begins this Monday, Oct. 20, at the Town Office, and it's a great way to skip the lines on Election Day. If you're not registered yet, same-day registration is available. Voting hours and other details are found on the town website.

This year's ballot includes more than just candidates - there's also a referendum on updates to the Town Charter. You can find the full text of the revised charter, with the changes, on the town website.

The most significant change, listed separately as Question No. 2, will make the Town Clerk an appointed position rather than an elected one. This allows the town to consider qualified candidates from outside Hebron. Appointments would require a supermajority vote by the Board of Selectmen, ensuring bipartisan support.

Question No. 1 represents the remaining updates to the charter. These changes include modernizing the name of the Board of Selectmen to "Town Council," streamlining the annual budget process, and raising the dollar thresholds that trigger a Special Town Meeting. The thresholds haven't been updated in many years, and the change would reduce the number of meetings required for routine matters, while ensuring that large appropriations will still get the consent of the public.

Thanks to my fellow members on the Charter Revision Commission, for all of your hard work over the past two years.

And thanks to everyone for taking part in our local democracy this fall. Every vote counts!

**Sincerely,
Adam Ockman – Hebron**
Note: Ockman is on the Hebron Charter Revision Commission, but he is speaking as an individual.

Elect Michael Beaulieu

Dear Fellow Hebron Residents:

I am thrilled that Mike Beaulieu is running for the Hebron Board of Finance. For over three decades, Mike has been actively serving our community. He has coached and served on the board for local youth sports clubs, played in the Church of the Holy Family Music Ministry, and currently serves on the RHAM Board of Education where he works collaboratively with other board members and RHAM school officials to help ensure top education standards at our middle and high schools. Mike is also a proud member of Hebron Lions International, currently serving on the Board of Directors.

Mike has a wealth of experience that makes him a perfect candidate for the role. He has a degree in finance from Central Connecticut State University and has spent his career as a Financial Services Compliance Officer. His professional experience and affable approach will allow him to work collaboratively with people of diverse perspectives to make well-informed decisions that benefit Hebron and its taxpayers.

We live in a wonderful town, but we face a number of all-too-familiar challenges. Rising costs are straining our government and schools, and the burden of those expenses cannot continue to fall solely on us taxpayers. We need individuals like Mike to bring innovative ideas and strategies to control spending, attract business investment, address our aging facilities, ensure adequate staffing of our town government, and maintain high-quality education at our schools.

Mike is the right choice for Hebron. Please join me on Nov. 4th and vote for Mike Beaulieu for the Hebron Board of Finance.

**Sincerely,
James DeDonato – Hebron**
Note: DeDonato is a member of the Hebron Board of Finance, but said he is writing as an individual.

It's Been a Pleasure

To the Editor:

Good day! My name is Jason Cooper and I'm excited to introduce myself here and promote my candidacy for Marlborough's Planning Commission alternate as part of the Democratic slate. As a current full member of the commission, I am proud to have represented my community and advocated for its best interests these past four years. Having lived in town for nearly 10 years now with my wife and three young children, Marlborough is truly my forever home and I'm committed to preserving its unique charm and character while guiding it forward as the needs of the surrounding area and the demographics of our little town evolve.

It has truly been my pleasure to be your representative on the commission, and I look forward to another opportunity to serve you and the rest of our community. Thank you for your vote!

Jason Cooper – Marlborough
Note: Cooper is a current member of the Marlborough Planning Commission but said he is writing as an individual.

Keep Portland's Schools Thriving

To the Editor:

I am running for a seat on the Portland Board of Education this November because I believe deeply in the value of education. Both of my parents were teachers, and today, as an engineering manager at Pratt & Whitney, I see every day how a strong education shapes opportunities. Fourteen years ago, my wife and I chose Portland for its excellent schools, where we've since raised our three sons.

Our boys have attended every Portland school, and we've seen firsthand the dedication of our teachers, paras, and administrators. My oldest son graduated from Vinal Tech and entered the trades, while my younger two attend Portland High School and Middle School. Whether they pursue college or a trade, I know Portland schools are preparing them well.

I hold degrees in Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Science, along with a Six Sigma Black Belt in process improvement. For 27 years at Pratt & Whitney, I've led diverse teams, solved complex problems, and supported advanced jet engine programs for both commercial and military customers. These experiences have sharpened my skills in leadership, collaboration, and policy awareness – tools I hope to bring to our schools.

I am running to ensure Portland schools remain strong for all families. I want to advocate for our children so they have every opportunity to succeed in today's competitive world. If elected, I will bring an analytical, collaborative approach to the Board of Education and work to keep Portland's schools thriving.

**Sincerely,
Jody Grosso – Portland
Candidate for Board of Education**

A Different Direction for EH

To the Editor:

There is insufficient space in this letter to point fingers or make the arguments of who is or isn't playing politics with respect to a new firehouse. Suffice to say, it has been over a dozen years since the need was first studied. When the Board of Finance decided not to approve sending the question to purchase 11 Skinner St. to referendum, my colleagues on the Town Council felt we could not let the process linger. I had been working on the formation of a new firehouse committee, but Mr. Hintz felt he knew better and attempted to upstage the council process. Action was tabled because none of the other six council members had seen or studied that proposal.

To be fair, Mr. Hintz's draft included a number of valid points to consider for a new committee; however, the rest of the council felt it deficient. Even in a revised resolution, I had attempted to overcome those concerns. Several letters to this publication made the resolution adopted political. The question of the need or approval is not political in the sense of Democrats versus Republicans. Emergency response to fires is not political. It's what we do as a civilized society for the protection of our families, our neighbors and our townspeople.

Accordingly, I worked on a different approach to a Firehouse Site & Development Committee adopted at the Oct. 14th Town Council meeting. The committee was reduced from nine to eight members. I removed myself as one of the committee members. Only two council members would be among the eight: Richard Knotek who will chair the committee with Tim Feegel as Vice Chair. They had been a great working team dealing with the ambulance task force. Many question why? What happens if a tie vote? In my mind there will be no tie votes. The whole idea of this committee is to study fully the needs of our community for fire protection and come to consensus. Because it is a Town Council committee, we must abide by minority representation rules. You will be pleased and maybe even shocked to know that there are 3 Unaffiliated members, 2 Republican and 3 Democrats. But party affiliation is not important. Doing the study and evaluation, identifying a site for the firehouse and working with our town manager to negotiate and secure that site. That is what is truly important for us all.

**Dean Markham, Chairman
East Hampton Town Council**

Voting for Vergean

To the Editor:

I am supporting Bethanne Vergean as a candidate for the Board of Education in Portland. Bethanne has dedicated her career to childhood development.

She has been an asset to our community with the energy she has put into coaching both soccer and basketball! She is passionate about ensuring every child in Portland has access to a quality education.

I think Bethanne is a perfect fit for Board of Education.

Thank you!

Carol Grosso – Portland

Jaycox for Board of Ed

To the Editor:

Please vote for Nathan Jaycox for the East Hampton Board of Ed. For as long as I've known Nate, he has been interested in education for kids and adults, alike. It began with hearing stories of Nate's dad allowing him to help grade his fourth-grader's lessons and continued with hearing about Nate's successful participation in many spelling bees, because of his attention to excellence in the written word. Nate was the "spell checker" before our computer programs did it for us. During college and after, when Nate would return home, his younger brother would have a built-in math tutor at the ready.

As a young adult, Nate wanted to increase his proficiency in the oral word and joined the Toastmasters organization to accomplish that goal, all the while encouraging others who were reticent about their public speaking abilities to join him in this educational opportunity. His confidence in public speaking led him to teach or train others in a variety of settings, whether at church, at work or in the community at large. His eagerness to help others continued as I remember him helping one young mother who was needing help in math in order to pass a course that was necessary for her degree.

During COVID, between an early retirement at Millstone Power Station and resuming a career at Electric Boat, Nate took part in the ARC (Alternate Route to Certification) program to accomplish his goal of obtaining a certificate to teach, so he could obtain his license at a later date. This program and recent student teaching in the Middletown High School gave him a window into fully understanding the challenges in fostering effective learning and bringing success to the students. Nate also was able to meet tutoring needs at Glastonbury High School during this time. Nate's continued interest in students receiving a good well-rounded education continues, as he pursues being a fresh voice on the East Hampton Board of Education.

Please vote for Nathan Jaycox! Thank you!

Lynn Jaycox – East Hampton

Hurne for Council

To the Editor,

I'm not a political person, and I certainly never imagined I'd be running for East Hampton Town Council. But I care deeply about our town — the same town I've called home my entire life. I attended East Hampton Public Schools and have spent decades volunteering in service to this community.

In my younger years, I served as a volunteer firefighter. I've served multiple terms on the Planning and Zoning Commission and for the past 12 years, I've been a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners, currently serving as chairman. I never saw myself entering politics — volunteering on local boards was as far into the political world as I ever wanted to go.

But something has changed in East Hampton, and not for the better.

In the last 12 years, my taxes have doubled. At the same time, town services have diminished. We face real infrastructure needs that we simply can't afford.

One glaring example is our need for a new fire station — something I've worked closely on for years as a Fire Commissioner alongside our dedicated fire department. That process has been completely mismanaged by the current Democrat-led Town Council, delaying a critical investment in public safety.

Our Board of Education spending continues to rise even as student enrollment falls. This isn't sustainable, and it isn't fair to taxpayers. There needs to be accountability and a serious review of how education funds are being allocated.

Meanwhile, approximately 20% of our residents are seniors, many on fixed incomes. They deserve better than being pushed aside while taxes rise and services shrink. Our Senior Center is far too small to offer the kind of programs and support this population needs and deserves.

This election, I'm not running out of ambition — I'm running out of frustration, and out of love for East Hampton. I believe we can do better. I believe we must.

If elected, I will fight for fiscal responsibility, transparency, and smart investment in the services that matter — fire safety, education accountability, and proper support for our growing senior population. I'll listen, I'll work hard, and I'll always put East Hampton first.

**Sincerely,
Darin Hurne – East Hampton
Candidate for Town Council**

Keeping Colchester on Course

To My Neighbors in Colchester:

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Colchester Business Association for their hospitality at last week's meeting. It was a pleasure to join my team members on the Democratic slate and share our commitment and vision with business leaders and residents. I left that meeting hopeful and optimistic for the future of this community.

As a candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals, it is my belief that residents and local businesses deserve boards that operate with integrity and rigor. My teammates currently in office, led by First Selectman Bernie Dennler, have been dedicated to those values. As a result, the last couple of years have shown huge improvement in the town's finances and ability to invest in public infrastructure, while maintaining a high level of bipartisan-ship and stability. I and our other new team members are equally committed to embodying these values for residents.

