Special Section of News & Letters Inside!

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RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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

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Hebron Festival Brings Memories and Moonlight

By Toriana Williams

On a warm autumn afternoon, part of Route 66 transformed into a glowing patchwork of laughter, color and creativity for Hebron's annual Harvest Moon Festival. The scent of kettle corn and freshly baked pizza drifted through the air as children in costume darted between scarecrow displays, parents browsed the rows of local artisan tents and live music echoed across the grounds.

Now in its ninth year, the festival – which was held last Saturday, Oct. 18 – has become a cherished seasonal tradition, hosted by the Town Center Project, Inc. – a nonprofit powered entirely by volunteers. Co-president Holly Habicht said the event's roots go back to one resident's determination to bring more "spunk" to Hebron life.

"One individual in 2017 decided that Hebron needed a little bit more spunk, if you will," Habicht explained. "We needed more things to do, more things to eat, more things to see. And she wrangled up a group of business people and civic-minded residents and they formed The Town Center Project."

That early collaboration led to a series of community events, from concerts to markets - but none quite captures Hebron's heart like the Harvest Moon Festival. This year's gathering drew around 2,000 people, according to Habicht.

"We were happy with the attendance," she said. "We felt that a lot of them were community members…which made us happy."

As the golden light of early evening fell across the festival, vendors welcomed visitors with everything from handcrafted pottery to mystical herbs and homegrown magic. Constance Duffy, owner of Ms. Duffy's Magick Workshop, said it was her first year participating. Her booth shimmered with bundles of dried mugwort and sachets filled with flowers and herbs – each made, she said, in a "really good mood" and "extra-charged with positivity."

One of the more popular booths at last weekend's Harvest Moon Festival in Hebron was Gravesteins, a display of pottery imprinted with designs from historic gravestones. Artist Jamie Fitzgerald of Hebron described her work as both a preservation of art and of history.

"I started looking at magical properties of different things that I already have in my yard, and then I started creating the mugwort sticks," Duffy said. "I love mugwort. … I incorporate other things from my yard with mugwort."

From sachets to fairy garden seed blends, Duffy's creations reflected her belief that each item carries intention and energy.

"When I make things, I make sure that I'm in a really good mood," she said. "I've got my iHeartRadio classic funk going, I got the jams. So everything is extra-charged with positivity and good things for you."

Nearby, festivalgoers lingered at another booth that caught nearly everyone's attention – Gravesteins, a display of pottery imprinted with designs from historic gravestones. Artist Jamie Fitzgerald of Hebron described her work as both a preservation of art and of history.

"These are handmade pottery pieces that are made with impressions of actual gravestones from graveyards from the local area," Fitzgerald said. "We make a clay impression of the gravestone carving, and then we handmake each individual piece of pottery from our impression that we make."

She said the project began from her fascination with the intricate designs found on old New England headstones.

"I just love the art, the carvings," Fitzgerald said. "And it's a nice way to preserve the art and also for history's sake."

The gravestone pottery line has quickly become one of her most talked-about collections, perfectly in tune with the festival's autumnal and slightly spooky atmosphere.

"There's a lot of cemetery enthusiasts," Fitzgerald added with a laugh. "So it's nice to get

See Hebron Festival, page 9

Rescued Horses Healing in East Hampton

By Anne Lilburn

A team of East Hampton volunteer horse rescuers is celebrating the progress of a group of horses that were rescued from a property in Willimantic in June.

The group of seven draft horses, a mule and two miniature donkeys have been recovering at Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue's farm in East Hampton.

Volunteer and farm manager Stacey Randall said she was there when the horses arrived.

"It was heartbreaking to say the least," she said. "The majority of their hoofs were in awful condition. They were cracked. They looked like flippers. They were severely overgrown. The weight on most of them was very bad. Their manes were disgusting and knotted. We had to shave a couple because they were so matted and they had lice."

Randall said that some of the injuries weren't just physical, but emotional, stemming from long periods of neglect. She described most of the horses as "checked out," and not trusting of humans.

The horses and donkeys were seized in June following a Windham Animal Control investigation resulting from a tip made by a concerned citizen in May. Willimantic police arrested the owners recently and charged them with 11 counts of animal cruelty, but the court case to determine the horses' custody has not yet been decided. If the court does grant custody to the town of Windham, the town would likely then grant custody to Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue, and the horses would then eventually be adopted out.

Randall said Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue was founded in 2011 by veterinarian Dr. Stacey Golub, following the rescue of a Clydesdale named Autumn from a slaughterhouse auction. Since then, Randall said the organization has rescued over 160 horses. Some are surrendered by owners who can no longer care for their animals, others are pulled from auction, and still others are seized by animal control authorities, who then turn to the rescue organization for help while court cases proceed.

"Our ultimate goal is to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome," said Randall.

Randall herself has been with the organization since nearly the beginning, joining in 2011 after her mom saw an ad in this paper mentioning that a new horse rescue was looking for volunteers. Randall said she's always been a horse person and grew up having horses, though she didn't have any of her own at the time. The job has since turned into a full-time volunteer role for her as the Farm Manager.

These days, the horses rescued in Willimantic are healing. They received comprehensive veterinary care immediately upon arriving at the farm, and they are thriving.

"They've all gained between 200 and just about 400 pounds," said Randall. "Their coats are nice and shiny. They've seen the farrier three times at this point, so they are really just living the dream now."

There have even been some surprises at the farm, she said.

"We ended up finding out the two mares that we rescued were pregnant," Randall said. "Judging by signs that we can see, we think

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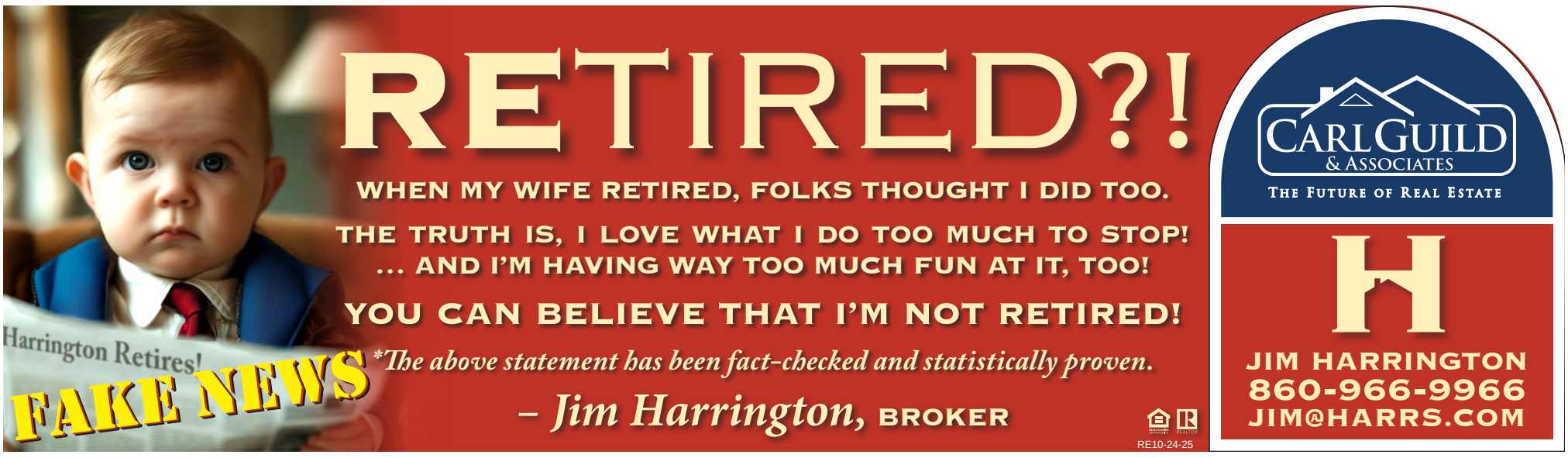

CPR and First Aid Class

All are invited to come learn CPR and first aid Sunday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Andover Volunteer Fire Department. Cost is $20 for CPR or CPR and First Aid.

Classes include use of training materials, CPR for Adult, Child and Infant, AED training, choking, first aid and 2 year certification from the American Heart Association.

Registration is required; ccontact Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074.

Storytime Schedule Change

This fall, Andover Public Library has changed the time and date for its Afternoon Storytime sessions with Library Friend Ellen Repay.

Repay's next session will be held Thursday, Oct. 30, at 3:10 p.m. For this gathering, she will both read a story about bats and do a fun craft related to the season. All are invited.

Lowering of the Lake

On Oct. 24, Andover Lake will begin lowering to its winter level. Go to www.andoverlake-ct.com to get information about membership and happenings at Andover Lake.

Townsend Cemetery Fall Clean-Up

Residents are asked to remove any personal items and decorations from the the Andover Townsend Cemetery prior to Saturday, Nov. 15.

All items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance to maintenance will be removed. These items include pots, shepherd hooks, glass objects, cans and any items in front of the stone. Please remove and take home any item you plan to use next season.

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.

Reflective Address Markers

All are invited to stop by the Andover Volunteer Fire Department at 11 School Rd. on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The fire department will offer reflective home address markers for free to Andover Residents. There is a $10 charge for non-residents.

The markers can help first responders find your home in the event of an emergency.

Congregational Church News

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

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

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

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

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

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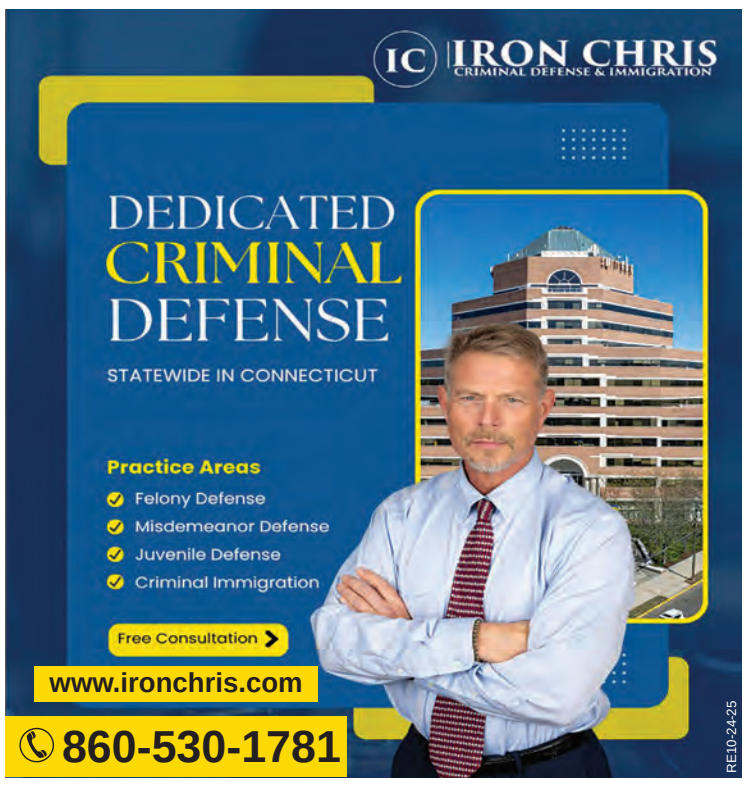

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Town Rehires Senior Center Director

By Toriana Williams

Tess Grous has been reinstated to her position as director of the Andover Community and Senior Center, following a legal dispute that challenged the Board of Selectmen's controversial April decision to terminate her employment.

Grous, who was hired in August 2024 under a two-year employment contract approved unanimously by the Board of Selectmen, filed an appeal and later a legal action alleging her termination violated town policy, her employment agreement and the Andover Town Charter.

The selectmen voted 3-2 at an April meeting to fire Grous. But, according to court documents filed Sept. 2, Grous contended that under her contract, the board needed a four-fifths vote – 80% of the full membership – to legally remove her, as required by the town charter.

"The board voted to terminate the agreement by a vote of 3-2," the lawsuit states. "A 3-2 vote only represents two-thirds (66.6%) vote, which clearly shows that the board did not obtain the required 80% vote in order to terminate the agreement."

The lawsuit also alleges that the board failed to follow proper disciplinary procedures outlined in the town's Personnel Policy Handbook, which requires that employees be notified of any unsatisfactory performance and given a chance to improve before termination.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson, who supervised Grous, had given her a positive performance review in December 2024. The evaluation described her work in setting up programming and procedures at the newly opened Community and Senior Center as "excellent" in several categories and "good" or "satisfactory" in others. Anderson wrote that he was "very satisfied in [her] performance and look[ed] forward to great things in the future."

Grous Fired in April

Despite Anderson's positive review, the Board of Selectmen voted in April to end her contract after less than a year in the role. The motion was made by Republican selectman Carol Lee and seconded by Democrat Anne Cremè. It ultimately passed 3-2, with Lee, Cremè and Republican Jeffrey Murray voting in favor, and First Selectman Jeff Maguire and selectman Scott Person, both Democrats, voting against.

Meeting minutes show that Grous' dismissal came after a series of closed-door discussions that began in February, when she asked the board to clarify the "probationary period" referenced in her January 2025 contract extension. The town's personnel policies mention a six-month probation for at-will employees, but Grous was not at-will – she had a written employment contract that specified a two-year term ending June 30, 2026.

On April 17, one week before she was fired, the Board of Selectmen went into executive session – a private meeting – to review Grous' job performance. But, according to the statement of facts filed with the appeal, Grous was not informed that the executive session would function as a hearing, nor was she notified of any specific charges or given an opportunity to bring witnesses or defend herself.

"She was not afforded any due process rights," the filing states.

A special meeting was later called for April 24 that included an agenda item to potentially take action on Grous' contract. The *Rivereast* reported that Grous opted for the discussion to take place publicly, and declared, "I have nothing to hide."

However, deliberations lasted only minutes, and the board swiftly proceeded to a vote on the director's future in Andover.

The night of her firing, several residents spoke out in opposition. Meeting records show that members of the public were "speechless," "disgusted," "disappointed," and "appalled" by the board's actions.

Cathy Desrosiers, a longtime volunteer, said during public comment that she hoped those who voted in favor of termination "have good grounds," warning that the decision put the town "in a bad spot after starting to move forward."

Louise Goodwin, another resident, called the decision "appalling" and questioned the town's next steps, noting that Grous "did not even get 14 months in the position that started with nothing."

The Commission on Aging also voiced support for Grous, calling her leadership and staff "highly supportive" and expressing concern about a "lack of support for needed software to run the Community and Senior Center."

Firing Appealed in July

In July, Grous' attorney, John Q. Gale, formally appealed the firing in a letter to the Board of Selectmen. The letter argued that the April 24 vote failed to meet the charter's supermajority requirement and that Grous had not been given the procedural rights guaranteed to contracted employees.

Under Andover's Personnel Policy Handbook, an employee "may appeal a suspension without pay, demotion, and/or discharge to the Board of Selectmen," which must hear the appeal at its next scheduled meeting or another agreed time.

The September 2025 filing reiterated those claims, describing the board's actions as a "breach of contract and a taking of a property right without due process." It cited both state law and federal precedent, including *Cleveland Board of Education v. Loudermill* (1985), a U.S. Supreme Court case affirming public employees' right to a hearing before termination.

In the months following the filing, the town and Grous reportedly reached a settlement leading to her reinstatement as director. Details of that agreement were not made public, and the town has not released a statement regarding the outcome.

Grous – who declined to comment for this story – returned to her role in early September, according to Anderson. He opted not to comment further on the matter, referring all questions to the selectmen.

Efforts to reach Lee, who made the original motion to terminate Grous' contract, were unsuccessful. However, Maguire told the *Rivereast* her firing had been mishandled, and that the members of the board who voted to terminate the contract "did not do their diligence."

"It was not handled properly by members of the Board of Selectmen," said Maguire, who confirmed that, in addition to being reinstated, Grous was also awarded back pay. "And the way to rectify the improper handling of the situation was to offer Tess back her position."