We all look forward to keeping Colchester on course for the benefit of our community, and hope to earn your support this November!

**Sincerely,
Eric Jackson
Candidate for Colchester
Board of Assessment Appeals**

How Far We Have Come

Dear Colchester Neighbors:

One of the reasons I ran for first selectman was to bring bipartisanship back to Colchester Town Hall. The division in town was so stark that people were skeptical that we could really "bring Colchester together." I know plenty of people who thought it was a nice idea but didn't really believe it was possible.

Look how far we have come.

Shortly after I was elected, I asked former First Selectman Art Shilosky, a Republican, to serve as vice chair of the Board of Selectmen. We had a newly elected Democratic majority, but we all agreed that Art's experience made him the right choice and would send the message that we were serious about turning over a new page. Since then, I cannot recall a single partisan vote on the Board of Selectmen.

Each member brings their perspective to our board.

Rosemary Coyle is our resident parliamentarian and policy expert, bringing almost 20 years of experience on the Board of Selectmen. Denise Turner is a lifelong Colchester resident who helps represent the views of residents from all parties who have called this town home for many decades. Art Shilosky brings a conservative fiscal perspective balanced by his own practical experience as a past First Selectman. Cliff O'Donal brings a businessman's view to our actions and priorities.

We don't agree on everything. What has made us effective is that the five of us have focused on using our time on the board to work on issues that unite us like supporting public works, public safety, and improving financial management. We know that when there is consensus between the five of us, there is probably consensus among the rest of Colchester residents too.

Our board's common-sense approach has led to successful budgets, including this spring when the Board of Selectmen/town budget was supported unanimously by the Board of Finance.

It is a strong board and I believe each of its members deserve to be reelected. I hope to earn your support for reelection as first selectman in November, but I also hope to continue serving with this strong team.

**Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler
Colchester First Selectman**

Support for Portland BOS Candidates

To the Editor:

I am proud to support the Democratic team for Portland's Board of Selectmen – Jim Tripp, Andrea Alfano, John Dillon, and Dave Kuzminski.

I've had the privilege of working with Jim Tripp and Andrea Alfano during their time on the Board of Education, where their leadership, thoughtfulness, and commitment to our schools made a lasting impact. John Dillon, as liaison to the Board of Education, brings a collaborative spirit and a deep understanding of how all parts of town government work together. And Dave Kuzminski – truly Mr. Portland – has served our community in more ways than can be counted. His decades of dedication and knowledge of this town are unmatched.

Their collective passion for Portland, their experience, and their volunteer service are priceless. As Portland begins rewriting its Plan of Conservation and Development, we need leaders who understand where we've been and who have a vision for where we can go in the next ten years.

These four candidates embody that vision. They have my full support and my vote. They are ready to serve Portland – Row A all the way

Meg Scata – Portland
Note: Scata is the secretary of the Portland Board of Education and the vice president of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, but she said she is speaking as an individual.

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

Thrilled to Have Them
To the Editor:
Last week's *Rivereast* article highlighting Nancy Nelson and Gussie Gilberti's bid as Democratic candidates for the Board of Education in Colchester hit the nail on the head. As former educators, Nancy and Gussie know what students need to succeed. They have felt what classroom teachers go through every day. They have the background to be able to anticipate the possible impacts decisions made by administration may have and they fully intend to ask questions in order to completely understand what is happening in our schools.

Nancy and Gussie will work to improve dialogue between the BOE, administration, and the community by taking the initiative to open up conversation and asking follow-up questions to assess the success of changes made in staffing and organization. Both have experience and skill in analyzing and improving performance data which will be extremely beneficial to the district. Most importantly, Nancy and Gussie will be able to strategically guide spending to ensure that every dollar of our education budget is spent in the best interest of students. Their intuition, experience, and knowledge in how schools run is second to none.

Nancy and Gussie are the only candidates with concrete plans to open communication between the administration, BOE, and the community. They are in touch with what parents, community members, teachers, and seniors need to know and understand about what's happening in our schools. They will guide the board in messaging and ask the hard questions in an open forum so that everyone can hear the answers. Their energy is positive, collaborative, and everything we need to bring the BOE to a place where everyone in town knows the great things, and the challenges, that our schools face. I am so thrilled to have them on the Democratic ticket.

Please join me in supporting Nancy Nelson and Gussie Gilberti, both retired teachers with over 65 years of combined experience, for the Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Monica Swyden, Chair
Colchester Democratic Town Committee

Row C for BOE
To the Editor:
Last week I had the pleasure of joining all the candidates on the ballot for this coming November 4th election at both the "AARP Meet the Candidates" and at the "CBA Meet the Candidates" where we were able to introduce ourselves, answer questions and enjoy a debate.

Now I would like to introduce myself to all of the residents of Colchester. I am Marguerite (Margo) Gignac, the incumbent Board of Education (BOE) secretary and it has been my pleasure to serve our town on the BOE for the last four years. I have been married 27 years to my husband, Brian. We have four children, two graduates and two currently at Bacon Academy. We have raised our family in Colchester since 2003. I grew up living in or spending summers in Colchester since 1970. I have enjoyed all Colchester has to offer for the past 55 years!

I have been an avid volunteer in the schools and in youth sports for almost two decades. I've volunteered in the classrooms and on field trips, coached in baseball, soccer and football as well as served on many boards. It has been amazing watching all of our children grow! Those who know me personally know I am ready and willing to help whenever needed.

Donna, the BOE incumbent chair, and I are running on Row C and ask for your vote to continue the progress our BOE has made. We ask that you consider us when making two of your four votes on the Nov. 4th ballot. It would personally be my honor to serve four more years for our school system. Row C for BOE!

Marguerite (Margo) Gignac – Colchester
Note: Gignac is a member of the Colchester Board of Education, but said she is speaking as a candidate for the school board.

O'Reilly Dedicated to Service
To the Editor:
Join me in supporting Brian O'Reilly, Hebron candidate Board of Finance. Brian and his family have proudly called Hebron home for over 20 years. As a former youth coach and current business owner, Brian has the skillset and life experience to responsibly allocate town funds and remain accountable. He understands the significance of purposeful budgeting and long-term planning. Brian believes that strong financial stewardship is essential to persevere the quality of life that we Hebronians enjoy and see great value in. Brian is committed to listening to residents, working collaboratively with town leaders, and applying common sense and financial discipline to Board of Finance decisions.

It is with great confidence that I support Brian O'Reilly for Hebron Board of Finance in the Nov. 4th municipal election.

Kim Hills – Hebron

Note: Hills is a member of the Hebron Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Lack of Volunteer Appreciation
Dear Marlborough Neighbor:
Approximately two percent of electors choose to volunteer for the 100-plus board and commission seats in Marlborough. About 10 percent of the seats are vacant. So, what are the rest of the electors doing? Some answers are working, raising families, vacationing, caring for elders or volunteering for other things. When only two percent of a group does all the work, many of them will do multiple positions. Several Democrats and Republicans fill multiple positions. Often only after retirement or becoming an empty nester can people find time to volunteer.

Louise Concodello is such a volunteer. She has served this community for decades in various positions simultaneously. Yet some uninformed people who do nothing to serve our community find time to bash those who do. Instead of bashing those who do step up be thankful for their dedication and desire to serve.

Please, remember to vote.
Michele Anne Kacy – Marlborough
Note: Kacy is a member of the Marlborough registrar of voters, but said she is writing as an individual.

Fostering Respect
To the Editor:
Last week Hebron's David Foster forgot a whole host of facts including water remediation costs and the actual financial breakdown of a 20-year bond per household. See June 2023, Hebron DPW Building Project Costs and do the math yourself. Facts have been shared from Town and State sources and presented to Hebron's public, repeatedly, for four straight years. Facts that earned us the support and sympathy of college professors, land and water experts, farmers, lawyers, local residents and a 36-year veteran of CT DEEP who specialized in well water remediation cases in and out of court. He did, in fact, defend CT Statute 22a-471. I'm glad we did our homework because it has led us to the right people and to making the right environmental choices for Hebron.

Foster and Company forgot kindness, decency, compassion, forward thinking, past thinking, long-term planning, rural living, charm, small farms, wildlife, and preservation of historic and natural resources. Amongst other things, Foster and Company forgot life. Water is life. On top of that, they forgot respect for their fellow man.

However this unfolds, #save17 members can hold their heads high. We appreciate where we live and most of us live in Amston. We have defended our homes, our neighborhoods and our values and we used documented facts to do it. The whole Raymond Brook watershed, including the old Horton property, a.k.a. 17 Kinney Rd., is a soggy, stoney, uneven, defiant and strangely spiritual place and it takes a connected person to realize this. Its far more than a couple of oil paintings. We cannot "hurt your eyes open," Mr. Foster, only Nature herself can do that.

We wish David Foster and Company all the best, but don't expect enchanting invitations, Solstice cards, or gifts, from any one of us. You are now on your own. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Portland's Ballot
To the Editor:
The candidates running on the ballot are a mixture of new and familiar names.

When considering a returning or new candidate, one should ask what difference they made and what experience do they bring to the position. This year the position of first selectman is disappointingly running unopposed. Over the past 8 months he has held the seat, he has dressed in costumes to attend public events and posted daily "selfies" and videos of his clownish activities on Facebook while collecting a \$90K/year salary. His acclaimed successes mostly include taking credit for private business development, with limited contribution outside of voting for tax abatements to developers.

Over the past eight months, RFPs have been stalled for time sensitive projects, taxes have increase on vehicles and the opening of the town charter has put on hold for unknown reasons.

At a recent BOS meeting, during public comments, an issue was brought up regarding the first selectman promising to lease town land already used by a small 70-year-old farm without public notice. Three minutes into the meeting, a woman connected to the property approached the podium to speak and First Selectman Pelton instructed her to come forward and state her name with "good posture" – a comment that was both offensive and inappropriate. The issue was "tabled" and discussion removed from the meeting agenda.

The first selectman's lack of knowledge and experience in proper and legal town procedure is concerning as negotiations begin for town employee contracts, water and sewer agreements resolved, and a major school renovation bonding project may begin over the next 2+ years. In addition, property reveals start next year, and new mill rates set.

While campaigning for his unchallenged seat, he appears to be in violation of ethics rule 1-14g,

which prohibits the first selectman from influencing voters by using his position to promote candidates outside of his own campaign. A prior ethics advisory opinion was rendered in 2022 that reinforces this rule. The irony is that the violation appears to include the petitioning candidate/former Ethics chairman on paper and in a campaign video.

Over the coming year, Portland voters need to address future town leadership structure as the pool of experienced community leaders shrinks to once again be a growing and thriving town. On Nov 4th.be an informed voter because elections have consequences.

Early voting begins on Oct 20.
Rose Aletta – Portland

Petit for Hebron BOE
To the Editor:
As a Hebron resident who cares deeply about our schools and community, I am proud to support the reelection of Heather Petit to the Hebron Board of Education.

Over the past several years, Heather has demonstrated exactly what strong, steady leadership looks like. As board chair, she has led with integrity, collaboration, and a genuine commitment to what matters most - our children's success. Under her leadership, the Board has expanded preschool access, strengthened support for teachers, and championed student wellness.

Heather's experience and integrity have earned the respect of both town and school officials. She brings people together to find solutions, even when issues are complex or contentious. She has given students, teachers, and families a voice in shaping school decisions.

Beyond her board service, Heather has shown dedication to Hebron's broader civic life serving as Chair of the Town Charter Review Commission and volunteering with the RHAM Music Boosters. Her professional background, from teaching to state-level policy work for children, gives her a well-rounded understanding of education from every angle.

Heather Petit has been an exceptional advocate for Hebron's students, teachers, and families. We are fortunate to have her continued leadership. I encourage my fellow residents to join me in voting to reelect Heather Petit to the Hebron Board of Education this November.

Sincerely,
Brian Thibeault – Amston

Hebron DPW Progress
To the Editor:

I was surprised, and dismayed, to read last week's Letter to the Editor from David Foster. These irresponsible comments only serve to undermine the remarkable progress being made by the DPW Action Committee and the design team of Silver Petrucelli. Mr. Foster does not offer any new facts and has not participated in DPW Action Committee meetings since he resigned his position well over a year ago. Using an outdated cost estimate from 2017, which in fact reflects only partial costs, creates a distraction from the cost of construction in 2025. I trust Hebron residents, including Mr. Foster, are well aware of the complex changes in the world and in construction specifically since 2020 alone.

It is the responsibility of every Hebron resident to learn the facts and why 69% of respondents said "Keep Public Works at Old Colchester Road" in the 2023 DPW Survey. The environmental and historical significance of the town owned property at 17 Kinney Rd., a.k.a. the Horton Property, have been well established, fully documented and shared publicly now for several years.

However, the most significant information was provided on Sept. 19, 2022, when comments were submitted to the town by William Warzecha, a 36-year employee of Connecticut DEEP and specialist in groundwater contamination. According to Mr. Warzecha, "The residential properties on Kinney Road and Millstream Roads topographically downgradient of the proposed facility are served by domestic wells... Consequently, releases of any pollutant or pollutants emanating from the proposed facility poses a definite risk to drinking water well quality to the homes on Kinney and Millstream Roads... It is not environmentally conscious to locate the facility in an area that represents a significant risk to drinking water quality." This is simple fact based on decades of expert experience. To ignore this reality is to sacrifice your

neighbor's drinking water, homes and future. Mr. Foster implies that building the DPW at 17 Kinney Rd. will save money, but evidence supports that will not be the case. Connecticut state law clearly indicates that any polluter of drinking water, including municipalities, are responsible for replacing that drinking water supply and paying 10 years of water bills. The cost of connecting town water to the residents of Church Street, Kinney Road, Millstream Road and Route 207 that would be affected, which will likely be several millions of dollars, needs to be included. Please visit Save Hebron Center of Facebook.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Our Fiscal Environment
To the Editor:
It's election season in East Hampton, and once again, the local Republican Party is leaning on familiar tactics: finger-pointing, vague promises, and selective memory.

Their slogan, "We know it's YOUR money," sounds good – until you look at their record. The current Republican Town Committee Chair was directly involved in the illegal firing of former Police Chief Matt Reimondo, a move that cost taxpayers \$275,000. That's not fiscal responsibility – it's poor judgment.

Republicans also say they support a clean Lake Pocotopaug. But who doesn't? What's missing are further long-term real plans that require stronger town regulations. Yet some Republican members oppose the very regulations needed to prevent overdevelopment and pollution. Even our town planner, who's working hard to improve our regulations, may be at risk simply for doing her job well.

Now, Republicans claim they want to stop overdevelopment. But this sudden concern is more like election-season spin than a genuine shift in priorities. In East Hampton, the Republicans are pro-development at any cost, and that cost has both ill effects on our environment and on our wallets.

East Hampton deserves leadership that's consistent, responsible, and focused on real solutions. That's why I'm voting for the Democratic candidates — people who've shown they care about our town every day, not just when it's time to campaign.

Kyle Dostaler – East Hampton

Democrats Dropped the Ball
To the Editor:

Democrats have been in charge of East Hampton since November 2023, yet they keep blaming the Republican minority for their failures. The Town Council Democrats, along with the town manager ran the process for acquiring the firehouse, and they dropped the ball.

On Nov 14, 2023, the Democrat-led Town Council affirmed their intent to pursue the Skinner St property with yes votes from Dean Markham, Jack Solomon, Karen Wanat, Richard Knotek, and Jordan Werme.

On May 14, 2024, they approved the property's purchase agreement, with yes votes from Dean Markham, Jack Solomon, Karen Wanat, and Richard Knotek.

On Nov 12, 2024, a Memo of Understanding was approved by the Democrat-led Town Council specifically identifying sale prices of properties and timelines for closing upon approval by town. The motion to approve was made by Karen Wanat, and it passed with votes from Dean Markham, Jack Solomon, Karen Wanat, Richard Knotek, and Jordan Werme.

By the time this letter is published, the Town Council Democrats will have appointed their own Richard Knotek to chair the new firehouse committee who is determined to have the town buy the 11 Skinner Street property.

Knotek said, "We've looked at this 13 ways from Sunday to come up with the best alternative for a fire department in this town. This is the most cost-effective way to give us what we need; very simple."

Knotek also discounted the environmental risks to our firefighters and the possible economic impacts they may have on the taxpayers, highlighted by Republicans and Democrats on the Board of Finance.

If all the Democrats who spread false accusations and outrage over the 11 Skinner St property remain silent regarding Knotek's appointment, it will be clear their online drama was nothing more than partisan nonsense.

Bryon Turner – East Hampton

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

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

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Quilt Project to Benefit the Food Bank

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

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

Scholarships Available

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

This year’s theme gives both America’s high school students and middle school students the opportunity to contemplate, “How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition is open to high school students in grades 9-12, with the national first place prize scholarship totaling \$35,000. The first place Department (state) winners receive an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a ‘Founding Forward Spirit of America

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

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

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

Youth Leadership’ program at Valley Forge, Pa., where they compete for more than \$170,000 in national scholarship awards.

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

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

The deadline for both contests is Oct. 31.

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.

Puppet Ministry: Each Sunday, the Church’s Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog and some of his friends from Farmer M’s Red Barn to help explain the meaning of the message topic.

Children’s Ministry: Children’s Ministry, for

children in kindergarten through fifth grade, is held in Fellowship Hall during worship. The theme is “Friends with God” and is taught through Bible stories where the characters are friends with God. A toddler nursery is also available. Confirmation Class is held on alternate Sundays during the worship service.

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

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

Women’s Fellowship: The next gathering will be Thursday, Nov. 6, from 1-3 p.m., at Mary’s.

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

St. Patrick Church News & Notes

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

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

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

Coat Drive: The East Hampton Lions in conjunction with St. John Paul II Parish are hosting their 4th annual coat drive. Please donate clean, gently used coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and boots. Drop off items at St. Patrick Parish Center Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., until Oct. 22. The public is invited to pick out a coat or other items on Oct. 23 and 24.

Rosary Rally: All are welcome to come pray

the rosary in front of St. Patrick Church on Saturday, Oct. 25, beginning at noon, for the sanctity of life, and intentions of the country, community and families.

Polish Dinner: All are invited to come and enjoy Polish food, along with music provided by The Happy Travelers Band on Sunday, Oct. 26, in St. Bridget’s Marian Hall in Moodus. The band plays starting at 3 p.m., and dinner is served at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and will be on sale after each Mass at both churches. Contact Rob McLaughlin for more information at 860-324-1079.

Christmas Bazaar: St. Patrick Church is hosting a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Patrick Parish Center. Come and shop for all kinds of Christmas items. Take a chance on the many basket raffles, browse the display of jewelry and treat yourself or a neighbor at the bake sale or come for lunch.

GOP Waving Schedule and Free Yard Signs

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee will hold a sign-waving event this weekend 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 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).

Next weekend, the Republicans will wave on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9-11 a.m., at 20 East High St. (across from Stop & Shop) and Sunday, Oct. 26, from 10-11 a.m., at the same location.

Home and Health Expo

Do you have an aging relative who is hoping to stay in their own home as they grow older? Or are you an adult who is looking for suggestions on ways to stay healthy in the coming years?

Come listen to experts on these topics at the East Hampton Commission on Aging’s “Home and Health Expo” scheduled for Nov. 8, from 10 a.m to 2 p.m., at East Hampton Town Hall.

Professionals will talk about subjects ranging from how to retrofit your home so that it accommodates an aging person to what exercises you need to do to maintain your mobility, strength and independence.

In a survey done by the Commission on Aging in 2021, 93% of respondents wanted to remain in their homes as they got older.

In addition, there will be experts in chiropractic and naturopathic medicine, geriatric psychiatry, massage, physical therapy, exercise as well as options for housing when staying home as you age isn’t possible.

The expo is free to people of all ages. Refreshments will be served.

Watch this space for more details as Nov. 8 approaches.

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.

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.

Autumn Leaves Fair in November

Christ Episcopal Church, located at 66 Middle Haddam Rd. (Route 151), will hold its annual Autumn Leaves Fair on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Parish Hall.

All manner of baked goods, jellies, jam and pickles, handmade items, pottery, and artisanal crafts will be for sale.

EHMS Basketball and Cheerleading

East Hampton Middle School student/athletes who are interested in trying-out for boys’ basketball, girls’ basketball or cheerleading teams can register online through Arbiter Sports Registration.

Athletes must have a physical within a 13-month period in order to try out. The deadline for registration is Sunday, Nov. 26.