Maguire said he hoped the town could learn from the episode.

"My hope is that we work all together, because I will tell you this in the nicest way possible … chaos destroys organizations," he said.

Maguire linked the controversy to broader internal issues on the board.

"What was occurring and what has occurred on our board since [former selectman] Paula King resigned was a level of chaos that causes problems," he said, and added, "When the community puts their trust in people, and those people have an agenda that is not necessarily in the best interests of the town, chaos ensues. And when chaos and drama are part of an organization, the organization can never perform properly."

Maguire pointed to Town Administrator Eric Anderson's recent resignation as part of the town's ongoing instability. "That is just continuing the chaos," Maguire said.

According to Maguire, the Grous situation came at some financial cost to the town.

"It … cost the town some of the amount of money that we had to pay Tess back for back wages, and for the money that we had to incur to employ new people," he said. Maguire said he was unsure of the total amount.

"Hopefully we've learned a lesson, and we do things better, and we all work together to get the best result for the entire community," he added.

This incident has drawn renewed attention to how Andover manages contracted municipal employees – a small but significant category in town government. The town charter distinguishes such positions from "at-will" roles, stating that employees under written contract are not subject to ordinary board oversight or the standard probationary policy.

Grous' case, her attorney argued, illustrates why those rules matter.

"The board was under a duty to abide by the charter, handbook, the agreement and the law," the filing concluded. "Instead, [it] chose to act outside of the scope of each and ignore the proper procedure to terminate an employee under a written contract."

Her reinstatement closes a contentious chapter for the small town but raises questions about governance and transparency that may persist well into the next budget cycle.

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.

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

Upcoming Events: Transportation available for all programs. For full event descriptions, call the senior center or see the online newsletter. **Chair Yoga with Haley:** Monday, Oct. 27, 10-11 a.m. **Food Pantry Transportation:** Monday, Oct. 27, 5 p.m., and Wednesday, Oct. 29, 8 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/Setback:** Monday, Oct. 27, 11 a.m.; **Shopping Trips:** Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. – Manchester on 10/28.

Homework Club: Tuesdays, 3-4:30 p.m., for students in grades 6-10.

Knitting: Wednesday, Oct. 29, 10:30 a.m.

Lunch: Wednesdays, Nov. 12 and 26, noon. Cost is $5. **Bingo/Lunch:** Wednesdays, Oct. 29 and Nov. 19, noon. Free. **Birthday Bingo/Lunch:** Wednesday, Nov. 5, noon. Free.

Chair Massage with Linda: Wednesdays, Nov. 15 and 19; 30-minute appointments are available from 3:30–5:30 p.m., cost is $32, call Linda Derick to sign up at 860-655-4409.

Open Sew & Stitch: Thursday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. **Chess and Checkers Club:** Thursday, Oct. 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: Friday, Oct. 31, 10-11 a.m. For more information, contact Haley Proto at 203-645-4933.

Coffee & Crafts: Friday, Oct. 24, 12:30 p.m. Sign-up required.

Art Display: Kim Desrosiers is the October Artist of the Month.

Travel In Time Club: Call Grous to participate or for more information.

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.

PAL Program: People Across Lifetimes: This intergenerational pen pal program will resume soon. Call Grous for more details.

Autumn Afternoon Tea

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold an Autumn Afternoon Tea Saturday, Nov. 1, from 1-3 p.m.

The tea will include an assortment of teas, a basket raffle and homemade delicacies. Admission is $10.

For more information, call the church at 860-742-7696.

Halloween Fun Day

The Andover Recreation Commission will hold its annual Halloween Fun Day rain or shine Saturday, Oct. 25, at 1 p.m., indoors and outdoors at the Community & Senior Center.

All are invited for pumpkin-decorating and other fun inside activities. Outdoors, compete for prizes by creating a Halloween table display (scary, funny, fall-themed etc.) for this year's decorating contest (bring your own supplies). Call/text Annmarie Daigle(860-983-7442) to reserve a spot.

All candy, snacks, etc. are pre-bagged and distributed by Andover Recreation Commission members. Members of the Andover Fire Department and the resident state trooper will also distribute treats.

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RE10-24-25

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

We're in the home stretch now, folks. Election Day is a little over a week away. In about a fortnight – I've been listening to a lot of Taylor Swift lately – it'll all be over (well, unless there are recounts).

Next week's issue, the Oct. 31 edition, is the last *Rivereast* before Election Day. That means two things: one, it's an early deadline for letters once again. **All** letters to the editor **must** be received by **noon Monday, Oct. 27**, for inclusion in next week's *Rivereast*. No exceptions will be made – so don't lose track of the time! Letters can be sent by email to bulletin@glcitizen.com.

Okay, that's thing number one. Now for thing number two. As next week is the last week before Election Day, all political letters must be **endorsements only**, or otherwise positive in nature. No letters attacking or criticizing candidates will be accepted. This was the last week for anything negative, so I hope you all got it out of your systems.

Why do I do this, you may ask? It's all about keeping things fair. If anything negative about a candidate were included in next week's letters, the candidate wouldn't have time to respond before Election Day. You've had the past several weeks, if not months, to get in your attacks. Next week is all about positivity.

So, to recap: All letters for next week must be submitted by noon Monday, and they all must be positive in nature.

* * *

There will be a paper shredding event coming up in Hebron next month, on Nov. 15. The event is for Hebron, Andover and Marlborough residents only – so half of *Rivereast*-land.

But what if you can't wait – you need to get some documents shredded right the frick now? Or what if you live in the other half of *Rivereast*-land (or Colchester, East Hampton and Portland)? Well, you're in luck.

Nicola, Yester & Company will have its annual paper shredding event Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m.-noon, at 223 Eastern Boulevard, Glastonbury.

This is an opportunity for you to clean out sensitive documentation and have it securely destroyed on site. You may bring unlimited paper, file folders, notepads, envelopes, etc. No need to remove staples, paperclips, or rubber bands. No plastic bags or plastic files can be shred. Boxes go back with you.

Donations for the local Peter P. Monaco Detachment Marine Corps League will be accepted. One hundred percent of the donations go directly towards benefiting veterans. For directions, record retention dates or more information, visit www.nicola-yester.com or call Laura at 860-430-4313. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

* * *

If you're somehow not in the Halloween spirit yet – well, it's only a week away, people; you might want to do something about that. Fortunately, there's an event coming up tomorrow in nearby East Haddam that may help.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, from 1-3 p.m., join the Palmer-Warner House, a Connecticut Landmarks museum, for "Following Death: Cemetery Walk & Talk." Explore the burial customs, traditions, and superstitions around death in the region from colonial times through the 19th century during a presentation led by Dean Massey, an urban planning researcher at Northeastern University.

Following Massey's talk, a short walk to the Warner Cemetery will offer participants the opportunity to examine epitaphs and iconography, as well as engage in a discussion about the rich diversity of New England's remembrance practices.

Massey led "Following Death" last year and was also part of the Palmer-Warner House's "Queer Independence Discussion Panel" in June. Massey lives in Providence, R.I., but grew up in Connecticut, studied at Connecticut College, and worked at the Connecticut General Assembly.

Tickets for "Following Death: Cemetery Walk & Talk" are $10 per person or $5 per Connecticut Landmarks Member. Purchase tickets at ctlandmarks.org/followingdeath.

Tours of the Palmer-Warner House will also be available during the event, between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., with the last tour starting at 3 p.m.

The Palmer-Warner House has quite the storied history. It was built by John and Mehitable (Chapman Richardson) Warner in 1738. Later generations of the Warner family would become blacksmiths, and many of their pieces were collected by previous resident Frederic Palmer and can be seen throughout the house today.

A visit to the site includes a behind-the-scenes tour in which guests can learn about the collection of personal diaries and photos used to reconstruct the lives of Frederic Palmer and Howard Metzger, providing an opportunity to discuss society's impact on the thoughts and actions of the house's former residents.

Tour tickets for Oct. 25 cost $16 per person; $12 per senior, student, or teacher; $5 per child age 6-18; and free for Connecticut Landmarks members as well as children under 6. Tickets may be purchased at www.ctlandmarks.org/palmer.

* * *

See you next week – and don't forget: positive letters only!

Junior Detectives… **Members of Colchester Girl Scout Troop 63048 had some special guests at their recent meeting as they worked toward earning their Junior Detective Badge. State Trooper Frank Cuoco, School Resource Officer John Zavalick, and K9 Officer Floss gave the girls an inside look at police work — demonstrating how officers use special tools, dust for fingerprints, and rely on K9 partners in the field. The highlight of the evening was watching Officer Floss expertly sniff out hidden electronic devices placed around the room. Pictured from left are scouts Emmy Parker, Kenzley Banks, Charlotte Chapman, Ella Wozniak, Mackenzie Jahns, Mikayla Ames, Lorelai LaBarre, Mackenzie Ackley, Caroline Cote, Everly Garon.**

Bulletin Board

My wife was doing the daily crossword puzzle the other day as we sat around in the family room. The television was on with one of those "actors pretending to be doctors saving the unsavable" shows playing, but neither of us was paying much attention.

"What's the French word for cake?" she asked.

"How many letters?" I replied.

"Six."

"Hmmm. Do you have any letters?"

"No," she said. "All blanks."

She waited expectantly.

"I have no idea," I said.

"You have no idea." It was more of a resigned acknowledgement of the obvious than a question, but I responded anyway.

"Nope. No clue."

"You took French in school for ten years and you don't know the word for cake?"

"No idea."

"Geez," she said.

"It probably never came up in class," I said defensively. "We were mostly learning how to say stuff like, 'my name is so and so' and 'what time is it?' and stuff like that."

"I see," she said, but she really didn't. She was just being polite.

"I was Jacques," I added. "That was my French name. Jacques."

"Jock," she said

"No, not Jock. You make it sound like I was named after an athletic supporter. It's Jaaa-ques."

"Right," she said. "Jaaaques. Unfortunately, what I need at the moment is the French word for cake. Not jock."

"Six letters?

"Yes."

"It might have a C in it," I suggested helpfully. "Like maybe cauque." I pronounced it "caw-quay" like I supposed a French person might.

"Caw-quay," she said. "Right. Sure. I don't even speak French and even I know that's just a made up word. Sounds more like a crow with something stuck in its throat. "(Like it's my fault the French talk funny.) She turned back to her puzzle. "Hey, if you don't know, you don't know. I'll figure it out."

"I know how to say #&*@ in French," I said.

"Uh huh," she replied.

"Really," I said, preening a little.

She looked up from the puzzle and frowned. "Let me get this straight," she said. "People spend years trying to teach you a foreign language and you emerge from the academic pipeline congratulating yourself for knowing the French word for #&*@?"

"Yup," I said modestly. "Want to hear it?"

She shook her head. "Not particularly."

"In that case, is there anything else I can help you with?" I inquired. "Maybe a word that's not in a foreign language? Like cat?"

"No, I'm good," she replied, dismissing me.

There was a brief pause while someone on the television underwent an emergency lung transplant as an orchestra played dramatic music from somewhere off screen. The process seemed to involve a lot of violins, which I guess was more appropriate than polka music or something under the circumstances.

"Okay," I said as the lung transplant finally concluded. "The French word for cake is 'gâteau.' And there's this little roof thingy over the a."

"Ah! You remembered! I knew you would. You're my hero."

"It just popped into my head," I said modestly, as befits a hero.

Actually, I'd quietly Googled it on my phone, but she didn't need to know that. As the French like to say, "Que sera sera."

Or maybe it's the Italians. Or the Dutch.

Whatever.

Jim Hallas

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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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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Town Admin Resigns Amid Board 'Chaos'

By Toriana Williams

Town Administrator Eric Anderson has confirmed that he will be resigning from his position in Andover to accept a new role as town manager in Dalton, Mass.

Anderson, who has served Andover since 2019, cited growing difficulties with the Board of Selectmen as a significant factor in his decision to leave.

Anderson submitted his formal resignation on Oct. 15 and stated that the Board of Selectmen is expected to meet soon to discuss the matter.

"As far as I understand, they have a meeting scheduled for [Oct. 24] to discuss [the resignation] and potentially come to a resolution on an interim town manager," he said.

He added that the decision on how to act will ultimately rest with the board.

"That is up to the Board of Selectmen how they want to proceed, but certainly, I would recommend that they hire an interim director," he said.

When asked what led to his departure, Anderson acknowledged ongoing difficulties with the town's leadership.

"The Board of Selectmen has been difficult to deal with for a while," he shared. "That's a strong part of the reason why I'm leaving."

He described the source of that difficulty as stemming from personnel changes within the board itself – upheaval that dates back more than a year.

In August 2024, Republican selectman Paula King submitted her resignation, leaving the board with only four members, and just one Republican. Her departure led to a protracted process of finding a replacement, as selectmen just could not agree on who should fill the role. The months-long stalemate finally ended this past April, when Republican Carol Lee, Andover's longtime town clerk, was sworn in to fill King's seat.

Anderson could not offer specific solutions for improving the board's working relationship.

"If I thought that they could fix it, I would have stayed," he said.

Despite the challenges, Anderson reflected positively on his time in Andover and highlighted several accomplishments during his time as town administrator.

"Mostly it's been good," he said. "I've enjoyed my tenure here, and I feel like I accomplished a lot for the town."

As examples of those accomplishments, Anderson pointed to a series of successful infrastructure and community projects completed or underway.

"We've been very successful in getting grant funding to finish off a lot of the projects that the town really wanted," Anderson said. "We got a community center built. We had a really good [Department of Transportation] connectivity grant series of projects that worked very well for the town. We got the replacement of the Bunker Hill Bridge fully funded, and that is being replaced right now and should be done around December 1. We have the Long Hill Bridge scheduled for replacement starting in April."

He also noted that additional grant funding has been secured for other ongoing town projects.

When asked about broader challenges, Anderson said that issues between the town's various boards have been an obstacle.

"The boards are not working very well together," he said. "That's been problematic."

Andererson concluded by expressing goodwill toward his successor. "I wish whoever succeeds me the best of luck with the town," he said. "I hope it goes well."

Anderson's departure comes during what some town officials describe as a period of disorder within Andover's leadership. First Selectman Jeff Maguire acknowledged that the board has been struggling with internal conflict in recent months.

In a previous interview, Maguire said, "Chaos destroys organizations. And what was occurring and what has occurred on our board since Paula King has resigned was a level of chaos that causes problems."

Maguire's remarks were made in the context of another issue that plagued the town recently – the controversial firing of the town's senior center director, Tess Grous, which was followed by a lawsuit and her eventual reinstatement. Still, Maguire drew a clear connection between that situation and the overall tension among board members.

"Hopefully we've learned a lesson [from the Grous situation] and we do things better and we all work together to get the best result for the entire community," he said.

Maguire also referenced Anderson's resignation directly, calling it part of the ongoing turmoil. "That is just continuing the chaos," he said.

While the Board of Selectmen will most likely soon determine who will lead Andover in the interim, Anderson's move to Massachusetts marks the end of an era that saw notable development projects completed and others positioned for success. His comments suggest both pride in what he accomplished – and concern for the future of the town he is leaving behind.

Tri-County American Legion Baseball

Registration is open for those interested in being considered for one of the Tri-County American Legion baseball program's 2026 summer teams.

Deadline to register is Nov. 15.

Serious players who will be between the ages of 12-19 in 2026 – and who have a parent residing in Andover, Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Lebanon and Marlborough – are eligible. This includes Little League players born before Sept. 1, 2014, who could join one of the teams after their 12U season is complete.

Depending on interest, Tri-County can again form teams at all four levels of American Legion (19U, 17U, 15U and 13U), as well as teams to compete in Babe Ruth (13U-16U).

Interested players should register at www.tclegion.com or contact GM Len Lampugnale at Lampugnale@comcast.net or at 860-295-0437 for more information.