For further information, call EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

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- ♦ **Reined in excessive spending**
- ♦ **Presented affordable Board of Ed & Gen’l Government budgets that were overwhelmingly approved**
- ♦ **Exposed environmental risks to fire-fighters & proposed a better plan**
- ♦ **Continued supporting Lake health**

**Vote Republican on Tuesday Nov. 4
at the East Hampton High School 6 a.m. ~ 8 p.m.**

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

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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.

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@east-hamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center for more information and a list of regular weekly and monthly activities, including games, quilting, Bible study and more.

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

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

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

Traillblazers Walking Group: Monday, Oct. 20, 9 a.m., at Air Line State Park, 69 Smith St. All paces welcome.

Blood Pressure Checks: Monday, Oct. 20, 12:30 p.m. Offered through Chatham Health. Drop-ins welcome.

Haunted House and Hayride

Epoch Arts will continue its annual Haunted House and Hayride Friday and Saturday, Oct. 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.

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.

Connecticare Medicare Advantage Information Seminar: Tuesday, Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m., led by Beverly Goodrich.

Vaccination Clinic with Chatham Health: Wednesday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m. The flu and high-dose flu vaccines will be offered. Contact your provider to be sure your insurance will cover the vaccinations.

Learn Mahjongg: Thursday, Oct. 23, 9:30 a.m. Beginners can enjoy an introduction to this classic tile game. No experience is needed. Taught by Barbara Hahn.

Mahjongg League: Thursday, Oct. 23, 1 p.m. Two-player team format. Cost is \$20.

Pretend Cooking Show Program: Thursday, Oct. 23, 2:30 p.m. This is a No Cook, No Bake micro cooking class – perfect for whipping up tasty recipes without turning on the oven. Limited to eight participants. Features pasta making with center director Holly Marreo.

Bike Rides for Seniors with Kim Clouser of AirLine Cycles: Friday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m., at Air-Line State Park, 69 Smith St. Bring your bike, helmet and water to the ride.

Lunch with the Bike Rides for Seniors Group: Friday, Oct. 24, noon, at the senior center, featuring grinders from Big Y and beverages. Suggested donation is \$3.

Volunteer Opportunities: Grocery Shoppers: The senior center needs a volunteer to help grocery shop for center members. Stop by the senior center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to fill out volunteer paperwork. Call 860-267-9093 for information.

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

Voter Registration Session Today

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.



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The Yarners Need Yarn!

The East Hampton Yarners have empty yarn shelves – and the group is looking for donations.

The Yarners use this yarn for charitable projects, such as prayer shawls, lap robes, chemo caps, baby blankets and hats, scarves hats and mittens for winter wear, blankets, stuffed animals, and more. So far this fall, the Yarners have made over 200 items. Email Judy Hoffhine at jhoffhine@gmail.com to make arrangements for pick-up.

Full skeins of machine washable yarn are most appreciated. All weights of yarn are welcome.

The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon, in Fellowship Hall at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St. All knitters and crocheters are welcome. The Yarners work on their own projects as well as charitable items.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. on Sundays. All are welcome. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com for directions. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated with the Rev. Diana Rogers, priest-in-charge.

Donations: Food items for the East Hampton Food Bank may be placed in the black totes at the rear of the church.

Returnable Bottles and Cans: Are collected in cans by the shed.

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

Save the Date: The Autumn Leaves Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. All are asked to donate to the Bake Sale, New or Nearly New Table, as well as donate for baskets or raffles. Lunch will be sold. Check the Bell-ringer to see how you can best participate.

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

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

Open Mic Night: Friday, Oct. 17, 6-8 p.m. Share your talent or just come and listen to some music/ Call the library to register if you want to perform, at 860-267-9093.

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.

Save the Date for Makers' Market: Saturday, Nov. 8, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The market will feature products made by local artisans, a used book sale, a white elephant table and live music. Are

Herbal Medicine Class

Belltown Garden Club invites all to its Fall Season Herbal Medicine Class Monday, Oct. 27, at 6:30 p.m., in the East Hampton Public Library community room.

Learn how to use plants growing in your own garden to make immune system herbal medicines to help you stay healthy this fall. Katie Hanna, local herbalist and club member, will teach this hands-on medicine-making class.

Members of the public and prospective members are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT and National Garden Clubs. Contact Hanna at 334-332-7793 with any questions prior to the meeting.

you a creator? Contact the library to participate, at 860-267-9093 or middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com.

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, 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.

Absentee Ballots for Municipal Election

East Hampton's municipal election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4, at East Hampton High School, 15 North Maple St. Early voting will occur from Oct. 20-Nov. 2 at Town Hall.

Absentee ballots are available at the town clerk's office, located at 1 Community Drive. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

All registered voters are eligible to obtain an absentee ballot for this election. For more information, call 860 267-2519.

Athletic Hall of Fame Elects 2025 Class

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

Marvin Gorgas, a 2014 East Hampton High School graduate; Tyler Wosleger, a 2008 EHHS graduate; Blake Helveston, a 2002 EHHS graduate; Nicole Muhlberg, a 2008 EHHS graduate; and the EHHS 2014 boys soccer team, which was state co-champions.

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 Vasquenza at 860-308-6621.

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‘Right Minds, Right Hearts’: BOE Hopefuls Outline Vision

By Toriana Williams

Three members of the Colchester Republican slate running for the Board of Education – Olivia Duksa, Cari Duijou and Corrine Loyola – spoke together about their vision for the district, highlighting the importance of collaboration, accountability and community involvement in shaping Colchester’s schools.

The group, endorsed by the Colchester Republican Town Committee, represents what they describe as a unified, balanced approach to education governance.

Although the slate also includes Matthew “Cody” McNeely, he was not present for the discussion but was mentioned throughout as a supportive teammate who shares their priorities.

Background and Motivation

Duksa, an entrepreneur who has lived in Colchester since 2005, said she is running because she believes the district needs “new passionate energy on the Board of Education to help bring success to our students in Colchester.”

Duksa described herself as “a successful entrepreneur of two businesses that are located in the town,” and is also a parent of two children who are currently enrolled in Colchester schools.

Duijou, who has worked in education for over two decades, said her path to teaching began while volunteering in her children’s classrooms.

“Every time I went into the classroom, they said, ‘Cari, are you a teacher?’ I said ‘No, corporate,’ so they gave me the math table,” she laughed. “They really started to say, ‘Cari, you know, not everybody is like this with kids. You’re very patient.’”

As a result, she eventually returned to school to earn her teaching degree.

“It was definitely a pay cut,” she said. “However, I went back to school at 37 and became a teacher. I’ve been doing it for 25 years, and I never looked back.”

Loyola, who previously served in the U.S. military and currently works as an attorney, said she was encouraged to run “because a teacher asked me to.” She added, “My husband recently retired from the Army. We’ve lived in a lot of places ... and since we’ve made this our permanent home, I figured I needed to serve here as well. So when asked, I was called to duty.”

Concerns About Fiscal Management

All three candidates raised concerns about the district’s budgeting and spending priorities. Loyola, who previously worked in accounting for the Department of Defense, said she wanted to apply her fiscal experience locally.

“I reduced our overall debt by hundreds of millions of dollars,” Loyola said. “We need to know where all of our money’s going, down to the pencil level.”

Continuing, she said the district’s spending has not aligned with student outcomes.

“We currently have a little over 2,100 students in the district, and it used to be well over 3,000,” he noted. “Our teacher pay is at the median or above even though we haven’t reduced our

number of teachers.”

“I think we handle our teachers pretty well,” he said. “I’m more worried about where our performance is and where our money is going.”

Duksa echoed concerns about budget transparency, saying, “When there’s a promise of teachers getting raises, and it’s the administration that gets raised instead, we find that’s a problem.”

Duijou, who has lived in Colchester for nearly 40 years, said the community “was rolling very progressively, but responsibly” when she first moved to town with her husband – the late Jeff Duigou, who was planning a run for first selectman when he suddenly died in July.

“We said we want to retire here,” she recalled. “But we also want our town to be run well.”

Declining Student Performance

Duksa pointed to declining math and reading scores as a major motivator for her candidacy.

“I am passionate ... that the math scores and the English scores have to be a top priority in our schools,” she said. “I think they’re quite lacking, and it’s kind of scary.”

Loyola presented performance data during the interview with the *Rivereast* and said, “Everyone keeps blaming it on COVID, but it’s been a while since COVID. We should have been able to see some increases ... but we’re not really seeing much of an increase.”

Calls for Transparency and Community Trust

Transparency emerged as a central theme for all three candidates. Duijou said the three were “livid when we found out that [the current BOE] had written a program to have our school become a magnet school with no communication to the citizens in our town and no communication to the parents.”

Duksa said the lack of communication about the same proposal was “the clincher for me to run for the Board of Education.” She recalled learning about the controversial – and ultimately scrapped – magnet school plan last fall, when returning home after Thanksgiving.

“Everybody’s on break... and you find out that the process of getting the magnet school through was very far along. And you’re like, ‘What is going on?’”

The candidates said they would advocate for open communication between the BOE, parents and other local boards. “We want to be approachable,” said Loyola. “We want to hear what their concerns are, and we want to be able to help.”

Duksa added that transparency should extend to public participation. “We need to forget about shutting mics off of citizens,” she said, referencing a past meeting where a resident’s comments were cut short. “That was ludicrous.”

Loyola added that the group would also push for detailed financial reporting. “We want to make sure that the regular monthly accounting is down to the pencil level ... that all that information is open to the public,” she said.

Outlining Priorities

Each candidate identified ways to improve



Olivia Duksa, left, Cari Duijou, middle, and Corrinne Loyola stand together as Republican candidates for the town of Colchester, endorsed by the Republican Town Committee.

collaboration and student support.

“Truly successful school districts have involvement from parents and involvement from the community,” Loyola said. “They all work together, and you can’t just focus on one.”

Duijou emphasized the importance of community trust. “A more informed citizenry is much more loyal to their volunteers and their governance because they appreciate that you respected them enough to share that information,” she said.

The candidates said they also hope to address absenteeism and afterschool access. “One of the problems I had with my students in the school system is I could not allow her to really partake in after school sports,” Duksa said. “Why? Because there’s no after school transportation.”

Shared Commitment

Though each woman brings different expertise, they said they work well together as a team.

“We have a teacher, accountant and lawyer, a business owner, veteran and coach, and you know, all of us are parents,” Duksa commented. “We’re like a well-oiled machine.”

Loyola added, “We need to be able to have those hard conversations in a civil manner and be a good example to the kids.”

Duijou agreed. “We’re caring about our community because we live here,” she said. “And I think if we want to see it grow and thrive, it’s going to take some new people.”

From the start of the conversation, all three candidates emphasized that their campaign is not about partisanship, but about trust and transparency in the school system.

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Snowflake Bazaar... Jutta Arena of Tastefully Simple, shown here, will be one of the many vendors and crafters present at the annual Snowflake Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Markham Meadows Campground in East Hampton, located at 9 Markham Road, off Tartia Road from Route 16. Sponsored by the Westchester Congregational Church, the bazaar will offer the famous Cookies by the Pound, artisans, a variety of vendors and crafters, raffles, lunch and more. All proceeds benefit the church.

Foreign Exchange Program Volunteers Needed

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

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

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

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

For more information, email youthexchange7980@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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 (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 2-2:2:30 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

Youth Football Recap

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

Peeweess: Had their first victory of the season, a shutout over Plainfield. The Cougars had a huge 4th down stop to end the game. The Martin brothers matched each other on different sides of the ball. As Jacob came away with a long run for the game’s first touchdown, William had several forced fumbles and tackles for loss. The Peeweess are part of a developmental level of football.

Micros: Lost to the Plainfield Panthers, 25-6. The defense was able to stop Plainfield from scoring in the second half. The offense was able to find the end zone with hard runs for Sully

King, Colton Goodwin leading to 6 points from Ryker Mathews. The Micros will now look forward to Ellington this weekend.

Juniors: Were outmatched by Plainfield. The team is starting to get healthy again and back to full strength with personnel, but now the focus is on learning the new playbook, the coaches said. The biggest impact on the results of Saturday’s game was one player for Plainfield that the Cougars just couldn’t find an answer for offensively or defensively.

Seniors: Lost, 14-12. All of the seniors played great and worked together as a team even more so after a couple of big players went down in the game, the coaches said.

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.

Veterans Military Honor Squad

When a veteran passes away the family can request military honors by providing evidence of military service to the funeral home. The Connecticut National Guard will coordinate to insure the participation of its members and local volunteer organizations at the funeral honors ceremony. Military funeral honors have been a tradition in the United States military since its earliest days. Currently, both federal law and state statutes direct the provision of such honors to qualified veterans of the US Armed Forces.

One volunteer service organization that aids in providing “military honors” is the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard. It was established in 2004 in association with the Connecticut National Guard to provide military funeral honors for veteran’s families and friends. Since its formation, the Colchester unit has performed

at more than 2,700 honor ceremonies. In 2024, they participated in over 225 military honors ceremonies.

The 20-member unit is actively looking for veterans to become members, so that we can continue to provide funeral honors to all deceased veterans. The Honor Guard meets the first and third Tuesday of every month from 7-8 p.m. in the Veterans Room of the “Old” Colchester Senior Center at 95 Norwich Ave. The next meeting is Oct. 21.

Most funeral honors are performed between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday to Saturday. If you are a veteran that can give a few hours during the week or on weekends, you are welcome to stop by the next meeting. Contact Al Letendre at 860-537-6516 or letendrej@sbcglobal.net for more information.

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 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.

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. 20: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 10:30 a.m., Senior Spotlight; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 11 a.m.-noon, fitness orientation by appointment; 12:30 Mah Jongg; 12:30 p.m., Bridge, Setback.

Tuesday, Oct. 21: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Holiday Fair Earrings Class #1; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., In the Know, Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

Wednesday, Oct. 22: 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., Cookie Food Demo; 1 p.m., Sew-craft Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

Thursday, Oct. 23: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m.; Yoga;

noon, Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes, Fall Gnome Wreath; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

Friday, Oct. 24: 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; 11:30 a.m., Lunch Bunch; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Events: 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.

Candidates for BOS, BOF Outline Priorities

By Toriana Williams

As Colchester residents prepare to head to the polls this Nov. 4, a diverse slate of candidates is vying for positions on the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. Incumbents seeking re-election and newcomers alike are sharing their goals, accomplishments and visions for the town, emphasizing financial accountability, infrastructure improvements and community engagement.

First Selectman Race

Democrat **Bernie Dennler**, running for re-election as first selectman, cited his professional and volunteer experience as motivation for initially running.

“I ran two years ago because I was concerned about the direction of our town,” he said. “I was concerned about the level of division in our town, and I was also concerned about the way our finances were being managed,” he said.

Dennler emphasized bipartisan collaboration and fiscal stewardship, noting that his administration has brought in more than \$5 million in grants to support infrastructure, public safety, environmental projects and school building improvements without increasing the tax burden. He expressed a desire to continue guiding ongoing initiatives to completion, including renovations at the Youth Center, Bacon Academy and the former Senior Center building for police and veteran use.

Republican **John Thomas**, a current member of the Board of Finance for nearly four years, is running for first selectman, and said he is motivated by concerns over transparency in town finances.

“Watching the tax continue to go up for the last four years ... with the school budget and recognizing that the town has no idea where their money is being spent,” he said, “I couldn’t take that any longer as a taxpaying citizen.”

During his time on the Board of Finance, Thomas noted accomplishments including increasing budgets to maintain town infrastructure, funding tree-trimming projects, adding new fire equipment and bringing on a new EMS firefighter.

If elected first selectman, Thomas said he hopes to prioritize transparency in town governance.

“What we have is a town government that’s very good at doing their job but the town knows absolutely nothing about where their money is going,” he said, citing recent unplanned school hires that had significant budget impacts. He also emphasized his business experience and ability to lead teams efficiently as key qualifications.

Board of Selectmen

Denise Turner, a Democrat seeking her fourth term on the Board of Selectmen, said her continued service is rooted in her personal connection to Colchester.

CLT Upcoming Events

The Colchester Land Trust (CLT) is hosting the following upcoming events, and all are invited. For more information on any of the events, to register, or for info on CLT in general, visit colchesterlandtrust.org.

Outdoor Classroom Grand Opening!: Sunday, Oct. 26, 1-3 p.m., at Bulkeley Hill Preserve, 247 Bulkeley Hill Rd. This free, all-ages, dog-friendly event will feature light bites and treats, an outdoor classroom tour, and guest speakers. Learn how the Outdoor Classroom will benefit Colchester and the surrounding communities in education, conservation efforts, and local organizations. This event is not stroller-friendly, trails are not groomed and have rocks and roots and wet areas. Advanced registration strongly suggested. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather and terrain. Dogs must be leashed, and bring waste bags to dispose of off property.

Directions: From Rt 16/Middletown Road in Colchester, turn on Bulkeley Hill Road follow approx. 2 miles to Bulkeley Hill Preserve. The wood sign post and the entrance to the gravel parking lot will be on your right. For GPS use the mailbox across the street from the lot: 243 Bulkeley Hill Rd., Colchester.

Halloween Scavenger Hunt!: Sunday, Nov. 2, 2-4 p.m., at the Bulkeley Hill Preserve, 247 Bulkeley Hill Rd. Hosted by the CLT Youth Committee. Registration strongly encouraged. On this family-friendly hike through the trails of Colchester, you’ll be led on a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt. As you wander through the woods, you’ll visit different stations where you’ll collect candy, stamps, and surprises at each spooky stop. Costumes are encouraged, so come dressed as your favorite ghouls, goblins, or characters for an extra treat. Parents

“Colchester is my home,” Turner said. “I was born and raised here, and I just feel like it’s been a great opportunity to serve on the policy-making board of the town.”

She cited her experience during the COVID-19 pandemic as formative, noting that her early terms focused on keeping the town operational amid uncertainty, while her most recent term has allowed her to tackle longer-term projects.

Turner highlighted two major priorities for the upcoming term: improving local sports fields and expanding affordable housing.

“One of the largest, serious concerns that has been around since I’ve been on this board has been the shape of our sports fields, which is something that we’re in the process of working on,” she said.

On housing, Turner explained, “We are in need of more affordable housing. I have a lot of ... young or single people that are in need of housing, and there’s not a lot of availability here.”

Turner expressed gratitude to residents for supporting her in past elections, emphasizing her commitment to the town’s progress.

Republican **Tim Vaillancourt** is looking to swap his current seat on the Board of Finance for a spot on the Board of Selectmen, citing a desire to focus more on policy than finances.

“I think I’m much more policy-oriented than on the financial side,” he said. “If you’re looking for somebody who’s going to ask hard questions and demand accountability, I’d appreciate your vote.”

Vaillancourt criticized the current board’s approach to decision-making, arguing that some choices, such as giving away an abandoned road to enable large-scale development, were made without sufficient scrutiny of long-term costs for taxpayers.

Vaillancourt emphasized fiscal accountability and affordability as guiding principles, with a focus on protecting residents who are financially vulnerable.

Democrat **Rosemary Coyle**, who is seeking another term on the Board of Selectmen, highlighted her extensive experience in public service and education. She praised the bipartisan collaboration on the board over the past two years.

“Serving the people of our town and working with First Selectman Bernie Dennler as well as the entire bipartisan Board of Selectmen these past two years has been such a pleasure and so constructive,” she said.

Coyle pointed to accomplishments such as the new Senior Center, which opened in December 2024, providing programs and activities for seniors while creating space for other town initiatives. Looking ahead, she hopes to see completion of projects including the Bacon

must stay with their kids throughout the hike. For more information, contact Megan Trujillo at meganl.trujillo@gmail.com or 518-526-6882.

The hike is free to Members of the CLT, \$5 per non-member adult, and free for all children under 18. While easy terrain, the hike is not stroller-friendly; trails are not groomed and have rocks and roots and wet areas. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather and terrain. Bug and tick protection strongly suggested. Dogs (in costume, too!) are welcome on leash, but bring waste bags to dispose of off property.

Fourteen-Mile Hike of the Goodwin Trail: Saturday, Nov. 2, at 9 a.m. Hikers must register by Thursday, Oct. 30. Meet at the Chapal Farm Preserve parking lot on Route 82 in East Haddam; from there, hikers will be transported to the eastern end of the trail at Darrow Pond in East Lyme. The trail is an easy to moderate hike. Approximate duration: five hours. For more information, contact Lisa Hageman at lttrill-hageman@comcast.net or 860-918-1537.

Please bring adequate water and snacks for the hike. No dogs are permitted on the trail. Trails are not groomed and have rocks and roots and wet areas. Advanced registration is required. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather and terrain. Bug and tick protection strongly suggested.

Directions: The parking lot for Chapal Farm Preserve is well-marked and easy to find at 136 Norwich Salem Rd (Rt 82), East Haddam. It is located between the cross streets of Rt 434/Hopyard Road (near Fox Hopyard Golf Course) and Route 156/Hamburg Road. From Colchester, you can take Route 11 S from Lake Hayward Road for two miles, then follow Route 11 S to Rt 82 W in East Haddam.