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RE4-21-23

Senior captain Cristina Austin scored three goals during the Highlanders 3-2 victory over Plainville on Seniors Night. Pictured are Highlanders seniors (from left) Allison Tine, Cate Stone, Austin, Gracie DeRing, Emelia Rowland, Kiley Scott, and Elizabeth Hanna, along with head coach Cory Tobler.

Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standout Athletes of the Week for the week of Oct. 19 – 26:

Cristina Austin – Portland High School (Soccer): Austin, a senior captain, netted a hat trick as the Highlanders beat Plainville during the team's Senior Night on Oct. 15. Austin was one of seven Class of 2026 players – joining Gracie DeRing, Elizabeth Hanna, Cate Stone, Kiley Scott, Emelia Rowland, and Allison Tine – that were honored prior to the contest at PHS. Scott also helped with the scoring output, dishing out an assist on the special night. The win improved the Highlanders to 7-3-3 this fall.

Troy Johnson – Bacon Academy (Soccer): Johnson scored a pair of goals as the Bobcats dealt Windham a 4-1 defeat on Oct. 15. Johnson, a senior captain, has been the sizzle for a Bacon Academy offense that has scored three or more goals in two of the last three contests and ended the regular season with a record of 6-6-4.

Giuliana McLaughlin – RHAM High School (Soccer): McLaughlin, a freshman, helped power the Raptors to three wins last week as the team downed Windsor, E.O. Smith and Manchester in consecutive games. McLaughlin, a freshman, scored four goals and added two assists in the three contests and, in the win over E.O. Smith on Oct. 15, McLaughlin scored the lone goal in a 1-0 victory as the team qualified for the state tournament. RHAM wrapped up the regular season with an overall record of 7-8-1.

Liv Correia – East Hampton High School (Soccer): Correia scored a pair of goals as the Bellringers closed out an undefeated regular season with a 4-1 victory over Ellington on Oct. 18. Correia, a junior, ignited an East Hampton offense that also got a goal from Addison Perkins and assists from Abby Hambridge, Ava Ploszay, and Giuliana DonAroma. The win wrapped up a 13-0-2 regular season for the Bellringers, who outscored the opposition by a combined score of 59-9 and held eight teams scoreless the during the 15 games.

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

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RE6-18-21

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RE10-24-25

The Marlborough Lions recently spruced up the scoreboard at the West Road Ball Field. Pictured with the revamped signage are, from left, Lions Jean Paul Bolduc, Tom Reiser and Douglas Zybrands.

West Road Ball Field Gets Facelift

Back in July, Marlborough Lions Club member, Jean Paul Bolduc, watched a game at the West Road Ball Field where his two grandsons were playing. It was the first time Bolduc had been at the field, in spite of living in town for 46 years.

As he watched his grandkids on the field, the distant scoreboard caught his eye. The scoreboard was weathered and dingy. It was at that moment he decided to initiate a project on behalf of the Marlborough Lions Club. He enlisted the aid of fellow Lions Tom Reiser and John Glynn to commence the project. Along with the assistance of Lions Ken Hjulstorm and Douglas Zybrands, who helped Bolduc erect scaffolding, they took on the task of preparing the scoreboard's surface for a fresh coat of paint.

Bolduc removed the top section, which had a large amount of detailed lettering, and took it back to his garage where he painstakingly hand-painted the lettering on the sign. The rest of the sign was repainted from the scaffold.

The work was performed around the schedule of activities at the field and also had to take into account the weather, but it was finally completed. After nearly 150 hours of work, the sign now glistens with a fresh coat of paint and new lettering.

With its new paint job and bright new lettering, it is hoped that the scoreboard will continue to serve the community for many years to come, the Lions said.

Fall Church Tag Sale

The annual fall tag sale at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., will be held Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Community Fellowship Hall will be filled with a selection of household and seasonal items, linens, vintage, toys and games, collectibles, framed artwork, electronics, small appliances, clothing, furniture, and more. Shoppers are asked to make a generous donation, as almost everything is price-your-own.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located down the hall from the tag sale, will be open that day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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.

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 MWPCA.

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

For more information, call the Tax Office at 860-295-6205 or email

Taxcollector@marlboroughct.gov. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the usage fee or interest.

New Watercolor Classes at Arts Center

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

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

The second class, Watercolor and Illustration, will be held also on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This class is designed for adults with an understanding of basic watercolor techniques and will focus on building skills to accomplish a completed painting. Using graphic illustration, anemones in a vase will provide a fun way to learn to paint with the tip of a brush.

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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 redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Cemetery Clean-Up

The annual cemetery fall clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 8, at Marlboro Cemetery. Volunteers are invited to participate and are asked to meet at 9 a.m.

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

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RE9-26-25

Marlborough Lions' Masquerade 5K

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

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

The entry fee is $30 per runner for pre-registration and $35 on the day of the race. Shirts will be provided to those who pre-register by Oct. 13, with additional shirts being available on race day subject to availability. There is also a $60 package price ($65 on the day of the race) for families of up to four (immediate family members only) participating in the race. Same-day registrations are accepted. Runners will start near the entrance to Blish Park on Park Road and will proceed on a course which circles Lake Terramuggas.

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

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.marlcongchurch.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@marlcongchurch.org for more information.

Oct. 26: The service with feature Joyful Blue Bluegrass Band, who will lead parishioners in handclapping, sing-along music. The service will be led by Worship Assistant Gwen Lawson, while Seaver visits with children downstairs in Sunday School. Also featured will be the annual Sunday School costume parade where Sunday School children will march around the sanctuary to Halloween inspired music. Adults are welcome to participate in the parade and to dress for the occasion. Homemade cookies will be sold in the lounge after worship for $5 per dozen.

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

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

Annual Fall Tag Sale: Will be held rain or shine Saturday, Nov. 1, with both the tag sale and Second Blessings thrift shop open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Great Hall is overflowing with clothing, antiques and collectibles, tools, furniture, seasonal items, housewares, linens, toys and games, electronics, and more.

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.

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@marlcongchurch.org, or contact the church office at office@marlcongchurch.org.

The musical group Eclectica will perform at the next 4th Friday @ the Arts Café concert at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., tonight, Oct. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

4th Friday @ the Arts Café

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., is hosting the musical group Eclectica for the 4th Friday @ the Arts Café series on Friday, Oct. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Eclectica is a group of four professional women who perform original arrangements of music from the Middle Ages to the present day on an eclectic variety of instruments, including recorders, harp, violin, viola da gamba, hammered dulcimer, and others.

The musicians of Eclectica are Kasha Breau, Carrie Crompton, Monika Kinstler and Deborah Robin. To learn more, be sure to visit Eclectica's Facebook page.

Admission to the 4th Friday concert is subsidized by a grant from the Marlborough Greater Together Community Fund of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Doors open at 7 p.m. Bring your own wine and nibbles to dine on. Other non-alcoholic beverages are available. There is on-site parking, and the Marlborough Arts Center is fully accessible.

Visit www.marlborougharts.org for more information.

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.

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RE10-17-25

Democratic Candidates Share Goals, Experience

By Toriana Williams

As Marlborough 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 Education. A mix of incumbents and newcomers, the candidates recently talked to the *Rivereast* about their goals and hopes for the town, and also touted their own experience.

Board of Selectmen Candidates

Susan McFarland, who is running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen, said that community service has always been an important part of her life. She explained that she has volunteered for many organizations, including the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, local sports leagues and the Marlborough Zoning Commission.

"I've donated my time and experience to help raise money for causes I believe in and to give back to my community," McFarland said.

With her recent retirement, McFarland said she felt it was the perfect opportunity to put her management experience to work for the town.

"Service is rewarding, and with my recent retirement, I decided it was the perfect time to volunteer my management skills and experience to our town by running for the Board of Selectmen," she shared.

McFarland pointed to her decades of management experience as key preparation for the role.

"I managed both domestic and international teams and programs throughout my career and worked with people from every department and area of expertise," she said.

She added that working across large organizations taught her that every participant brings something valuable to the table – a lesson she said applies equally to local government.

"I think the same is true in our town – we need to listen to different perspectives in order to find the best solutions for our seniors, families, students and businesses alike."

If elected, McFarland said her main focus would be on fiscal efficiency and maintaining services residents depend on.

"I was taught to spend every dollar wisely, so my main goal will be to manage our town operations as efficiently as possible to keep taxes affordable while ensuring our neighbors get the services they have come to expect," she said. She also highlighted the importance of economic growth, strong schools and protecting the town's natural spaces, noting that all three are important to her.

McFarland said she hopes more residents will become involved in town service. "Serving on a local Board or Commission is a unique way to be of service to your community," she explained. "I wish more people would get involved because I believe more voices and input will bring the best outcome for Marlborough."

Anthony Bratz, another candidate for the Board of Selectmen, said his decision to run for the board was motivated by the need for broader representation and more transparency in town government. He said the current board's average age of 77 leaves a gap in perspective for younger residents.

"I believe the board needs representation for younger families," Bratz said, adding that "the current perspective doesn't fully capture the challenges that younger residents face."

He also said that, as a taxpayer, he wants a better understanding of how town funds are spent and to have a say in the budgeting process.

Bratz compared municipal finances to managing a household. "The town, like any family, operates on a fixed budget, and we must carefully weigh needs versus wants to fund our priorities," he said.

Professionally, Bratz is a mechanical engineer who oversees more than 20 multi-million-dollar contracts. He said this work has given him experience in managing complex projects, budgets and personnel. He described himself as comfortable with "necessary confrontation" and willing to challenge unsound proposals when needed.

If elected, Bratz said his priorities would include managing major upcoming projects – such as renovations at Marlborough Elementary School, RHAM and Fire Station 1 – while ensuring fair financing. He spoke on how he would prioritize town audits to secure favorable bonding and distribute long-term costs equitably.

Another major focus for Bratz would be increasing public access to town government. He said that 7 p.m. meetings on weekdays are difficult for many residents to attend and proposed making meeting minutes more detailed and informative so people can stay up to date without watching full recordings.

"An informed community is a strong community," Bratz said.

Bratz added that he wants voters to support him based on his ideas and qualifications rather than party affiliation.

"I want to be clear that I am seeking votes based on my ideas, experience and merit, not simply my party affiliation," he said. Bratz also encouraged residents to meet the Democratic slate at upcoming "Coffee with the Candidates" events on Oct. 26, Nov. 1 and Nov. 2 at 9 a.m. at the Marlborough Bakery & Café.

Board of Education Candidates

Raymond Morris, who currently serves as chairperson of the Board, is seeking another term on the Board of Education for Marlborough, and he said his motivation to run stems from a lifelong connection to teaching and public service.

He explained that he comes from a family of educators and that he previously taught high school English before becoming a psychiatrist.

"My grandmother taught elementary school math for 30 years, my parents met while teaching and my sister has taught for 25 years," explained Morris.

He shared that his two daughters' positive experiences at Marlborough Elementary School inspired him to get more involved. After a seat on the board opened a few years ago, he applied and was appointed unanimously by the Board of Selectmen.

"Being on the BOE therefore allows me to fuse my love of schools, teaching and learning with giving back to my community," he said.

Morris said both his background as a teacher and his professional work as a psychiatrist prepare him for the role. He described his leadership approach as objective and deliberative, emphasizing listening and critical thinking.

"Every day I listen objectively to all sides before making a decision," he said. "I seek to make sure all viewpoints are heard before decisions are made and votes cast."

Looking ahead, Morris said one of the board's top priorities will be replacing the school's roof and HVAC system, a costly project he hopes to manage efficiently. He said he aims to maintain MES's strong academic performance while keeping costs manageable for residents.

"I believe in a quality education for all students at a tax rate that all citizens, especially those on a fixed income, can afford," he said.

William "Bill" Guzman, also running for the Board of Education, said he views strong schools as the cornerstone of a connected community.

"I believe that strong, well-supported schools are the foundation of a vibrant and connected town," he shared. He added that he wants decisions on the board to be "guided by transparency and fiscal responsibility."

Guzman has more than 30 years of experience as an educator and administrator in Connecticut, along with degrees in law, education and business. He said this combination of backgrounds prepares him well for policy and financial oversight. His goals include providing high-quality educational opportunities, ensuring responsible budgeting and promoting inclusivity so that "every child has access to opportunities that will help them achieve their full potential."

Democratic candidates **Linda Earley** and **Pamela Farrington** were unable to be reached for comment; however, both still remain on the ballot.

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.

Safe Sitter – Grades 6-8: Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. The instructor-led class is filled with games and role-playing exercises. Students will also use manikins to practice rescue skills like choking rescue. Registration fee is $140/resident, $145/non-resident.

Safe at Home – Grades 4-6: Wednesday, Nov. 19, 5-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Participants will learn skills to prepare them to be safe when home alone. Registration fee is $65/resident, $70/non-resident.

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

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

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

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

Adult Drop-In Basketball: Sundays, 8-10 a.m., at the Marlborough Elementary School community room. Registration fee is $5 per week. Session begins Nov. 2.

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

Voting Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On Election Day, Nov. 4, voters should go to their regular polling location, Marlborough Elementary School. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. To check your voter registration, visit the secretary of the state's website or call the registrars of voters at 860-295-6166.

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

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

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

Next, cast your vote using the absentee ballot.

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

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

New Grief Share Session Underway

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

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

Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. There is a $20 one-time registration fee, which includes the workbook. You will get the workbook at the first session. If you have already paid the $20 registration fee from the previous Grief Share program, you will not need to pay again.

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

Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

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

Are You Listening?: Thursday, Nov. 13, 11 a.m.-noon. This free, humorous, active listening workshop will be presented by longtime college professional Waldemar "Wally" Kostrzewa.

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:** Free 15-minute massages are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Appointments required.

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

Birthday Club: Tuesday, Oct. 28, 1-2 p.m., with cake. It does not have to be your birthday month to celebrate. However, if it is, please RSVP.

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

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

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

Sweet Picks – Free Bakery Items: Mondays and Tuesdays between 8:30 and 9 a.m., local grocery stores 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.

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

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 blankie.

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.

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.stjfchurch.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marlborough Lions Club members Tom Reiser, Jean Paul Bolduc and John Glynn are shown performing a vision screening at Marlborough Elementary School. This year's screening was held Oct. 14.

Lions Provide Vision Screening at MES

The Marlborough Lions Club recently provided free vision screening for Marlborough children at the Elmer Thienes Mary Hall School on Oct. 14. Over 163 children were screened. The screening is non-invasive and does not require any eye drops. The procedure uses a photographic process from a distance of three feet to detect any anomalies.

The screening is performed to detect early indications of far and near sightedness, astigmatism, anisometropia, strabismus, ambliopia and anisocoria. If an issue is detected, the school nurse is informed so that the parents can be advised to seek further evaluation.

The vision screening camera and printer cost approximately $8,000 and it has been used frequently for vision screening in Marlborough and in other area communities and day care facilities.

For more information regarding vision screening, call Lions Club member John Glynn at 860-989-0939.

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A handmade stick of mugwort burns beside candles and a glass ball, embracing the spirit of "magick" at Hebron's Harvest Moon Festival.

★ ***Hebron Festival cont. from page 1***

to talk to people about just why they like cemeteries and the art of it all."

For those not selling or crafting, the Harvest Moon Festival offered the simple joy of togetherness. Kylie Jeter of Colchester and her friend Megan Aldridge of Marlborough attended with their families, excited to soak up the community spirit.

"It's a great event for children," Jeter said, as her two kids ran around excitedly.

Aldridge, who works for AHM Youth and Family services, said events like this are vital for small towns. "I think that it really brings the community together," she said. "You can see friends and family and have a great time."

They planned to visit the AHM art show later that day and explore more of the vendors. "We only made it through the food so far," Jeter laughed, "but there is a great variety of food this year."

Food trucks like Hungry Lion and Rustic Streats are regular fixtures, Habicht noted, and each brings its own following. "People actually come to the event for them," she said. "They change up their menu to fit the theme of the event that we're having, and they're with us at every event."