Academy Athletic Complex, Norton Park improvements and sewer and water infrastructure upgrades.

Other candidates running for the Board of Selectmen include Republicans **Art Shilosky** and **Cliff O’Donal**, both emphasizing experience, transparency and collaboration in local government. Shilosky, a current board member, said he has been serving Colchester for many years and is motivated by his love for the town. “I’m running for the town. I’m not running for me or anything else,” he said.

O’Donal, a business owner and incumbent, stressed working effectively across party lines to advance town priorities. “As long as we’re moving the town forward, I work very well with the Democratic members of the current Board of Selectmen,” he said.

Board of Finance

For the Board of Finance, Republican **Michael Dubreuil** is running for a six-year term. A longtime resident and software engineer with experience in problem-solving and teamwork, Dubreuil highlighted affordability and collaboration as key campaign priorities. He specifically cited the need to address the aging roof at Bacon Academy and stressed the importance of routine review of town debt and health reserve accounts.

“We have needs and wants in this town,” Dubreuil said. “We need a new roof at Bacon Academy. ... That should have been replaced two years ago.”

Democrat **Sean Gillespie** is the town treasurer, and is running for a seat on the Board of Finance. He said his motivation comes from gaining insight into the town’s finances during his time at Town Hall.

“After spending the past two years at Town Hall gaining a clear understanding of the town’s financial foundation, I felt motivated to take on a role that would allow me to contribute to more strategic, long-term decisions,” he said.

Gillespie emphasized that his experience as Colchester’s treasurer, combined with a career as an IT architect overseeing large-scale financial systems and mergers, provides him with the skills to make data-driven decisions and ensure fiscal responsibility.

If elected, Gillespie said he plans to prioritize smart spending and responsible development to increase Colchester’s grand list. He pointed to recent infrastructure projects funded by state grants, including repairs to the town’s water filtration facilities, as examples of cost-effective investments that benefit both current residents and future growth.

“These projects have directly contributed to future growth,” he explained. “We avoided a potential stop order on new construction within

Turkey Basket Drive

Rotary’s Turkey Basket drive is in full swing – and donations are sought to help the Rotary achieve its goal of providing for those in need.

Please consider purchasing a turkey leg in any amount at the registers at both Noel’s and Westchester markets. Those who wish to donate by check can send to “Honor Rotary,” P.O. Box 775, Colchester, CT 06415.

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.

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.

the water district.”

Gillespie said he hopes to continue leveraging strategic planning and data analysis to maintain the town’s financial health and support long-term development.

Democrat **Jillian Vinci** is seeking election to a full term on the Board of Finance; she was appointed to fill a vacancy last December. Vinci said she was motivated to run by her commitment to both the town and its schools.

“I am running for the Colchester Board of Finance because my husband and I are raising two special needs children who attend Colchester Public Schools,” she said. “We have seen firsthand the incredible support, integrity, and knowledge that the teachers, therapists, paraprofessionals, administration, and staff bring to the classroom every day.”

Vinci emphasized her desire to ensure that the town and schools remain well-funded, allowing all children to grow up in a safe and stable community.

Vinci stressed she brings more than 25 years of experience in the finance industry, specializing in employee benefits and long-term financial strategies for businesses across New England. She also noted her firsthand experience on the finance board itself.

If elected, Vinci said she will prioritize transparency in town and school spending, ensuring residents have access to accurate and complete information. She said she also hopes to support ongoing projects while keeping them sustainable and affordable, focusing on town maintenance, public safety, schools and recreational areas to maintain Colchester’s character and quality of life.

A few candidates – Democrat **Krista Kardys** and Republican **Amber Webster** – were unavailable for comment as of press time, though all remain on the ballot.

This year’s election in Colchester represents a crucial opportunity for residents to shape the town’s trajectory on infrastructure, fiscal management and community programs. As candidates emphasize accountability, collaboration and continued service, voters are encouraged to consider both experience and priorities when making their selections this November.

Election Day is Nov. 4 – and early voting begins Oct. 20.

Correction

In the story “Business Marks One Year of Community Building” that ran on page 17 of the Sept. 26 *Rivereast*, the names of the other agents in the Colchester office of Senior Health and Retirement Services, Taylor Johnson and Michele Swanson, were inadvertently omitted. Also, the last name of agent Brian Kisner was misspelled.

Coffee House for Military Members

The next monthly Coffee House for Colchester current and former military members will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10:15 a.m.-noon, at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

Town residents other than current and former military members are also invited to this particular event to learn about Question, Persuade and Refer. QPR is a suicide prevention strategy that dispels some of the myths around suicide, and provides participants with action steps for helping someone they feel may be at risk of suicide.

The workshop is free of charge and does not require registration. Call Mary Gura at 860-537-2921 with questions or suggestions.

Collecting for New Mothers in Need

Knights of Columbus Spellman Council 6107’s initiative Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) runs through Oct. 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-accessible 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.

See More Colchester News, page 25

Obituaries

Colchester

Robert W. Ives

Robert William Ives, 79, of Enfield, passed away Saturday, Sept. 27, at Parkway Pavilion Health and Rehabilitation Center in Enfield after a long struggle with a head injury and Parkinson's disease. Born in Providence, R.I., he was the son of the late William and Lillian (Taylor) Ives.



Robert grew up in and was a longtime resident of Colchester. He graduated from Bacon Academy in 1963, where he was voted class artist, class musician and class clown. Robert was a member of the local Fish and Game club in Colchester.

Robert was a veteran serving in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. He was an exceptional artist, photographer and drummer. He specialized in naval photography where he travelled extensively taking photos. He also excelled at sign painting.

Robert is survived by his son, Robert V. Ives of Northampton, Mass.; two sisters, Marilyn Ives Laven of Rotterdam, N.Y., and Barbara Barry of Santee, Calif.; five nephews and nieces; and many good friends.

Along with his parents, he was predeceased by his wife Linda Ives.

The family would like to say a special thank you to the staff of Parkway Pavilion Health and Rehabilitation Center and to Robert's hospice nurses.

A graveside service will be held Monday, Oct. 20, at 1 p.m., in the State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Lane, Middletown, where full military honors will be accorded.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Colchester

Alice Reed

Alice Reed, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 8, with her beloved family attentively by her side. She was 88 years old. Alice was born in Norwich on July 28, 1937, to the late Thomas and Ethel (Taylor) Smith. She grew up in Colchester and attended Bacon Academy high school.

As a young mother, Alice worked on the Sanzone family farm, where they lived and raised their children. Alice was devoted to her children and grandchildren. She took pride in her home and loved planting beautiful flower gardens all around her yard. Alice was a member of the Colchester Federated Church. She was a talented crafter with sewing, painting and creating many other types of handmade treasures. She also loved spending time with her beloved pet, Lilly.

In 2006, she married the love of her life, Stanley Reed. The couple moved to Zellwood, Fla., where they enjoyed retirement. Stanley sadly predeceased her in 2016.

Alice will be tremendously missed but always remembered with love by her daughter, Donna and husband Rob Brown of Colchester; her daughter-in-law, Shawna Sanzone of New Hampshire; her grandchildren, Robbie and his partner Jamie, Samantha and her husband Stephen, Sandy and her husband Rich, April and her husband Rex, and Nick; her great-grand-

children, Carter, Colton, Andrew, Ashya, Patrick, Avery, Logan, Jade, and Trista; her great-great-grandchildren, TJ, Tegan, Remi, Cora, and AJ; her brother, Tom Smith of Wilton; dear friends, Mike and Lori Mathis of Florida; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her son, Dominick Sanzone; her sister, Myra Ackerman; and her brother, Bob Smith.

A graveside service will be held Monday, Oct. 20, at 11 a.m., directly at Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

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

East Hampton

Edward Michael Rauza

Edward Michael Rauza, 80 years of age, passed into his eternal home in heaven Saturday, Oct. 11, following a courageous battle of two years of health issues and eventually lymphoma. Ed was a real trooper and fighter through it all. He leaves behind his loving, and much-loved wife, Marjorie (Bolles) Rauza. Ed leaves behind his Son Michael Rauza, and Daughter-in-law Arlene (Dionne) Rauza of Somers, and his grandson and great source of pride, Gavin Rauza.



Ed was born to John Rauza and Helen (Zbyk) Rauza, (later Stero). Ed was a Christian, born and raised Catholic. He was an altar boy at St. Joseph's Church in Rockville. Through childhood he attended St Joseph's Catholic School in Rockville and graduated from Rockville High School. Ed served our country in the Army National Guard. The youngest of four children, he leaves behind his brother Robert (Martha) Rauza of St. Augustine, Fla. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his two sisters, Dorothy (Frank) Slisz (later Pacetti), and Marian (Timothy) Jones (later Cobb). Ed has numerous nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews who he loved.

Ed had many jobs beginning from the early age of 15. These include the Boston Bakery in Rockville working for Louis Walinski, Clyde's Chevrolet in Rockville working for Brad Gill, Hamilton Standard where he worked on NASA astronaut gear and suits, and Northeast Utilities (NU) as a designer/drafter in Berlin, and at Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Haddam Neck. Ed retired from NU in 1999 and held many contractor positions beyond that time. Ed has many dear friends and would often mention how lucky he had been to work with such great folks through his entire working years.

When Ed and Margie married on Nov. 3, 1995, Ed gained another loving family. Ed leaves behind Margie's sisters, Marcia Craddock, Melanie (Rich) Jump, and Mildred (Eric) Heath, along with their children and great nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by Margie's parents, Thomas & Jean Bolles who welcomed Ed into the family unconditionally and with great love. Ed adored them.

Ed enjoyed photography, old car shows, fall fair-going, watching fireworks on the 4th of July, and quiet times with Margie. Ed had two favorite vacation locations which he introduced to Margie. These were St. Austine, Fla., and Cape Ann, Mass. Together they enjoyed many happy times in these locations and more recently in Maine.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, Fri-

day, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. A funeral service will be held at noon, with the Rev. Valarie Seaver of Marlborough Congregational Church officiating, followed by burial in Lake View Cemetery in East Hampton.

We would like to thank the kind working staff at Marlborough Health and Rehab in Marlborough for their great care and concern.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a charity of your choice, Marlborough Congregational Church, or Masonicare Hospice of Wallingford.