From day into night, the festival pulsed with energy- glowing pumpkins, laughter and the rhythmic hum of live music weaving through the grounds. Spooky decorations added to the atmosphere- so spooky they nearly scared this brave reporter off the job. While this year's turnout was slightly smaller than in previous years, Habicht said the heart of the event remained strong.

"Five people organized the Harvest Moon Festival," she said proudly. "And it is amazing – the dedication that our team has."

Proceeds from the festival, she explained, go directly back into the community through The Town Center Project's various initiatives.

"We host the summer concert series in town. We do Make Music Day [and] the Maple Festival," Habicht said. "One hundred percent of any proceeds that we make at any of our events goes right back into our community. Nobody gets paid. … Heck, we don't even feed ourselves!"

Looking ahead, Habicht said residents can look forward to more seasonal favorites, including the Hebron Community Chorus concert on Nov. 15 at St. Peter's and the return of the Snowfolk the first weekend of December – whimsical art installations that have become a local winter highlight.

As the night deepened, the festival glowed with a small-town warmth that no chill down the spine could dim. For vendors like Duffy and Fitzgerald, and for families like Jeter's and Aldridge's, the Harvest Moon Festival was more than an event – it was a celebration of connection, creativity and community spirit.

As Duffy put it with a grin before the night came to a close: "Whatever you're doing, just have a magical day – with a K."

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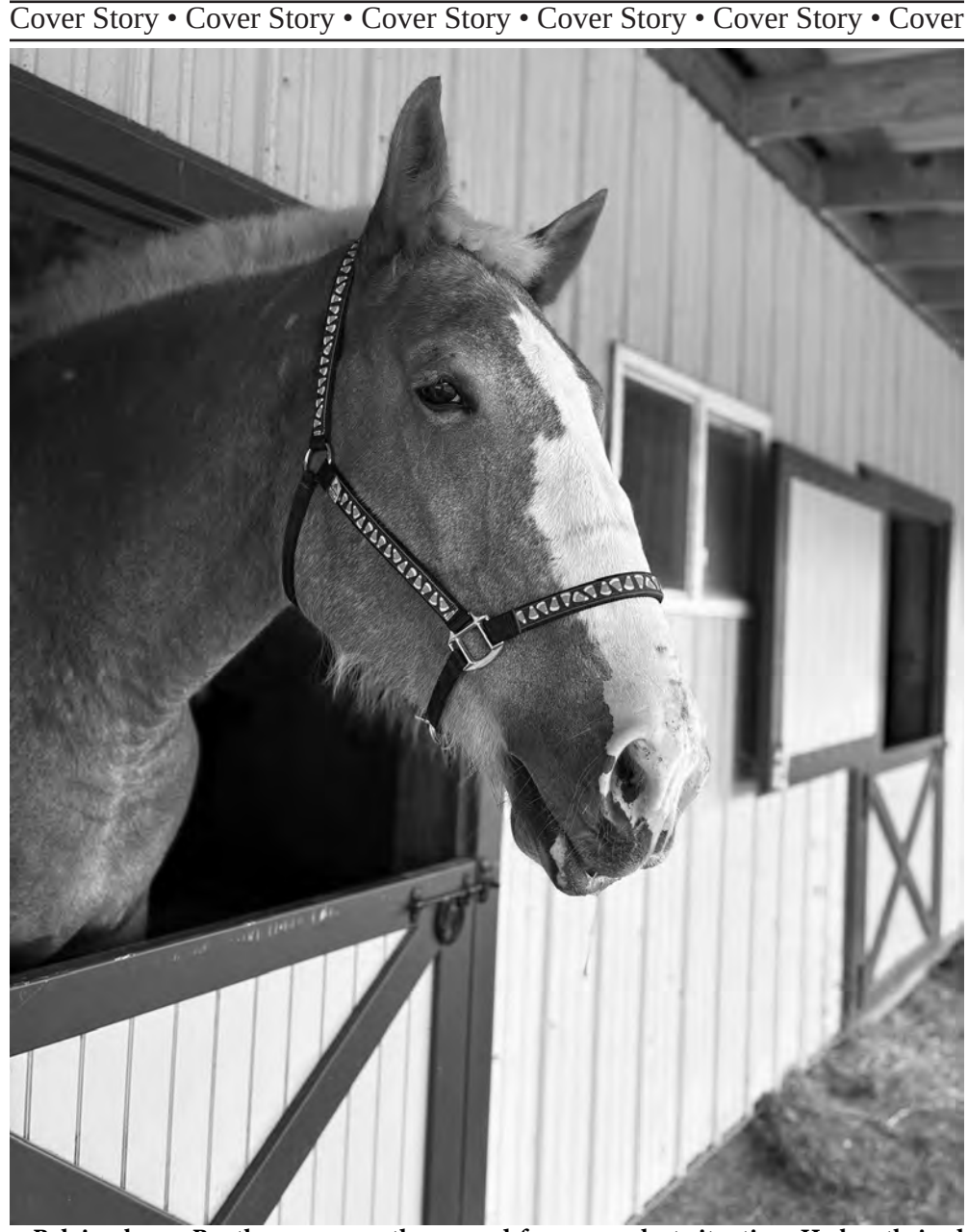

Belgian horse Bentley was recently rescued from a neglect situation. He has thrived under the care of Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue's volunteers in East Hampton.

★ ***Rescued Horses cont. from page 1***

one of them is gonna foal before the end of the year, and then the other one likely will be spring."

"We certainly weren't told they were pregnant when they came to us," she said. "That was something we found out when we were caring for them and taking care of them."

Randall said she has a soft spot for one of the rescues, a Belgian named Bentley.

"Bentley is hard not to fall in love with," she said. "He was very scared and withdrawn from us when he first came, like when you went into the stall, he would hide in the corner and put his head down and it was just heartbreaking, and now as soon as you walk to his stall door, he is right there and he's licking you and he's looking for pets and treats."

Randall said she knows that the rescue is only Bentley's temporary home, while the court case is getting resolved and before he is likely adopted, but she also knows there will be other horses needing rescuing in the future.

For those interested in helping, Randall pointed people to the organization's website, www.ctdraftrescue.org, where they can find ways to donate, volunteer or purchase items off their Amazon wish list. The rescue is fully run by volunteers and relies on monetary donations and donated items to cover feed, bedding, medical care and supplies.

School Board Hopefuls Look to Balance Cost and Benefit

By Anne Lilburn

Six candidates will be on the ballot for five Board of Education seats this election. Candidates on both sides of the aisle worried about unfunded state mandates, a state education funding system that puts burdens on small towns, and achieving student success. Democratic candidates in particular also focused on avoiding cuts to services, while Republican candidates focused on trimming spending.

Democrats

Incumbent **Nancy Kohler** has lived in East Hampton for over 20 years. In an email, Kohler wrote that she grew up in a family of teachers before going on to teach kindergarten herself. Though she left the profession to raise her children, Kohler has continued to put her education skills to work for the community as a PTO member, parent volunteer and as a member of the Board of Education.

"All of these experiences," she wrote, "have allowed me to understand both the challenges and struggles faced by our students and teachers, as well as their tremendous growth and success."

Kohler said she was proud of the work she had done on the Board of Education, and said that bipartisan collaboration was part of that success. She said one of her goals would be to continue to advocate at the state level for funding reforms to decrease the burden that school districts carry.

She also said she believed in "utiliz[ing] the knowledge and experience gained from experts, a reliance on facts and a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue in order to find resolutions to difficult situations."

"I believe both our school system and our community need to be nurtured, supported and given adequate resources to grow," she wrote. "Without progress and growth, we fall behind."

Sarah Strange is a 12-year East Hampton resident with a degree in finance. She's also a mom to a 10-year-old who attends East Hampton public schools.

Strange said she was frustrated watching the school budget process last year, adding that she thought a lot of the suggestions for getting the budget numbers down were "not great," among them getting rid of teachers (which would increase class sizes), cutting a school psychologist position, eliminating middle school health classes and making cuts to special education.

"In my personal opinion," said Strange, "those don't feel like they are thoughtful eliminations or cuts."

Strange said she knows that many kids in school today started school during the pandemic, and are still dealing with the consequences of that experience.

"They will need a little extra support to get up and running and reach the same levels as other kids that didn't have to start school during a pandemic."

Strange said she understands why budgets can be so hard to pass, and she's sympathetic.

"I totally get it," she said. "I pay taxes in this town as well, and no, I do not want to see them go up like that; however, here in the state of Connecticut, taxes in the town are the primary source of revenue for our schools, so we need to kind of get comfortable with the idea that taxes are not going to be at the same level that they were in, say, 1983. They're just not. Life is different. The world is different."

She also said that she believes it's possible to lessen education's tax burden, but she said that will take collaboration and partnership,

"We're all in this together, so let's actually work together and see what we can do to make a better outcome for everyone," she said. "And yes, I know that could be naïve, but I'm still gonna hope."

Corinne Clark-Barney grew up in East Hampton, and is a product of East Hampton public schools. She moved back to town about six years ago, and is a career educator who has worked as a teacher, a district-level administrator, and a school principal in Hartford. She said that that experience helps her understand not just education priorities, but also education budgets and how to explain them to the public.

"That's why for me, it was important to run now," she said, "because I do understand the inner workings of a school district and what goes into a building a budget, and I also know how to communicate that transparently."

Clark-Barney added that parents aren't the only residents who need to understand what a school budget is covering, and said that it was important to make sure everyone knew what their tax dollars were going towards.

She also said her priorities included maintaining smaller class sizes and supporting students' social emotional needs, but she emphasized the importance of elective classes at the middle and high school levels as well. She also expressed frustration with the state's funding model, calling it "inequitable" and saying it placed an unfair burden on smaller districts.

Clark-Barney said that, if elected, she hoped to work together to avoid a big budget fight.

"I'd like to be able to be a part of being able to bring some collaboration, as well as some consensus," she said, "so that we're all on the same page and we see that we're really here to do what's best for the kids in our town, so that way they can come back and move back to town and be contributing members to the town in the community."

Republicans

Incumbent and longtime resident **Sal Nucifora** is an engineer who describes himself as a "solid conservative."

Nucifora said that he wanted to "continue the work of enhancing our education in East Hampton at as low a cost as possible," and added that he wanted to make sure that special education services were not cut, despite their high price tag.

"I'd like to see us be as cost-effective as possible while maintaining as high a level of education for those specialized students as possible," Nucifora said. At the same time, Nucifora said he wanted to explain to the community the high proportion of special education students and the cost that entails, so that they understand why the budget looks like it does.

He also said that he believed the state's unfunded mandates left towns with an unfair burden and said he hoped to be able to advocate alongside other towns for the state to improve funding opportunities.

Nathan Jaycox is an engineer who has worked at both Millstone Nuclear Power Station and Electric Boat, and who became certified as a high school physics teacher several years ago.

In an email, Jaycox said that he does not have children who are students in the East Hampton school system, but still believes in the importance of education. He said his focus would be on improving test scores.

"I believe in excellence rather than being average," he wrote, and said that, if elected, his plan would be to "form a working group to benchmark what other better school systems do, and then secondly, I would work with the school administrators to shift resources to strengthen the areas that need to be strengthened to foster better learning with resultant higher test scores."

Jaycox said keeping costs low for taxpayers was a priority for him, and wrote that he believed that "expanding and leveraging volunteer tutoring resources from the community will help even more to meet higher goals with no additional cost."

Sarah LeBlanc did not respond to the *Rivereast News Bulletin*'s attempt to contact her; however, her biography on the Republican Town Committee's website describes her as a resident of East Hampton for the past 13 years who works in technology risk management.

"I focus on problem-solving, strategic planning and decision-making – skills that directly translate to effective board leadership," reads her bio.

As a parent to school-age children, she notes that she is "personally invested in the quality of education and the strength of our community."

"I am running for the East Hampton Board of Education because I care about the future of our schools and the success of the students," she writes, noting that she also advocates for "transparency and accountability."

Home and Health Expo

Looking to take charge of your health and future? Or trying to help a loved one do so?

Then don't miss the East Hampton Commission on Aging's "Home and Health Expo," on Saturday, Nov. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at East Hampton Town Hall. The event is free and open to all.

Learn how to stay healthy and independent as the years go by and how to prepare a home for you or a loved one who wishes to age in place.

Dr. Eric Rosenberg, who is chair of the Commission on Aging, said, "I'm very excited that the Home and Health Expo targets both the caregivers and the older adults in town, who can use the information and contacts that will help people thrive in their homes."

Come hear from experts who will talk about: How to modify your home to age in place and how to get needed at-home services; Exercises and yoga poses to boost mobility, strength, and balance; Chiropractic and naturopathic care, massage therapy, Reiki and more; Geriatric psychiatry and the difference between dementia and depression; Housing options and experts on transition when staying at home isn't possible; and Estate planning

Attendees will also have a chance to get a chair massage and to participate in mini-exercise and yoga classes. Refreshments will be available.

'Take 3' for Breast Cancer Support

VFW Post 5095 will help Wanda Tucker host "Take 3" on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 1-5 p.m., at 20 North Maple St.

This event brings together music, food, and community spirit to raise funds and awareness for three organizations supporting individuals battling breast cancer: The Joe Andruzzi Foundation; Pink Fund; and Pink Aid. These nonprofits provide financial assistance to patients undergoing treatment – helping cover everyday expenses like rent, utilities, and transportation so they can focus on healing.

Guests can expect DJ entertainment, food, raffles and more.

Tickets are $20 each or 2 for $35 and can be purchased at the VFW Post 5095 canteen (just ask the bartender), by scanning the QR code on event flyers, or by contacting Wanda or Chris directly.

"This event is about more than fundraising – it's about standing with those in the fight of their lives," said Wanda Tucker, event organizer, and community advocate. "Every ticket sold helps ease the burden for someone facing breast cancer, and every moment shared strengthens our community."

For more information, call Wanda Tucker at 860-798-7786.

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 easthamptonpublicilibrary.org.

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

Adult Programs: Cookbook Club: Tuesday, Nov. 4, 6:30 p.m. This month's theme is Egg. Bring a prepared dish and 12 copies of the recipe to share. Food should arrive ready to eat; the library will provide the plates and forks. Register or drop in.

Tech Help: Thursday, Nov. 6, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

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

Children's Programs: 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.

STEMtastic: Circuits for Grades 4-8: Tuesday, Nov. 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Learn the different parts that make up a circuit before diving into same hands-on activities using snap circuits.

Rotary Participating in Thanksgiving Drive

For 22 years, the Liberty Bank Rotary Club Thanksgiving Drive has helped local families during the holiday season. That tradition continues as Liberty Bank, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and 41 rotary clubs again team up to raise money for the cause. This year's drive kicked off this week and will end Nov. 17 at 3 p.m.

The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club is among the clubs participating.

In addition to providing warm meals this Thanksgiving, donations made to the drive will help stock local food pantries for the winter months. Monetary donations can be made online at www.middlesexcountycf.org, or by mailing a check to the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, 49 Main St., Middletown, CT 06457. Please include the name of the rotary club that will benefit from the donation in the memo line.

All Liberty Bank locations will promote the drive and encourage individuals to donate online. The bank's Foundation will provide matching funds of up to $200,000, and all donations will be mailed by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County to nonprofit organizations that were selected by the rotary clubs to provide Thanksgiving meals.

Police News

10/4: Michael Bower, 34, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with violation of a protection order and disorderly conduct, East Hampton Police said.

10/9: Benjamin Tavolieri, 21, of Marlborough, was issued a summons and charged with reckless driving, police said.

10/9: Kalina Tischofer, 29, of East Hampton was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and interfering with an officer, police said.

10/12: Patrick Munson, 40, of Middlefield, was arrested and charged with violation of a protective order, police said.

10/13: Caleb Sonnichsen, 36, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

10/15: Anthony Fazio, 23, of Meriden, was arrested and charged with criminal violation of a restraining order, police said.

10/18: David Meyer, 50, of Middletown, was issued a summons and charged with second-degree threatening, police said.

10/19: Paul Chasse, 26, of East Hampton, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

From Sept. 29-Oct. 19, officers responded to 50 medical calls, 11 motor vehicle crashes, two motor vehicle crashes and 20 alarms, and made seven traffic stops, police said.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

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

Trailblazers Walking Group: Monday, Oct. 27, 9 a.m., at Air Line State Park, 69 Smith St. All paces welcome.

Chatham Health Chat: Tuesday, Oct. 28, 11:30 a.m., featuring topics about health that are important to you.

Café Conversations with the Coordinator: Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 12:15 p.m. Chat with senior center coordinator Holly Marrero, provide feedback and ideas and learn about center programs.

Bike Rides for Seniors with Kim Clouser of AirLine Cycles: Friday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m. at Colchester Spur, 167 Lebanon Ave. Stop for food after the ride. Bring your bike, helmet and water to the ride. Call the senior center to register.

Friday Film Fun: Friday, Oct. 31, 1 p.m., featuring *Knives Out*. Register in advance.

Volunteer Opportunities: 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.

Meet the Democratic Town Council Candidates

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton's Democratic candidates for Town Council include four incumbents who are looking for more two-year terms. Their priorities include prioritizing education, smart development, maintaining services, building a new fire station, and increasing communication with the public. All of them spoke about the importance of balancing the needs of younger families and the concerns of senior citizens.

Incumbent **Karen Wanat** said she's looking forward to continuing the work she's done on the council for the past two years, and said that one of her biggest priorities involves revising the town's Plan of Conservation and Development. Wanat said she wants that plan to focus more on the town planning component, adding that she wants to "identify the types of housing that we need and where [it] can go in the town."

When it comes to new housing, particularly any senior housing, she said she wants to prioritize smart planning and choose locations carefully, "so that senior citizens have nearby access to the right types of services [like health care]."

While she wants to make sure the senior population is taken care of, Wanat also said she wants to make sure that education is adequately supported. She's herself is involved with education in the town, serving on the PTO in the past, and also leading the Center School's drama program for the past few years, and she said that a healthy school system is important for all town residents, not just those with children in the schools.

"People move to a town for the education system," she said. "If you don't continue to support it in the right way, your property values are going to go down and then services across the whole town have to go down because people don't want to live here."

Incumbent and current council chairman **Dean Markham** is running for his second term. The lifelong East Hampton resident and CPA's roots run deep, as a tenth-generation descendant of the town's early settlers.

Markham said some of his priorities as a a council member include developing a public water system, developing a new senior center, and building a new, up-to-date fire station. When it comes to all of these issues, Markham said he believes an important part of the council's job should be "getting the word out" and communicating with the public so that they understand the work that town government is doing and have enough information to know where they stand on important issues.

Markham also said he prioritizes "civility," and noted that the council often agrees upon a lot, despite party divides, even if it isn't clear to the public. Budget issues, he said, can be contentious, but "I would say that an easy way to look at it is: the votes that we take on the council on issues, we're probably better than 95% of our votes are unanimous." Markham said he hopes to be able to build on that collaborative energy in his next term.

Incumbent **Jack Solomon** has been involved in town governance and community service organizations since retiring here two decades ago and buying Lake Pocotopaug's Laurel Island with his wife, who has since passed. He has served on the Rotary Club, the Lake Commission, the Clean Energy Task Force, and the Library Board.

In an email, Solomon said that affordability was a big priority for him, but so is education. His late wife was an educator, as are all three of his daughters, and he said his own career, as a chemist at industrial gas company Praxair, was "enabled by education."

Solomon also noted preservation of the lake as a big priority and one that he has worked on personally for years. He also said if reelected, he would advocate for increased support for the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps, and work to "invest in and maintain our infrastructure like roads, but also new infrastructure like [public] a water system."

Incumbent **Richard Knotek** is a career accountant who likes to say that "people count." The lifelong East Hampton resident has been involved in town government for decades, having served terms on both the old Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education. He's also served on several regional nonprofit boards for organizations dealing with homelessness, addiction and poverty.

In an email, Knotek said he took pride in his time working for the community, and noted in particular his past work on the Board of Education to institute a writing program that led to improved test scores. He also said he took pride in his work on the town council to "stop the wholesale giveaway of our town to both unchecked development and abuse of our lake."

Knotek said that in his next term, he would hope to prioritize supporting the ambulance, fire and police departments; protecting the lake and land from overdevelopment; and searching for ways to keep property taxes in check for elderly and low-income residents. He also added that he hoped to "encourage more people to serve our town government on boards and commissions."

Knotek lamented that politics have become so divisive, even at the local level, and emphasized that he's striving to find some unity and cooperation in what he said will be his final term on the council if elected, adding that he hopes to "lead with dignity and respect for all residents, regardless of political persuasion or opinion."

Joelyn Leon has lived in East Hampton for 23 years and has long been involved in politics, but she said she had never planned on becoming a candidate before. As the political director for the Connecticut AFL-CIO, she said her career has prepared her for an elected role, particularly when it comes to bridging political gaps and working collaboratively.

"I feel like I've been able to build some very strong relationships with people who don't necessarily agree with me and my perspective," she said, adding that "the divisiveness is just horrible [these days], and we have to get past that and I feel that if I do win that I can bring hopefully some collaboration back to the table, some willingness to actually talk."

Leon said she's been doing a lot of door-knocking to find out what's on voter's minds and she's been hearing a lot about the cost of living.

She said if she were elected, she would do "whatever it is in my power to make sure we have a budget that is transparent, but that is sufficient for our town."

"Obviously, you don't want to increase taxes for citizens, but we have to make sure we have our services and we have education so that we can have a town where people want to live," she said. She added that getting the new firehouse built would also be a priority.

Leon said she wants East Hampton to be "a great community to raise kids in and to grow old in."

"You can have both," she added. "They are not mutually exclusive at all, but we have to work together to make it a reality."

PTO Meets Monthly

All are invited to attend the monthly East Hampton Elementary PTO meetings. Meetings are on Mondays at 5:30 p.m., and childcare is provided. The schedule for the 2025-26 school year is:

10/20, at Center School; 11/17, Memorial School; 12/15, Center School; 1/12/26, Memorial School; 2/9/26, Center School; 3/16/26, Memorial School; 4/20/26, Center School; 5/18/26, Memorial School.

More members are always needed, whether it's helping with decorations for celebrations such as dances or stepping up ceremonies, organizing fundraisers, volunteering at events, supporting our teachers, staff and admin or sharing ideas and making change.

There is no need to sign up; just come when you can.

TANGO2 Benefit Banquet Coming

The biennial TANGO2 Benefit Banquet and Auction is set to take place at 5 p.m. Nov. 1, at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell.

The banquet will be hosted by Kasha and Mike Morris, who founded the TANGO2 Research Foundation in late 2017 after their then 16-year-old son Ryan was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease called TANGO2 Deficiency Disease (TDD).

All proceeds from the banquet will be used to fund research and support programs related to TDD.

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

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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RE10-24-25

FREE "HOME & HEALTH EXPO"
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East Hampton Town Hall

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- At-home care & support services
- Exercises + yoga for strength & balance for all adults
- Geriatric psychiatry: Is it dementia or depression?
- Chiropractic, naturopathic care, Reiki & massage
- Estate planning + housing transitions
- **Mini-yoga & exercise classes for all + chair massage!**

"The Expo supports both older adults and caregivers with the tools to thrive at home." -- Dr. Eric Rosenberg, chair EH Commission on Aging

FREE & OPEN TO ALL
Refreshments provided

Don't miss this chance to connect, learn, and take the next step toward healthy, independent living!

Sponsored by the East Hampton Commission on Aging

EAST HAMPTON
commission on aging
A VOICE FOR OLDER ADULTS

RE10-24-25

Meet the Republican Town Council Candidates

By Anne Lilburn

Five Republican candidates are running for East Hampton's Town Council this year. They all say they're focused on budget transparency and fiscal responsibility, but differ slightly in their approaches. Some key issues that they are focused on include plans for the new firehouse, managing education costs and taking care of local seniors.

Incumbent **Ted Hintz** is a CPA and financial planner who is a fourth generation East Hampton resident. In the past, he has also served on the Board of Finance and chaired the East Hampton Housing Authority, where he said he was particularly proud of his work to reshape a Community Development Block Grant that enabled improvements to senior housing.

In an email, Hintz said that "transparency, accountability and affordability" were goals for him, and added that he wanted to "ensure every tax dollar delivers value."

Hintz said his priorities included fiscal responsibility, as well as development and housing.

"We need to keep East Hampton affordable for families and seniors," he said, "[However] I do not support state-mandated overdevelopment that would change the character of our town or place heavy burdens on our schools and local services."

Hintz said he wanted residents to be in charge of planning decisions, and advocated for "transparent, community-driven processes that balance growth with preservation."

"I want East Hampton to remain a place where families can stay, seniors can retire with dignity, and small businesses can thrive without being taxed out of existence," he said.

Current Board of Finance member **Alannah Coshow** said that her biggest goals as a candidate are "transparency in government and involving the taxpayers." The Connecticut native said she grew up with politics talked about around the dinner table, with both of her parents involved in local government in Meriden and uncle who was a state senator. She grew up spending summers on Lake Pocotopaug and moved here in 1992 when her husband finished his career in the Navy.

In addition to serving on the Board of Finance, over the past 30 years, Coshow has also served on the Watercourse Agency, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and as the Registrar of Voters.

"I want to continue to take a stand against the ever-increasing taxes," she said, adding that she is concerned about education costs that she said are rising despite declining enrollment, and which she blames on unfunded state mandates.

While she said she's inclined to decrease spending, she also said that she is in favor of spending on some issues. As an example, she cited road maintenance, which she said is the number one issue she hears voters talking about.

"That's a huge part of why I want to run for Town Council," she said, "because I'm listening and I hear what the voters want."

Like many other candidates, **Darin Hurne** is a lifelong East Hampton resident who attended public schools. The Air Force veteran and founder of an HVAC controls business has been a volunteer firefighter and served on the Planning and Zoning Commission in the past.

In an email, Hurne said, "I'm running because I love this town and I'm frustrated [at] where we're headed."

He said rising taxes were of particular concern to him, and said that prioritizing senior citizens and lowering their tax burdens was particularly important to him.

Among his key priorities, Hurne said a new fire station was key, and he expressed frustration with the way the process has unfolded in the past. He said he was also concerned about education accountability, and expressed frustration over rising spending amidst declining enrollment.

"We need clear accountability to ensure dollars are tied to results," he said.

"I'm running not out of ambition, but out of frustration — and out of love for East Hampton," Hurne wrote. "We can do better, and we must."

Incumbent **Tim Feegel** has lived in East Hampton his whole life, and he said he learns a lot about what his fellow residents care about when he's shopping at the hardware store.

"I could go to Ace Hardware and go get a quart of paint and I'm there for an hour and a half," he said. That's because people come up to talk to him, and Feegel said that listening to residents is important. He said that interactions like that make him do his homework, or "at least get my facts straight, so when somebody questions me, I can actually answer them better."

Among his top priorities, Feegel said, is education. He said that he knows making education both "good and affordable" is very difficult. He said that he's sympathetic to older residents living on fixed incomes and wants to keep taxes low for them, but he also said that he draws the line at cutting teachers, saying he would prefer to trim the budget in other ways.

Relatedly, Feegel said another of his priorities for an upcoming term would include fiscal responsibility and keeping costs down, while also maintaining services. He prioritized coming up with a plan for a new firehouse and said the town needs to reconsider all potential options. He said he also advocates encouraging development, but in a careful way, noting that "I want to still live in a quaint little town."

After several terms, Feegel said he's proud of the work the council has accomplished, and he said sometimes working across the aisle is part of getting things done.

"I feel that I work well with others, meaning that I want to listen to a lot of people on both sides," he said, adding that he has on occasion voted across party lines when he thought it was right.

"I don't make a habit of it," he said, "but I also think I want to go to bed and night and go, hey, you know, I still think I did the right thing."

Eric Peterson didn't respond to our attempts to contact him, but in his official bio on the Republican Town Committee's website, he described himself as a fourth-generation resident of East Hampton and said that if elected, he would value residents of all ages.

"I want both our seniors and my own children to be able to afford to live here and thrive," he wrote. "That means making responsible decisions – being vocal about prudent spending while remaining open-minded to compromise and the needs of our town."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. Early voting is currently underway.

Quilt Project to Benefit the Food Bank

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

The quilt depicts 12 sites in East Hampton. The quilt depicts 12 sites in East Hampton. The raffle tickets sell for $10 each or 3/$25. Buyers can pay cash or use Venmo. Tickets are being sold until mid-November at Paul's and Sandy's Too, East Hampton Public Library, Old Bank, and The Hairitage. The quilt will be displayed at various times at the library.

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

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

Artopia Arts Festival and Open House

Epoch Arts will host its annual "Artopia" event Sunday, Nov. 9, from 1-4 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St.

This is a free community event for the entire family that includes an all-ages art show, live music, live art demonstrations, kids crafts, adult hands-on art, vendors, food and more. Check out what Epoch Arts does and shop locally with over 14 vendors selling homemade soaps, weaving and fiber goods, award winning hot sauces, breads and baked goods, Indian Spices, jewelry, 3D-printed items, Christmas crafts and more.

If you're an artist and would like to share your artwork in the gallery – whether it be painting, drawing, printing, sculpture, photography, mixed media or another art form – you are welcome to display your work in this community art show. All ages are welcome to participate.

Questions about artwork submission? Contact Rachel at rachel@epocharts.org or visit www.epocharts.org.

Snowflake Bazaar

Many vendors and crafters will be on hand 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.

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.

Fall Turkey Dinner

The Haddam Neck Congregational Church Ladies Aid will hold a fall turkey takeout dinner Saturday, Nov. 1, at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

Cost is $15 for turkey and all the trimmings and apple or pumpkin pie. Pre-orders required by calling 860-993-5311 or 860-267-9836.

Scholarships Available

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

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

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition is open to high school students in grades 9-12, with the national first place prize scholarship totaling $35,000. The first place Department (state) winners receive an all-expenses-paid trip to attend a 'Founding Forward Spirit of America Youth Leadership' program at Valley Forge, Pa., where they compete for more than $170,000 in national scholarship awards.

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

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

The deadline for both contests is Oct. 31.

Democratic Waving Schedule

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

This weekend, Democrats will wave on Friday, Oct. 24, from 4-5:30 p.m., at the intersection of Route 66 and Main Street, and on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 9-11 a.m. and from 4-5 p.m. at the intersection of Route 66 and Main Street.

Next weekend, the Democrats will wave on Saturday and Sunday from 9-11 a.m. and from 4-5 p.m., at the intersection of Route 66 and Main Street.

Epoch Arts Teen Open Stage

Teens in grades seven and up are invited to join Epoch Arts, 27 Skinner St., for Brookside Nights Open Stage, on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 7-8:30 p.m.

Teens are invited to share their talent on stage, be it art, poetry, dance, music, improv, your favorite thing, or anything that inspires them. No worries if you don't want to share; audience members are welcome too. There will be free food, drinks and art supplies.

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

Halloween Karaoke Night

VFW Post 5095, located at 20 North Maple St., will host a Halloween Karaoke Night Friday, October 24, from 8 p.m.-midnight.

This night of karaoke will be hosted by Christine & Joe from Rock the Mic. There will also be drink specials and a costume contest, with prizes for the most creative, creepy, and hilarious looks.

Proceeds benefit VFW Post 5095 and its ongoing mission to serve those who served.

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 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.

Next weekend, the RTC will wave on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9-11 a.m., at 20 East High St.