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

East Hampton

Monica Lynn Zoldak

Monica Lynn Zoldak, 53, of New York, N.Y., beloved wife of Gary Jackiewicz, passed away peacefully with family by her side on Friday, Oct. 3, after a courageous and graceful nine-year battle with cancer. Born Feb. 7, 1972, in Middletown, she was the daughter of Robert & Michele (Mickey) Zoldak of East Hampton.



Monica graduated from Mercy High School and received a bachelor's degree from Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pa. Upon graduation, she moved to NYC ready to embrace the vibrant city, rich culture and life experiences. Passionate about the art world, Monica was a longstanding member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art where you could find her admiring the many exhibits. She was a lifelong seeker of knowledge and education, and was an avid reader and frequent visitor of The New York Public Library. The NYC Marathon was one of her favorite days of the year where she'd cheer on strangers and friends alike!

Monica enthusiastically trained for and participated in triathlons. Finding excitement and always welcoming the challenge, she was determined to be the best that she could be and pushed others to do the same. Monica was the perfect travel companion and found something special in every mile she covered. She and her husband found special solace at their upstate home in Ghent, N.Y., where she enjoyed cooking, gardening and loved spending time with her loved ones. She led her life with a strong faith in God and an abundance of hope and gratitude. Always finding a reason to be thankful and smiling, even on the toughest days.

Monica was a devoted wife of 25 years, a loving stepmother, a fabulous aunt and the best cheerleader and supporter we were blessed to have. Besides her husband and parents, Monica is survived by her devoted, loving sister Denise Russell, who never left her bedside, and Denise's children, Karl Austin Drews and Ava Michele Russell, all of Florida, her sister-cousin Elisha Milton of East Hampton, her stepsons Gary P. Jackiewicz, of Florida and Paul and wife Tameka Jackiewicz and his children Christian and Kiley Rose of Maryland. Monica was blessed to have so many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends who meant the world to her, including her close-knit Vermont family, Pennsylvania and Colorado family, and all of the friends she met along the way. The love, warmth and kindness she shared with everyone she knew inspired us all. She was an incredible woman who was selfless in all aspects of life. She will be forever missed.

On behalf of Monica, the family would like to give a special mention and express our utmost gratitude to Dr. Laura Libby and Dr. Jeffrey Tepler of New York, N.Y., for their exceptional care and friendship to Monica.

A funeral Mass will be held Wednesday, Oct.

22, at 1 p.m., at St. Monica's Church, 413 East 79th St., New York, NY. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Nov. 15, at 11 a.m., at St. Patrick's Pius X Center, 47 West High St., East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., #1, East Hampton, CT 06424.

East Hampton

Lorraine Busque

Lorraine (Ouellette) Busque, 92, of East Hampton – formerly from Andover – passed away at home Friday, Oct. 3, with her loving family by her side. Born and raised in East Hartford, where she met her loving husband of 70 years – the late Dale A. Busque – they had a beautiful life together, traveling the world and working hard to achieve remarkable goals.



Lorraine was a shining star wherever she went, whether it be her days in theater, her time with the Vintage Glider Association, the work she provided for the Andover Historical Society, or her time working at the State of Connecticut as a personnel officer. The warmth of her smile was one of a kind, and with it she carried love for all beings.

Lorraine was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and will forever be missed by her family. Lorraine was predeceased by her loving husband, Dale A. Busque, and her eldest son D. Keith Busque. Surviving are two sons and a daughter, Kyle K. Busque and his wife Patricia of Vernon, Keven J. Busque and his wife Diane of Manchester, Kathryn Busque Neville and her husband John Sarnik of East Hampton.

Lorraine leaves behind nine grandchildren: Ryan, Michelle, Cassandra, Julie, Kelly, Kacey, John, Kyra and Katelyn, and 16 great-grandchildren whom she loved with all her heart.

The family would like to thank Hannah and everyone from Middlesex Health Hospice for the dedication, support, and kindness they gave while taking care of Lorraine. They would also like to thank One Patient at A Time and their team of caretakers; especially Aminah, who filled Lorraine's final days with reading, laughter, and most of all the comfort and dignity she deserved.

The family will have a private memorial service for Lorraine.

East Hampton

Sharon Joan Visintainer

Sharon Joan (Warner) Visintainer, 84, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Philip Visintainer, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family Saturday, Oct. 11, in Middlesex Hospital. Born Feb. 27, 1941 in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Alma (Comstock) Warner, and was raised in Hadlyme until moving at the age of 12 to East Hampton.



Sharon had worked in the banking industry as a proofer for many years. She also had been employed at Pratt & Whitney, and then in the office of Legal Services in Middletown. She and Phil were lifelong active members of the Haddam Neck Covenant Church in East Hampton, where she served as office clerk, treasurer, finance officer, nursery school teacher, and other numerous positions.

Sharon cared most about her family and her church. She was a loving and supportive wife and mother as well as a loving, devoted friend to those who knew her.

Besides her husband Phil, she is survived by her son, Wayne Visintainer of East Hampton; her daughter and son-in-law, Dawn and Gregory Stanhope of East Hampton. She was predeceased by her brother, Richard Warner, and her two sisters, Ramona Warner and Beverly Carlson.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 15, at 10 a.m., in the Haddam Neck Covenant Church at 17 Haddam Neck Rd East Hampton. Burial will be in Union Hill Cemetery at noon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Haddam Neck Covenant Church Music Fund at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

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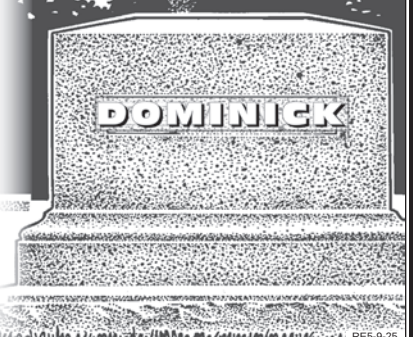
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Obituaries

Colchester

Joshua Sylvester

Joshua Sabatino Sylves-ter, 41, of Mystic, beloved son, brother, friend and partner, died unexpect- edly Sunday, Oct. 12. Josh was born Oct. 7, 1984, in New London.



Growing up, Josh was an avid sports star, excel- ling at soccer and base- ball. Fond memories in- clude summer days spent with his sister, brother and cousins on golf carts, playing various games and swimming. As Josh grew, soccer was a con- stant staple – he went on to Keene State College where he flourished as a varisty freshman play- er. As we all know, college is not for everyone; when Josh realized this he discovered his pas- sion for all things construction. Carrying on in his father’s footsteps, Josh went on to work for Pasteryak Paving, B&L Construction and then Suchocki and Son Inc. as an equipment opera- tor.

But his most treasured part of life was with his longtime girlfriend, Andrea Drakos. Meet- ing in Mystic, it was love at first sight and over the years they spent time traveling together, playing hockey, cooking many dinners together (with Andrea doing the cooking and Josh the eating!), going to the beach, and other fun ac- tivities.

Before Josh went into construction, he spent time racing SK modifieds alongside his older brother Zach. Together, the two raced at Staf- ford Motor Speedway, Waterford Speed Bowl and New Symrna in Florida.

Josh had an incredibly close-knit group of friends that he maintained relationships with, no matter where he was living. Together, trips to Vegas were had, and countless golf games were played. Josh also spent time snowmobiling up north with the same group of friends. In Josh’s free time, when he wasn’t lending a helpful hand or assisting someone with a home project, he played on a men’s soccer team at Oakwood in Glastonbury, where his legendary footwork was put to use.

Josh deeply valued family, friends and time spent doing what he loved. He was an incred- ibly hard worker and a very dedicated person to anything he put his mind to. Josh would take annual Christmas shopping trips with his sister Andrea, where they would get dinner and then pick out gifts for their family. He was always a regular at family gatherings, with his laughing, smiling face highlighting our family functions. His lightheartedness and quick ability to laugh will be tremendously missed.

Josh is predeceased by his grandparents, Jean and Andrew Gasper of Andover, June and Chet Worski of Lebanon; grandfather, Anthony Syl- vester of Hebron; and his uncles Andrew Gas- per and Douglas Griswold of Andover.

Joshua will be sorely missed by his parents, Thomas and Marilyn Sylvester of Colchester; his siblings, brother Zach Sylvester and sister-in law Karen of Lebanon, and sister Andrea Syl- vester-Parkinson,and brother-in-law Matthew of Columbia.

His influencial presence will be missed by his nephews, Logan Sylvester, Blake Sylvester and Denver Parkinson. He also leaves behind the love of his life, Andrea Drakos of Mystic and their dog Pearl.

Joshua will be forever missed by family, friends and all whose lives he touched.

Calling hours will be Friday, Oct. 24, from 4-6 p.m., at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution in Josh’s name to Out of the Dark- ness Community Walks, at afspwalks.donor- drive.com/pages/2497.

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS

HEBRON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

15 GILEAD STREET, HEBRON CT

At its October 9, 2025 meeting, the Hebron Conservation Commission took the following action:

Petition 2025-10 - Town of Hebron c/o Vanesse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), 310 Old Colchester Road, Amston, 06231 - Replacement of Bridge (04695) Over Raymond Brook on Old Colchester Road – **approved**, with the following conditions:

1. Town Engineer to review and approve construction submit- tals including site layout and stockpiling plan.
2. Notify Wetland Agent prior to construction for inspection of sedimentation and erosion control measures.
3. Project will be regularly monitored by the Wetland Agent, Town Engineer, third party inspector and Public Works Dept.
4. Hebron Conservation Commission Permit package will be incorporated into the Bid and Contract.

James P. Cordier, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent For: Thomas Loto, Chairman, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission

<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#!/s/52aff5c0361500112778b56f372704ec7fca3d7cc9919d58eb103d2ee39f7048>

1TB 10/17

Portland

Sylvia I. Archer

Sylvia I. Archer (Fos- ter), nearly 91, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Water’s Edge Health and Rehabilitation Cen- ter in Middletown, after a long illness and re- cent complications with COPD. Sylvia was born in Dennysville, Maine, the daughter of the late Vivian Trott and Carleton Foster. She was married to the late Lynn E. Ar- cher for nearly 50 years.



Sylvia leaves her son, Gregory Archer and his wife Catherine of Portland; a grandson, Mi- chael Archer and his wife Ashley of Portland and their children William and Emily; a grand- daughter, Cheryl Richards and her husband Todd of Waterville, N.Y., and their children Ry- lynn and Owen; a brother, Dana Foster and his late wife Mary and their three children; and a brother, Ray Foster and his wife Sarah and their two children. She also leaves behind her lov- ing friend Edward McGann and his daughters Deborah Bepko and Donna Bellingham. Sylvia was predeceased by her son Terrence D. Archer.