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.

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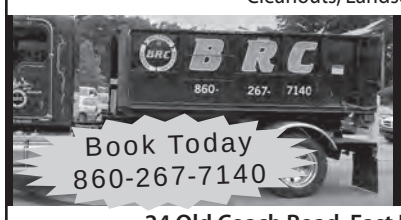

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RE5-30-25

Meet the Candidates for Board of Finance

By Anne Lilburn

Candidates for the Board of Finance include two Democrats and four Republicans. Priorities for all include balancing the tax burdens on residents with the need to fund services.

Democrats

David Caterisano is a financial professional and Coast Guard veteran who wrote in an email that his priorities were "transparency, long-term planning, and making sure every tax dollar is spent widely to benefit the whole community." Caterisano said that as both a parent and a homeowner, he understands the need for "balancing essential services with fair taxation."

Daniel Finn is a financial advisor and longtime resident seeking a position on the Board of Finance. Per his biography on the Democratic Town Committee website, Finn is a father of six children who said he understands the importance of keeping taxes fair, "especially for those with limited means and income." If elected, he says on the website, he will aim to prioritize "transparency, accountability and long-term financial planning."

Republicans

Former Town Council member **Alison Walck** said she's running for the Board of Finance this time for a simple reason: "I love money," she said, and she said she wants to keep more of it in resident's pockets.

"I would love to come up with different ideas by which you can gain an income stream and not over tax the already overtaxed, or overburdened residents," Walck adds.

Walck said her big concern is "the upward spiraling taxes, property taxes."

She said she's always looking to cut taxes when she can, but also that she is "more than happy to keep an open mind when it comes to any budgetary request," adding that, when she served on the council, she didn't let politics bias her.

"I'm a hard-core Republican," she said, "but I often voted with the Democrats because they made more sense."

At the end of the day, Walck said she wants what's best for the town, adding that in her opinion, East Hampton was fiscally well-run.

"East Hampton is a good community, but you're always driving to make it better, and that's hopefully by making the right fiscal decisions," she said. "By making the correct and proper fiscal decisions, we can maintain what quality we have and hopefully increase the quality and the services for the town."

Incumbent **Bridget McLennan** said she's running for the Board of Finance because "taxes [are] pushing people out of the town, specifically seniors, and I have an issue with that."

McLennan said budget transparency was her biggest goal. She said she had been unhappy with the Board of Education budget's lack of transparency, as compared to the town's budget, and expressed disappointment with how the firehouse planning had proceeded up until now.

She also said that being on the Board of Finance was a challenging job.

"Our role is to be in making decision that it's for the entire community," she said, "not [just] a single group. That's what our focus needs to be when we're making decisions. It's what is good for all taxpayers, not specific groups that we like or don't like."

She said making decisions for the town was a lot like making decisions for one's own household. "You have to rank the priorities that you're spending money on," she said, and then you have to figure out where you're going to "get the most for your money."

In an email, incumbent **Jim Radavich** wrote that he is running for a Board of Finance position because "I want to rein in spending to make East Hampton affordable."

Radavich said he that, in addition to his time in local government, he has served the community as the T-ball director for the East Hampton Little League and that he has self-funded a volunteer-run homeless mission in Middletown for the past 7 years.

In an email, Radavich listed some of his priorities: On the topic of education, he said he would support the Board of Education cutting staff and potentially implementing a hiring freeze in response to declining student enrollment, and advocated for a more transparent school budget that lists spending per department.

He also advocated for zoning changes that would attract small to midsized companies in order to increase the tax base, and said he supported funding road repairs and senior services, hiring new police officers, continuing current lake cleanup programs, and working to determine the best site for the new fire station.

Joey Guest has a long history working in public service as a firefighter, deputy fire marshal, deputy emergency management director and a compliance officer. Guest wrote that "my professional career has taught me the importance of balancing budgets, making data-driven decisions, and listening to the concerns and the voters."

Guest said his priorities as a candidate included supporting sustainable economic development, promoting financial transparency and community engagement, "planning proactively for the long-term fiscal health of our town," and "ensuring taxpayer dollars are used wisely and efficiently."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. Early voting is currently underway.

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.

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 through 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.

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.

Bingo at VFW Post

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

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

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"Our taxes are too high"
- We will continue to rein in spending

"We need a new firehouse"
-We will move forward with OUR proposed Steering Committee & get it done.

"Seniors need more services"
-We facilitated a $1.5 million grant for seniors, approved the hire of an extra driver and will work with our Commission on Aging

"Stop the run-off into the Lake"
-We will work with the Town to resolve

Vote Republican Tues. Nov. 4 at the high school 6 a.m. ~ 8 p.m.
Or early voting begins 10/20 at Town Hall 10 a.m. ~ 6 p.m.
Paid for and approved by East Hampton Republican Town Committee.

RE10-24-2025

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 though 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.hncovenantchurch.org.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

October's Featured Artist: Mindy Mills Maynard, a local author and artist, who will also give a **Book 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 you a creator? Contact the library to participate, at 860-267-9093 or middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Chair Yoga with Kathleen: This new 'gentle yoga' program is held Fridays at 9 a.m. Cost is $15 per class. Registration in advance is requested, by emailing zenlotus860@yahoo.com or calling 860-638-9097.

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.

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 Bellringer to see how you can best participate.

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

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.

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.

Helping Hands to Reopen

Helping Hands is open again on the first and third Saturdays of each month, 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.

Petitioners Collecting Signatures

East Hampton Taxpayers Against Overdevelopment will be collecting signatures on its petition against overdevelopment in East Hampton this Sunday, Oct. 26, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Stop & Shop in East Hampton.

Veterans Day Breakfast

Boy Scout Troop 8 will host a Veterans Day Breakfast Sunday, Nov. 9, from 8-10:30 a.m., at VFW Post 5095, 20 North Maple Str.

There will be a free hot breakfast for all veterans, with a suggested donation of $10 per breakfast for non-veterans. All proceeds support Boy Scout Troop 8's annual tradition of honoring veterans in the community.

All are welcome.

Raptors Volleyball Turns Toward Tourney

By Josh Howard

Following a frenzied five-set loss to Glastonbury, RHAM High School volleyball head coach Timothy Guernsey said that his team needs to work on closing out matches as the conference and state tournaments draw near.

"We have to be able to finish," explained Guernsey. "If we don't finish, it will be the same result."

Guernsey's squad twice led by a set and also took the advantage in the final frame, but could not polish off the visiting Guardians from Glastonbury as the road team rallied to win the marathon match that featured lead changes in each set and a total of 209 points.

The loss dropped the Raptors to 12-2 overall and snapped an eight-game winning streak.

"Those two losses that we have, Simsbury and tonight, we haven't been able to end the game when we needed to," noted Guernsey "We need to be able to put teams away."

Glastonbury also came into the contest red hot – winners of their last 12 – but early on the Raptors powerful front line led by seniors Meredith Weir, Abby Simao, Cecilia Zito, and Brooke Arcari took control near the net as the Raptors used a 12-7 scoring run midway through the opening set to take a lead they would not relinquish.

The Guardians retaliated in the second set as senior captain Reese Henderson began to exert her will, crushing several thunderous spikes, before the Raptors countered in the third set behind the precision passing from junior setter Rian Calhoun.

Simao had a kill to start the fourth set, but the Guardians reeled off the next 10 points to seize control. RHAM rallied late in the fourth with three straight points and cut the deficit to 24-23 following an ace from Gabriella Fushino, but a kill by Henderson sent the game into the decisive final set.

Henderson finished the night with a game-high 29 kills and Guernsey said once Glastonbury's all-state outside hitter found a groove, she was hard to stop.

Guernsey's group again took a lead in the fifth, jumping out to a 7-3 advantage following an ace by Calhoun, yet the pesky Guardians rallied once more and ended the match on a four-point run.

Once the 209th point was scored, the match ultimately ended up determining the winner of the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) - North regular season championship.

Glastonbury head coach Melissa Reynolds was impressed with her team's ability to continue battling back.

"They wanted it," stated Reynolds. "They talked about it before the fifth set started. We had to play our game and not worry about them."

The result was a completely different story from the conference rivals earlier meeting this fall when the Raptors swept the Guardians in three-sets in Glastonbury on Sept. 5.

In the first meeting, Weir led the charge with 13 kills and a pair of aces. Weir also became the program all-time leading in aces this season when she tallied her 217th career ace earlier this month.

The Sept. 5 win over Glastonbury was one of four straight to open the season, which included wins over East Lyme, Southington, and South Windsor.

"I feel like our schedule needs to be more balanced. We had seven really good teams to start, Glastonbury included, and then out schedule got a little weaker," noted Guernsey. "I feel like our schedule needs to have a little more balance so that we are prepared at the end of the season to play teams like this."

Despite losing to Glastonbury last week, RHAM volleyball remains one of the top teams in both the conference and state tournaments.

Guernsey's teams have been the model of consistency on the local volleyball scene. They have captured three state championships in the last four seasons and the program has won ten state titles since 2009.

Following the loss to Glastonbury, RHAM rebounded by defeating Norwich Free Academy (Oct. 17) and South Windsor (Oct. 21) to bring their overall record of 15-2 as of publication.

Next up is the CCC tournament, which starts Monday, Oct. 27. The Raptors will be seeking their first outright conference title since 2019 when they dominated the conference from 2016-2019, winning the conference tourney in each of the four seasons.

The team will then turn their attention to the Class M state tournament, slated to start on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

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.

For more information about AHM's Prevention programs, visit tinyurl.com/4abp5ma2.

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. Pastor is the Rev. Judith Cooke. This Sunday, Oct. 26, Cooke will preach "Restored and Renewed."

Also, at 10 a.m., elementary aged children will meet for Church School in the classroom, and the middle school class will meet in the youth room. Infant through pre-K children experience care as they enjoy playtime and an age-appropriate lesson.

Save the Date: The church is hosting a Blood Drive Friday, Nov. 7, from noon-5 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. You can register in advance by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or sign up online at redcrossblood.org.

For more information, call 860-342-3244.

Republican Meet-and-Greet

On Saturday, Nov. 1, from 4:30-7 p.m., at Farrell's Restaurant, 245 Marlborough St., the Portland Republican Town Committee will hold its final Meet-and-Greet before Election Day.

All are welcome to meet the endorsed Republican candidates in a relaxed setting. It's a chance to hear their vision for moving Portland forward, share your ideas, and ask questions.

Republican candidates for Portland's 2025 election include: Michael Pelton for First Selectman; Robert "Bobby" Hetrick, Timothy Lavoy, Vincent "Vinnie" Pitruzzello, and Joe Spada for Board of Selectmen; Dave Murphy, Karen Renner, and Anne Whalen for Board of Education; Bill Donahue and Peggy Kesser for Board of Assessment Appeals; Jennifer Tellone and Lillian Whalen for Zoning Board of Appeals.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Annual Tree Lighting and Tree Lighting Parade: Save the date! Saturday, Dec. 6, at Brownstone Intermediate School. Watch for more info.

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 Vasquenza and the Wins for Life staff.

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

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

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

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

Bench and Tree Donation Program: Parks and Rec. is now accepting donations for benches and trees at the Portland Recreational Complex. If you're interested in dedicating a bench or tree, call Andy for more information at 860-342-6757.

Tai Chi for Long Life: At Riverfront Park Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., and Saturdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

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

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.

Children's Programs: Portland Halloween on Main: Friday, Oct. 24, 4:30-6:30 p.m. The Friends of the Portland Library will give away books in front of the police station again.

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 (ages 0-2):** Wednesdays at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Nov. 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. Mother Goose on the Loose, an interactive session, uses rhymes, a story, songs, puppets, scarves, and more to stimulate the learning process of babies and toddlers.

Cooking with Italian Flair: Thursdays, Nov. 12 and 18, 3:30 p.m., for grades 3-5. A staff member from Food Explorers will teach how to make two different Italian-inspired dishes: pizza naans and cannoli croissants. Registration begins Monday, Oct. 27, at 10 a.m.

Teen Programs: Crash Course Cooking: Pizza Edition: Monday, Nov. 10. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Matt Yanarella from MyProductionsCT will be at the library to walk people through making their own pizzas from scratch, including dough, sauce and toppings. He will even bring his own pizza oven to cook the pizzas in. Registration begins Monday, Oct. 27, at 10 a.m.

Mad Science Presents: The Science of Superheroes: Monday, Nov. 24, 2 p.m. Children will explore the science of flight, how science can make things invisible, and how Spiderman might walk up walls using fun, high-energy experiments. Registration opens Monday, Oct. 27, at 10 a.m.

Drop-In Crafternoon: Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1-3 p.m., for grades K-5. Drop in on this half day of school and see what you can make with the items the library has on hand. Registration not required for this program.

Adult Programs: Weekly Knifty Knitters Group: Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults of all experience levels are welcome. No registration required; simply drop in.

Museum Passes: The library has two new printable museum passes that can be checked out. There is a family admission pass – two adults and up to four children – to The Connecticut Museum of Culture and History in Hartford (www.connecticutmuseum.org), and there is a pass to admit two adults free, with children 16 and under admitted free, to Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury (www.mattmuseum.org).

Book Clubs: Talk About Books: Tuesday, Nov. 4, 1 p.m. *Switchboard Soldiers* by Jennifer Chiaverini will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m. *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m. *Whose Body?* by Dorothy L. Sayers will be discussed.**

Movie: Wednesday, Nov. 12, 1 p.m. *The Amateur* (2025; rated PG-13) will be shown. Run time is 122 minutes.

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.

Toys for Tots

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

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

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From the Committee on Solidarity

Fall is in full force now, and we hope that in the beauty around us, you all find inspiration to keep moving through difficult times. Now, more than ever we must renew the Solidarity Committee's promise to work with all of our townspeople to "stand Portland-Strong against racism, bigotry, prejudice and violence" and "stand committed to peace, justice and freedom for our citizens, here in Portland and in solidarity with all Americans."

We want to give a big thank you to the Portland Fair Committee for all of their hard work in organizing a wonderful weekend that brings people together, and especially to the Crafts and Community tent organizers who invited us to have an information table.

October is LGBTQ+ History Month, and features National Coming Out Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day. As we learn about and celebrate Indigenous and LGBTQ+ members of our community we must also recognize that in less than one year, the president, a willing Congress and the Supreme Court of the United States have been actively undoing more than 100 years of civil rights progress. Specifically, the president has denounced celebrations of Indigenous people in favor of Columbus Day, honorably-serving transgender soldiers have been summarily discharged from their military positions and members of the Supreme Court are musing aloud about undoing the right to gay marriage. As Maya Angelou said, "The truth is, no one of us can be free until everybody's free."

The elections are almost here – Educate yourself about the candidates and get out to vote! Voting information can be found at the town clerk's office, website and Facebook page. Thank you to all who volunteer and serve our community.

We look forward to connecting in solidarity throughout the fall months. We welcome the public to join us by attending our regular monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Waverly Senior Center or on www.portlandct.org/zoom. Please note our November meeting will be held Tuesday Nov. 18, due to Veterans Day. Agendas, minutes, and general information can be found at portlandct.org/solidarity-task-force.

Did you know you can join a workgroup even if you're not a member of the committee? Let us know if you're interested in learning more about our workgroup opportunities, including Juneteenth, Pride and Voices of Portland. We're also exploring workgroups for Disability Awareness, Asian Pacific American Heritage, and Social Work in Law Enforcement. To learn more about the committee and its workgroups, email portlandctsolidarity@gmail.com.

Portland Committee on Solidarity

Manny's Expands into Portland

Manny's Appliances has announced the opening of its 13th location – and second in Connecticut – with the addition of the longstanding Portland Electric Co., which has been a part of the community for more than 75 years.

Manny's Appliances
New England's Fastest Growing Appliance Retailer

Manny's said that the store will now feature an expanded selection of top appliance brands, lower discount prices, easy financing options, and extended showroom hours, now including Sundays. Manny's will continue to honor Portland Electric's service commitments.

"We're thrilled to continue Portland Electric's proud legacy and bring the Manny's experience to Portland," said George Rodriguez, marketing director for Manny's Appliances. "We look forward to serving the Portland community for many years to come."

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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.

Portland Election Information

The November municipal election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4, at Portland Middle School. Early voting will occur through Nov. 2, 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 continues 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.

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

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

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

Portland To Honor Veterans

Veterans Day is coming up, and there are a few activities coming up for Portland veterans. For more information, or if interested in joining the local American Legion post, contact post commander Tim Dickerson at ormontpost69@gmail.com.

Saturday, Nov. 8: Portland's American Legion Ormont Post No. 69 will kick off the 2025 Veterans Day activities with the Veterans Breakfast, starting at 0730 and serving until 1030 or when the food runs out, whichever occurs first. The menu includes baked omelets (ham, cheese, or plain), creamed beef on toast, bacon, sausage, toast, grits, coffee, tea, and orange juice. The meal will be held at the American Legion Hall, 12 Freestone Ave. There is a suggested donation of $12 per person, or $8 for children under 10.

Tuesday, Nov. 11: The Portland Veteran Affairs Committee will hold a brief wreath-laying ceremony at 1100 at the Portland Veterans Memorial, located behind Town Hall, 33 East Main St.

Tuesday, Nov. 11: The Portland Veteran Affairs Committee and American Legion Ormont Post No. 69 will host the annual Veterans Day Dinner at 1800 at Portland High School, 95 High St. Once again, Melilli Caffé and Grill will provide the food for the veterans and their guest. A maximum of two tickets per veteran are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Portland town clerk's office and at the Quonset Surplus Store, 11 Pickering St.

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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 during coffee hour in October. In November, church members will gather to bake and pack Christmas cookies for Streetfire Ministries.

The church is open for prayer and meditation, and the church office is open, from 2-4 p.m. each Friday. Anglican Prayer beading sessions are held at this time as well; all are welcome.

Check www.trinitychurchportlandct.org for more information. If you have any prayer requests to lift up, email the church office at trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.

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 Nov. 3.

Weekly Programs: Unless noted, all programs are free. **Monday, 10/27: Light Aerobics,** 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 10/28: 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: chicken and cheese burrito, cheese, salsa, rice with mixed veggies, milk, apple with nut butter; **Coupons for Troops**, 1-4 p.m.; **Setback,** 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize,** 5-6 p.m.; fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 10/29: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia,** 10:30-11:15 a.m., fee is a $5 donation to instructor; **Bridge,** 12:30-4 p.m.

Thursday, 10/30: Tone & Stretch, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – cost is $3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: grilled chicken, roasted veggies, potato wedges, flatbread and yogurt sauce, milk, pineapple; **Mahjong (FULL),** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 10/31: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Mah Jongg,** 10 a.m.

Upcoming Events: Unless noted, all events are free. **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 required, as limited space is available. Contact Heather to register.

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.

Center Closed for Veterans Day: Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Sweet Treats and Conversation with Community Leaders: Thursday, Nov. 13, 1 p.m. This month's community leader is Susan Bransfield. Registration required.

Family History FUN with Ken Doney: Friday, Nov. 14, 10:30 a.m.

Bingo with Sean from Ageless Insurance: Monday, Nov. 17, 1:30 p.m. Free event, but registration recommended.

Live Well, Age Well: A Free Diabetes Support Group: Tuesday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m., led by retired physician Dr. Elsamma Chacko. This group focuses on living well with diabetes and aging in place by bringing expert guidance and lived experience together in a supportive setting. Registration suggested.

Walking Club: Wednesday, Nov. 19, 9 a.m. The walk is about a mile and a half and there is parking adjacent to the trail. The group meets at the trail crossing by Breezy Corners Road.

Lunch at Monet's Table and Outing: Wednesday, Nov. 19. Outing destination to be determined. Leave the center at 10:30 a.m. Registration required. There is a $5 ride fee, and you pay for your own lunch. Stay tuned for more info about this trip.

A Taste of the New England Tavern at Fairfield Museum: Sunday, Nov. 23. Food historians Keith Stavely and Kathleen Fitzgerald will discuss and present food in New England taverns. Limited spaces available; registration required. There is a $20 event fee, and a $5 ride fee.

Center Closed for Thanksgiving: Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28.

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

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

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

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.

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.

Exchange Club Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold its first Bingo Night of the season on Thursday, Nov. 13, at Concentric Brewing, located at 91 Main St. Card sales start at 6 p.m., and games start at 7 p.m.

Admission is $20 for four cards to be used for all 10 games with prizes for the winner of each game. Cash, credit and debit cards will be accepted.

Proceeds from the night will go towards the continuing work the Portland Exchange Club does in Portland.

For more information, go to www.portlandexchange.org.

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CERT Volunteers Wanted… **The Portland Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is looking to recruit new members and a group coordinator to assist with community activities, and join the team. The CERT program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Call Barbra Felgate at 860-916-8887 for more information or if interested in joining.**

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RE10-24-25

St. Mary Church News & Notes

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

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

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

Bereavement Support Group: All are invited to attend. The group meets each month on the second Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall and every fourth Tuesday in the church library at 2 p.m. Call Susan Bongiorno at 860-685-1966 for additional information.

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

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

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

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

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

Dean's List

Portland residents Thelma Akiba-Eyo, Liberty Carrier and Alexandra Looney made the summer 2025 Dean's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.

President's List

Portland residents Lauren Bailey, Carter Gange and Jocelyn Morehouse made the summer 2025 President's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.

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.

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!

Limited Election Enrollment Session

The Portland registrar of Vvters will hold a limited enrollment session at Town Hall, 33 East Main St., on Monday, Nov. 3, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., in advance of the upcoming election.

Residents who have qualified to vote since Oct. 17 due to age, citizenship, or residence can apply to vote.

All other residents looking to register and vote in this election will need to utilize Same Day Registration services at the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 4, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Portland Middle School, or during any of the remaining early voting days at Town Hall.

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Portland residents recently celebrated a long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony, for the new Riverfront Access Park. From left are Tom Bransfield, state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32), Jay Asikainen, Gina D'Amico, Rick Sharr, Dan Lally, Mike Hennessey, Susan Bransfield, Karen Renner and Lou Pear.

Groundbreaking for Riverfront Access Park

Portland residents recently celebrated a long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony, for the new Riverfront Access Park.

On hand were state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32), First Selectman Mike Pelton, and Board of Selectmen members Tim Lavoy, Jim Tripp and Rick Sharr. Also instrumental to this endeavor, but not able to attend, was state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33), who helped to secure a state grant for the construction of a road from Airline Avenue to the river.

Gina D'Amico, representing the Tilcon Corporation and Brett Morrison from the CT River Conservancy, along with others, mentioned the collaboration of all the groups involved in making this a reality. Cooperation and coordination were exhibited between the town's Riverfront Access Committee, local and state officials and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

This project would also not be possible without a grant from the State of Connecticut, a Rockfall Foundation grant, the donation of land from the Field family and an easement from the Tilcon Corporation; which allowed access to the Connecticut River. The Riverfront Access Committee also thanked Nancy Woolhouse Mueller, Susan Bransfield and Ryan Curley for their vision and support of this plan.

Rick Sharr challenged all who support this riverfront access project to donate towards future improvements; which will be needed after the road is constructed. As a motivation, Sharr will match donations, dollar for dollar up to $10,000, between now and Dec. 31. Checks should be made out to The Brownstone Quorum, with a memo notation "Riverfront Access Committee." Note: Riverfront Access Committee is a subcommittee of the nonprofit Brownstone Quorum, a 501(c)(3) organization.

The members of the Portland Riverfront Access Committee are co-chairs Lou Pear and Rick Sharr, and members Thomas Bransfield, Christopher Donahue, Michael Hennessy, Karen Renner, Jay Asikainen and Mark Tuttle.

Planning Underway for Class of '76 Reunion

Planning is underway for the Portland High School Class of 1976 50th Reunion.

The reunion is planned for mid-June 2026; tentatively June 13 or 20. There is also an optional opportunity to walk with the graduating Class of 2026 to celebrate the 1976 alums' Bicentennial Class with the Class of 2026's Semiquincentennial ceremony. The date for this will be determined by the school district in early 2026.

Classmates can verify current contact information and obtain information through Mary Linda Eccles/Reitz at mlreitzphs76@gmail.com, or message her on Facebook; search for "Portland high class 76."

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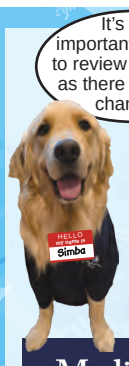

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Mon. Nov. 3rd 6-7pm
Tues. Nov. 10th 6:30-7:30pm
Mon. Nov. 17th 6:30-7:30pm

Douglas Library – Hebron
Nov. 12th 3-4pm & 6-7pm
Dec. 2nd 3-4pm & 6-7pm

Richmond Memorial Library Marlborough
Nov. 5th 3-4pm & 6-7pm
Dec. 4th 3-4pm & 6-7pm

Verterans Rally
Nov. 19th 5-6pm

Medicare Advantage Vs. Supplemental at Office
Thurs. Oct. 30th 6-7pm
Tues. Nov. 4th 6-7pm
Sat. Nov. 8th 6-7pm
Thurs. Nov. 27th 6-7pm

Cragin Library Colchester
Nov. 6th 3-4pm & 6-7pm
Dec. 4th 3-4pm & 6-7pm

Columbia Library
Dec. 3rd 1-2pm & 6-7pm

East Hampton
Nov. 19th 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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RE10-24-25

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Youth Football Recap

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

Micros: Played their final home game, and while the team did not find victory on the scoreboard, it did focus on football fundamentals. The Micros will have their last game away at RHAM, to close out the regular season.

Juniors: Played their final home game of the season, and were overmatched. Colchester had an emphasis on continuing to install its offense while trying out shifts on defense to counter Ellington's offensive prowess. Despite the loss, the team says it built experience while staying true to its minimum play rules.

Seniors: Lost, 20-0, on Seniors Night, against an undefeated Ellington team. Without a full squad, the Seniors held Ellington to 6 points in the first half. The community honored the graduating eighth-grade Seniors football players— PJ Brodeu, Jack Wissler, Gabby Bishop, Stephen Frechette, Mason France, Josue Reyes, and Jason Morales — along with the graduating Senior Cheerleaders - Analise Williams, Aubrey Krummel, Molly Buscetto, Kaylee Krol, and Bella Carrier.

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Annual Fall Market Nov. 1

Colchester Federated Church's annual Fall Market is coming up on Nov. 1, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the church, 60 Main St.

This fair will showcase over 50 local crafters, vendors, farmers and more. Rustic Streats Food Truck will be on site for lunch. Take your chances at the raffle table, and treat yourself to a sweet treat at the bake sale.

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.

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McNeely, Webster Outline Priorities for Schools and Finances

By Toriana Williams

The *Rivereast* last week profiled three of the four people running on the Republican slate for the Board of Education. The fourth, **Cody McNeely**, was unavailable for that story, but this week he was able to speak with the *Rivereast* and outline his goals if elected.

McNeely said his motivation to run is rooted in his commitment to family and community. McNeely explained that his family has a strong relationship with Colchester's school district and that his "two daughters have thrived at Colchester Elementary and Jack Jackter Intermediate School." He added that he is running "to protect our schools and enhance their success through support and service."

McNeely currently works as a "knowledge manager" for a defense consulting company supporting shipbuilding in Groton and previously served 20 years on active duty in the U.S. Navy, retiring on Dec. 31, 2024. During his military career, he said he "led instructor teams and spearheaded adult education curriculum development initiatives, as well as provided healthcare and program management underway."

McNeely said his experience "building teams and collaborating with diverse groups" has prepared him to "advance Colchester's schools for our community's greatest assets – our children and educators."

Looking ahead, McNeely said his top priority for Colchester schools is "collaborating with the Board of Finance and Education, along with the community, to bring back the trust and partnership we need."

He highlighted the importance of bridging "gaps in communication" and fostering "the high level of clarity and accountability our community deserves."

McNeely also said he aims to strengthen special education programs "to attract back students lost to other districts," noting that his older daughter, who is a student that participates in the aforementioned programs, "has flourished in her confidence and love for learning."

* * *

Likewise, last week's profile of the town's Republican Board of Finance candidates did not include **Amber Webster**, who was unavailable. But she also recently spoke with the *Rivereast* and outlined her hopes and concerns.

Webster said her decision to run is from a desire to make the town's budgeting process more transparent and understandable for residents.

"I believe our town's budgeting systems are overly complex and not easily understood by most residents," she said.

Webster explained that she wants "more transparency and open communication" so that residents can stay informed and more easily understand where tax dollars are being spent and how decisions are being made. She said her goal is to "help bridge that gap and make the financial process more accessible and understandable for everyone in our community."

With over six years of experience in finance and more than a decade in health care, Webster said she has spent that time "focusing on business operations and revenue management."

She explained that her background has given her "a strong understanding of how to manage budgets efficiently, identify unnecessary spending and ensure that every dollar is used wisely." She added that she plans to apply that same approach to town finances by "prioritizing essential needs, eliminating waste and making sure our spending aligns with what taxpayers truly value."

If elected, Webster spoke on her top priorities for the town, such as "improving transparency and communication throughout the budget process and strengthening collaboration with the Board of Education."

Since education spending represents a large portion of the town's budget, she said it is critical to "review proposals carefully, ask the right questions and take the time to ensure that funds are being allocated responsibility."

Webster also voiced concerns about rising taxes in Colchester, noting that "under Democratic leadership, taxes in our town have increased by 12% over the past three years."

This is a sentiment shared by many candidates. She warned that continued increases could make the town "unaffordable for many – especially our seniors on fixed incomes, families already struggling to make ends meet and younger generations who are finding it increasingly difficult to afford a home in today's economy."

Webster said she believes town officials must be careful stewards of public funds.

"Just as taxpayers must stretch every dollar in their own households, the town must do the same," she said. "At the end of the day, this is taxpayer money – and we need to ensure it's being used wisely, efficiently and always in the bester interest of the people of Colchester."

* * *

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4; early voting is currently underway.

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. (no program 11/11), Ages 12 – 36 months; Lego/Duplo Challenges, 6 p.m., family program – no registration required; Wednesdays: Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Ages up to 12 months; Thursdays: Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Ages 3 – 5; Story & a Craft, 5 p.m., for children and their caregivers -- no registration required; Fridays: Sensory Table (Runs year-round regardless of storytime sessions), 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Teen Subscription Book Boxes: First Monday of the month. Registration is required. For those going into grades 6-12. Stop by the Adult Circulation Desk or call 860-537-5752 to register.

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First Selectman Candidate Still Owes Me $1K, Resident Says

By Toriana Williams

A Colchester woman said a local political candidate has failed to comply with a court order requiring him to return her $1,000 security deposit, which she feels raises questions about accountability as he seeks public office.

According to records from the Connecticut Superior Court in New London, Magistrate Frances Mary Michelson-Dera ruled on May 22, 2025, that John and Natalie Thomas were "not justified in retaining the plaintiff's security deposit" and ordered them to return $1,000 plus interest to plaintiff Shannon Nazario by June 23, 2025.

The order stated that Nazario had rented property in Colchester from August 2018 through May 2024, paying $1,000 a month in rent and a $1,000 security deposit. The court found that while her rent payments were "sporadic," there was "no evidence that late fees were charged, nor were eviction proceedings commenced."

The magistrate determined that the defendants' photographs of alleged damage were taken before Nazario had finished cleaning the apartment, and that "the balance of the photos showed normal wear and tear after six years of occupancy." The court concluded the landlords "were not justified in retaining the plaintiff's security deposit" and ordered repayment.