Sylvia loved her kitties, gardening, reading, was an avid bird watcher and a super whiz at crossword puzzles, but her most favorite times were spent with her 4 great grandchildren.

The family offers their most sincere appre- ciation to all the staff at Water’s Edge for their kindness and compassion.

Graveside services were private. Memorial contributions may be made to the Protectors of Animals (where Sylvia adopted her last two cats), 144 Main St., Unit O, East Hartford. Web- site: poainc.org.

Please visit the Biega Funeral Home at www.biegafuneralhome.com for an online registry.

LEGALS

MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission, at its meeting on Octo- ber 2, 2025, took the following action:
APPLICATION APPROVED:
APPLICATION #Z-02-25 – 216 E Hampton Rd (Applicant) James Marino Jr Construction LLC (Property Owner) 11 Units of Residential Townhouses with conditions
APPLICATION #Z-10-25 – Site Plan Development/Lake Overlay – 214+ No Main St, Allen Anthony – Tree removal with conditions
Amendment of Article Six-B of Home Occupations to Permit Cottage Food Businesses effective November 1, 2025
Amendment of Article Four Definitions, delete “Lot Area, Mini- mum Buildable” effective November 1, 2025
ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 10/17

TOWN OF PORTLAND

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Zoning Board of Ap- peals 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 Gieseemann, Chair

2TB 10/10, 10/17

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TOWN OF ANDOVER

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 -

7:00PM TO 9:00PM

TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM

IN PERSON and VIA WEB-BASED

PLATFORM (ZOOM)

The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on the evening of October 21, 2025 to allow the public the opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the following applications:
Application #25-42C Andover Planning and Zoning Commis- sion proposal to add regulations concerning agriculturally and non-agriculturally related public and private agritourism events on farm parcels
The full text of the proposed amendment will be available on the Town of Andover website. The full text of the proposed amendment is also on file in the Town Clerk’s office or from the Building and Land Use department.
Interested parties may ask questions and/or offer comment, either verbally or in writing. Public access will, upon request, be arranged for individuals without access to a computer. Please contact the Building and Land Use Office a minimum of 24 hours prior to the hearing date @860.742.7305, X - 4220.
W. Jed Larson
Planning and Zoning Commission Chairperson

1TB 10/17

Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester • Colchester

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.

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 Acad- emy to celebrate the start of the preservation and restoration of the iconic landmark school building.

The Decades of Impact Gala will be held Sat- urday, 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

CCT to Hold Auditions for Musical

Colchester Community Theatre has sched- uled November auditions for its February 2026 production of *Sister Act* through special ar- rangement with MTI.

When disco diva Deloris Van Cartier witness- es a murder, she is put into protective custody in the most unexpected of places: a convent! Dis- guised as a nun, Deloris breathes new life into the church’s choir and community, but her new- found sisterhood puts her directly in the path of the gangsters she’s hiding from. Featuring original music by Tony- and eight-time Oscar- winner Alan Menken, *Sister Act* is a celebration of music, friendship, and finding your voice.

Auditions will be held Friday, Nov. 14, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Bacon Academy High School caf- eteria, 611 Norwich Ave. Please prepare 32 bars of a song in the style of the show (pop, disco, soul, or gospel). An accompanist will be provid- ed. No a cappella or backing tracks please. Sides from the show will be available at auditions. All auditionees should be prepared to move. Please bring comfortable clothes and appropriate foot-

LEGALS

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 dur- ing 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 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
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The Andover Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hear- ing 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 EAST HAMPTON

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF ACTION

At the special meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM, the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions:
Application PZC-25-009: Charles Dutch, White Birch Road, Two lot Re-subdivision. Map 30/ Block 65A/ Lot 2 - Approved
PZC-25-008: Cobalt Health Care & Rehab Center, 29 Middle Haddam Road, Site Plan Review for Modifying access and former conditions of approval regarding “service entrance”. Map 01C/ Block 9/ Lot 7 – Approved with Conditions
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman

1TB 10/17

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC

DISTRICT COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, October 23, 2025

6:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL

LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:
Application 611 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Barbara Angelico of 1 School House Lane, Middle Haddam, to install 36 black solar panels on the south facing roof of her house.
Application 612 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for James Fuller of 63 Keighley Pond Road, Middle Haddam, to replace 19 windows with wood-composite windows.
Application 613 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Barbara Angelico of 1 School House Lane, Middle Haddam, to install 16 black solar panels on the south facing roof on the barn to the east of her house.
Application 614 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Dave and Allison Carns of 69 Long Hill Road, Middle Haddam, for the installation of a three-board, split rail fence of approximat- ly linear 450 in their backyard.
Application 615 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Andrew and Heather Groeper of 8 Bates Drive, Middle Haddam, to install fencing from their house to the property line and then west to a stream. The fence would include a section of stockade fencing and another section of post and rail fencing with black wire.
Application 616 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Andrew Groeper of 8 Bates Drive, Middle Haddam, to remove and replace all siding, 12 windows, three doors and to increase the height of the garage doors.
The foregoing applications are available for public review at the East Hampton Town Hall. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

1TB 10/17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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MARLBOROUGH APARTMENT FOR RENT: Available October 1st. Quiet area, off the road. 1st floor, 1 bedroom. No smoking. No dogs. Trash/snow removal. Heat/electricity not included. Washer/dryer hooks ups. \$1,400/monthly, plus security deposit, 1st and last month's rent. References. Email michael-daigle39@gmail.com, 401-489-1869 or jesposito0912@gmail.com, 401-487-2337.

MARLBOROUGH APARTMENT FOR RENT: in a quiet area, off the road. 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms. No smoking. Small animals allowed, excluding dogs. Trash/snow removal. Heat/electricity not included. Washer/dryer hooks ups on 1st floor. \$1,500/monthly, plus security deposit, 1st and last month's rent. References. Accepting applications. Email michael-daigle39@gmail.com, 401-489-1869 or jesposito0912@gmail.com, 401-487-2337.

SENIOR MALE LOOKING FOR: temporary room rental. 11/1-2/28. Former Glastonbury resident returning for UCONN basketball season. Mike 860-778-9689.



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RE13-1-25

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Cleopatra's love
___ Antony

5 Zebra feature

9 Rose essence

14 Mixed dish

15 Lena of
Hollywood

16 Like Erik the Red

17 Shaker contents

19 Wide open

20 Guarantees

21 Musical intervals

23 Request starter

24 "Hahaha," in a
text

25 NY to RI direc-
tion

26 File menu option

29 Male turkey

31 Calling for
backup, e.g.

33 Landlord, eg.

36 Prophetic sign

37 Hotel upgrade

39 Type of palm
tree

40 Reacts to pain

42 Rocker Elvis

44 High-speed road

46 Earliest stage

47 Greek letter

49 Ground grain

50 Maze runner

51 Political liberal

53 In addition

57 Electrolysis
particle

58 Card game for
one

60 Singer Cara

61 Wilson of
"Marley & Me"

62 Anagram for
"nail"

63 They roll in

64 Notable events

65 Musher's
transport

DOWN

1 Tiny bit

2 Alda or Hale

3 Barbecue fare

4 Newspaper ad
unit

5 Saunter along

6 Woe is me!

7 Not a thing

8 Place in a crypt

9 Fictional mouse

10 Roman robe

11 Crossings

12 White-barked
tree

13 "The Morning
Show" actress

18 Muse of poetry

22 Bridge supports

24 Like Vulcans,
notably

26 Front of a ship

27 Oscar-winning
Malek

28 Picked from a
lineup

29 African antelope

30 Food, shelter,
etc.

32 Magazine
editions

34 Lascivious look

35 Tooth part

38 Diminutive dog

41 Fine furs

43 Cereal go-with

45 Holmes'
companion

47 Fold

48 Painter Matisse

50 Bridle parts

52 ___ of voice

53 Squandered

54 Clock face

55 Lake near
Niagara Falls

56 Mail or ship

59 "I ___ you one"

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

EMPLOYMENT

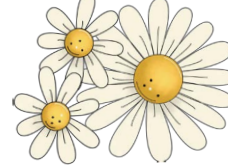
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CT10-9-25

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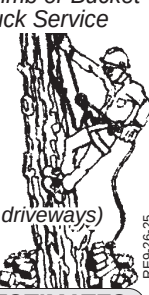
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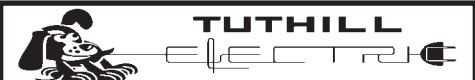
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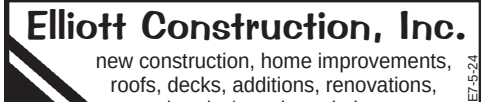
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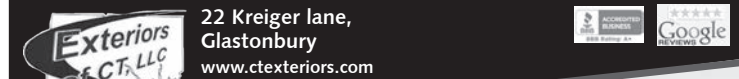
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ESTATE/TAG SALE: 93 and 97 Chestnut Hill Road on 18th October 2025 from Morning 9 am to afternoon 1 pm. Parking on Northview Drive only. Antiques, collectibles, housewares, kitchen items, toys, books and furniture.

ANIMAL SANCTUARY HARVEST FAIR: Ray of Light Farm, East Haddam, CT. Saturday 10/18, 5-9pm. Auctions, food, bar, S'mores fire pit. Rayoflightfarm.org for details. Also, tag sale, Saturday 10/25 10:30-1:30, rain or shine. Vendors see RayofLightFarm.org.

LARGE TAG SALE: Sat, 10/18, 8am-4pm. 85 Hog Hill Road, East Hampton. Gaming Electronics, board games, dishes, antiques, brand name clothing, designer handbags, baby items and more!

MOVING SALE: Oct 18th 10-3. 6 Pearl Lane, Rocky Hill. Furniture, small appliances, clothing, seasonal items. Something for everyone.

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.

TAG SALE: Sat, 10/18, 204 Hog Hill Road, East Hampton. 9am-3pm. Antiques, collectibles, tools, and much more.



TAG SALE: Saturday Oct 18th, 8:00-12:00, seasonal decor, Women's clothes, Christmas, knick knacks, 214 Star Drive, Rocky Hill.

TOOLS TOOLS TOOLS: selling yard sale, moving needs to go. Games, clothes, furniture, Tools, Festool, Bosch, Hitachi, Dewalt, Milwaukee. 214 Clearfield Rd, Wethersfield. Oct 18th 9a-3p.

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