As of press time, Nazario said the defendants have still not complied with that ruling.

"The ruling was issued on May 22, 2025, with a deadline of June 23 for payment, and they have yet to comply with the order," Nazario stated.

Thomas declined to comment on the matter for this story, saying Nazario "can spread whatever she wants about [the situation]. I'm not going to comment on that. It's an ongoing case."

As more than four months have passed without receiving payment, Nazario said she has now decided to take the next legal step.

"I plan to return to court… to file a Writ of Execution and request to attach their bank account. This costs me even more time, energy and out-of-pocket expenses- but I don't feel like I have a choice."

She described the original court ruling as "a partial win."

"In some ways, yes – it was validating that the court saw through their false evidence and ruled in my favor," she said. "But justice doesn't mean much if it's not enforced. Right now, the burden is still on me to chase down what the court already decided I'm owed."

Nazario added that she also felt the court was "overly lenient in denying the second thousand," explaining that she had sought double damages under state law. She said the Thomases claimed they withheld the deposit due to a late payment, "which wasn't true," and that "if they had ever asked for a late fee, I would've paid it without hesitation."

Nazario said that since the May ruling, there has been no communication from the Thomases.

"They've gone completely silent," she said. "Not a word of acknowledgment, apology or effort to resolve the matter – even after losing the case."

She said the financial and emotional toll has been significant.

"It's been incredibly stressful," she said. "I've been recovering from surgery, dealing with ongoing health issues and facing financial hardship. That money could've gone toward basic needs, medical expenses or even just helped me breathe a little easier. Instead, I've had to spend more time, energy and emotional bandwidth dealing with filing and court actions that should never have been necessary."

Nazario shared that her decision to speak publicly stems from concern about accountability, as Thomas is running for a leadership role as first selectman of Colchester.

"I hope people realize that character matters- especially when someone is asking for public trust in a leadership role," she said. "If John can't follow a court order, can't respect the law and tries to submit false evidence to avoid responsibility, why would anyone believe he'll honor his word to the community? Leadership starts with integrity in the small things. If he can't be honest or accountable in private matters, he has no business representing the public."

Nazario said she shared her story "from a place of honesty, vulnerability and full transparency."

"I didn't hold anything back, even when it made me feel exposed or judged," she said. "I've taken full accountability for my part in this situation and shared my experience exactly as it happened."

Nazario said she hopes speaking out encourages others to demand accountability from those in power. "Leadership without accountability is just performance without a title," she said. "And this situation has made that painfully clear."

Colchester resident Shannon Nazario and First Selectman candidate John Thomas went to court over a $1,000 security deposit Thomas was allegedly withholding. The New London Superior Court judge ruled in favor of Nazario – who said she has yet to receive the money.

Scouting for Food

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

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

All items are appreciated but there is a particular need for jelly, pasta sauce, breakfast items, canned pasta, healthy snacks, & canned vegetables. Other helpful items include macaroni and cheese, beverages, instant potatoes, rice and pasta side dishes. Personal care items and baby wipes & diapers are always needed (laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products). Please, no glass containers, opened packages, or expired food.

Colchester Cares Meets Next Week

Colchester Cares is a giving group that supports various causes in Colchester – and the group is set to meet next week.

Members who commit to donating $100 a quarter get together to present current needs in town and then vote on where to send the group's collective donations. The group was established in 2020 and has donated over $60,000 to Colchester causes since it began.

Colchester Cares always welcomes new members who are interested in giving back to the community. The group will next meet at Cragin Memorial Library Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. For more information on the group, please visit www.colchestercares.org or follow the group on Facebook.

Community Convo with Dennler

Bernie Dennler, Colchester's first selectman running for reelection in November, will host a community conversation at Maria's Pizza, 744 Middletown Rd., on Thursday, Oct. 30, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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

St. Joseph's Tailgate BBQ

The St. Joseph's Polish Society at 395 South Main St. is hosting its fourth annual indoor Tailgate BBQ on Sunday, Nov. 2. Advanced tickets are required for this event.

Wings will be served at 2 p.m. The rest of the buffet will be served at 3 p.m. and includes brisket, pulled pork, chicken, meat bombs (bacon meatloaf), kielbasa with sauerkraut, mac & cheese, and baked beans.

Cost is $22 per person. This is an in-person event and will not have a takeout option. Tickets must be purchased by Oct. 26. For more information, call 860-537-2550.

Ladies Guild Christmas Fair

The St. Andrew Ladies Guild will hold its annual Christmas Fair Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the church, 128 Norwich Ave.

All are invited to a festive day of holiday shopping and cheer. Included will be homemade baked goods, handcrafted items, Christmas treasures, a variety of raffle prizes, and various local vendors.

Lunch will be available for purchase from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Trunk or Treat

All are invited to the annual Colchester Trunk or Treat Saturday, Oct. 25 (rain date Oct. 26), in the Bacon Academy parking lot. There will be dozens of trunks, food trucks, and lots of candy!

The schedule is: 3-4 p.m., sensory-friendly event, and 4-6 p.m., open to the general public with DJ Dance Party and Full Costumes. Cost of admission is two unopened bags of candy per trunk-or-treater, collected prior to entry. We are also accepting candy donations at the following locations: Stop and Shop, Noel's Market, Mel's Downtown Creamery, Colchester Senior Center, Cragin Memorial Library, and the Parks and Recreation Office in Town Hall.

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Pond Name Disputed, Grants Approved at BOS Meeting

By Toriana Williams

The Colchester Board of Selectmen met on Oct. 16, covering a range of public safety, infrastructure and community issues – including an unusual request to rename a private pond.

The board heard a presentation from property owner Steven Gittelman, who requested that the Board of Selectmen support renaming "Pine Meadows Park Pond" to "Pine Meadows Lake."

Gittelman explained that the current name causes confusion and encourages trespassing by implying that the area is public property.

"It seems that trespassers bent on a good day of fishing are blind to the hundreds of 'No Trespassing' signs we have deployed," Gittelman said. "More often than not, the signs themselves are destroyed."

Gittelman argued that the body of water is deep enough to be classified as a lake, as it's "over 20 feet in its deepest zone, the southern half, where no vegetation takes root at its bottom."

Planning Director Nicole Haggerty wrote in a memo she supported removing the word "Park" from the name to clarify that the property is private. She wrote that changing the name "may not deter every potential trespasser, but the change would certainly clarify that the waterbody is not located in a park."

After discussion, Republican selectman Cliff O'Donal made a motion to support the name change, seconded by Democrat Rosemary Coyle. "That doesn't cost us anything, and it doesn't do us any harm one way or the other," O'Donal said.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler, however, was the lone dissenting vote. The Democrat said he was not opposed to the proposed name itself, but to the town formally taking a position on the matter.

"I just don't think it's appropriate for us to weigh in on a private property naming issue," Dennler said. He noted that while he understood the motivation to deter trespassers, "this is not town-owned land, and I don't think it's our role as a board to make a recommendation to the federal government about what a private property owner calls their pond."

Dennler added that he wanted to avoid creating confusion or setting a precedent for future requests.

"If we start weighing in on one, where does that line end?" he asked, emphasizing that the decision should rest between the property owner and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. However, the motion still carried, by a 4-to-1 vote.

Cops Hiring and Firefighter Grants Approved

Dennler also introduced a discussion and action on accepting the Cops Hiring Program [CHP] Grant awarded to the Colchester Police Department in the amount of $125,000. Colchester Resident State Trooper Zach Cash and Dennler explained that the grant could eventually help fund an additional officer position without burdening taxpayers.

Cash said, "It is the ultimate goal of Colchester to have a midnight shift. The problem with having a midnight shift now is we don't have the bodies to support it."

He explained that the department could not currently afford the overtime costs to fill a third shift but believed that, with cost savings from pension changes, "you could build up to having a midnight shift that wouldn't have that same line item of overtime."

Dennler emphasized that while he was not yet proposing new staffing levels, he supported the short-term plan made possible by the grant.

"Speeding has been an issue that we have been trying to combat," Dennler said, noting that residents regularly express concerns about road safety. "If there's an opportunity to address the police component and shore up what we know is a weak point in our enforcement ability while also not creating a budgetary issue, I think that it at least merits a discussion from the board tonight."

The motion to accept the CHP Grant passed unanimously.

The next item involved another federal award – the Assistant to Firefighters Grant (AFG) totaling $78,285.71, with an additional $3,914.29 in local cost share. Fire officials explained that the funds will pay for a pump operator and aerial operator certification course to train 40 firefighters. The training will be conducted locally in collaboration with the Connecticut Fire Academy.

Fire Chief Steven Hoffmann said, "Ultimately, it's paying for the training and it's paying for career firefighters to come back on overtime at no expense to the town."

The department plans to use its training account to cover the cost share, which they said was already budgeted.

Coyle made the motion to accept the grant, seconded by Art Shilosky, a Republican, and the motion carried unanimously.

Replacement Airbags

The board also authorized Dennler to sign a $3,000 equipment sales agreement with Mystic Fire District to replace expired rescue airbags. Fire officials explained that the department's current airbags, used for stabilization and extrication in emergencies, are 26 years old and beyond their 25-year lifespan.

"Mystic Fire District and their fire department are offloading their rescue equipment from their rescue and they're selling their rescue," Hoffman said. "Their airbags that are being presented here in this agreement were bought in 2024 and have literally never been used."

The purchase allows Colchester to replace outdated equipment at about one-fourth the cost of new units.

"We have the opportunity to replace our expired airbags that are currently on our apparatus with newer airbags that have not been used at about one-quarter of the price," he explained.

The motion to approve the $3,000 purchase was made by O'Donal, and seconded by Denise Turner, a Democrat. It passed unanimously.

Water Loan Application Authorized

Public Works Director Joe Leone joined the meeting remotely to discuss several Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan applications related to water system improvements. The projects include filter upgrades at Cabin Road, tank improvements at Highland Farms and PFAS filtration designed at Air Line Wellfield and Taintor Hill Road.

The loans will have up to 25% of their value forgiven by the state and will not exceed 20-year terms. Each motion was approved unanimously.

Youth Center Rehabilitation Plans

The board then discussed authorizing Dennler to sign the Youth Center structural rehabilitation construction inspection contract with Torello Engineers for $24,560. Leone provided an update on the ARPA-funded renovation, noting that the town is currently "mid abatement on the third floor" and that the engineers discovered structural concerns during prior safety reviews.

"We had Torello Engineers design the… permanent structural improvements to the building," he said. "They got it on a plan set. We put it out to bid."

Leone emphasized that the same engineers need to perform inspections to ensure quality and safety.

"We really need the engineer who designed the project to perform the inspection throughout the project to make sure that everything is done well," Leone said.

The motion to approve the contract passed unanimously.

Health Insurance Representation

Finally, the board discussed representation for upcoming joint health insurance talks between the town and Board of Education. Dennler explained that while the town's health reserve is stable, the school district "is having some difficulties" and wants to explore potential changes to the shared plan. Further discussions are expected at a later meeting.

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.

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 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.

Resident Earns Faculty Honors

Samantha D'atri of Colchester earned Faculty Honors for summer 2025 at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

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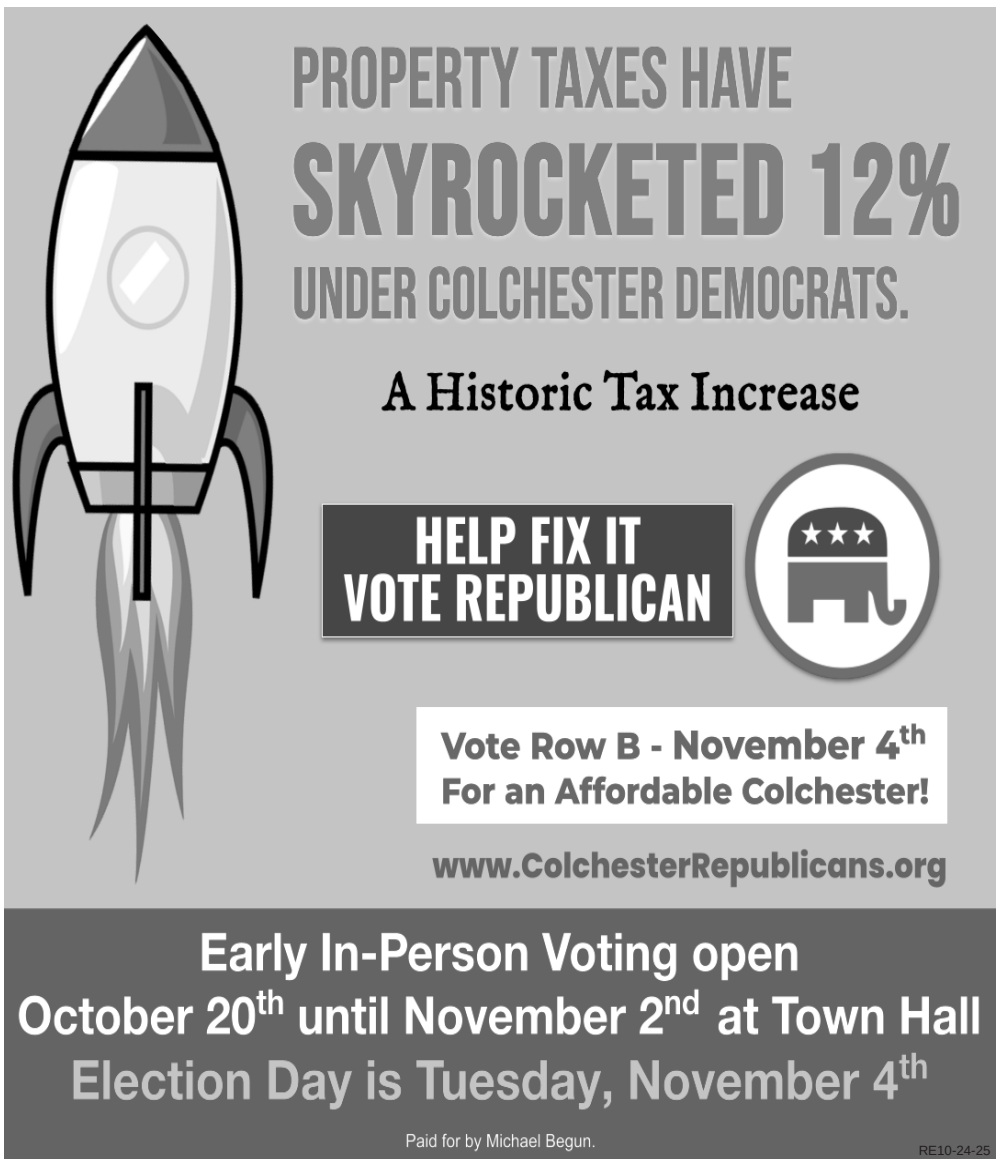

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Veterans Military Honor Squad

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.

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.

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.

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. 27: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 10:30 a.m., Unleash Your Joy; 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. 28: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Holiday Fair Earrings Class #2; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole, AARP Meeting; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

Wednesday, Oct. 29: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology by Appointment; 9:30 a.m., AARP Smart Driver TEK Class; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., AARP Night Driving; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

Thursday, Oct. 30: 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; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

Friday, Oct. 31: 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., Annual Halloween Pizza Party; no TVCCA lunch today; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

CCT to Hold Auditions for Musical

Colchester Community Theatre has scheduled November auditions for its February 2026 production of *Sister Act* through special arrangement with MTI.

When disco diva Deloris Van Cartier witnesses a murder, she is put into protective custody in the most unexpected of places: a convent! Disguised as a nun, Deloris breathes new life into the church's choir and community, but her newfound 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 cafeteria, 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 provided. 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 footwear (jazz shoes or sneakers) to learn a brief dance combination.

To sign up for auditions and receive additional information regarding the musical, please visit www.colchestercommunitytheatre.com. CCT is seeking a diverse and talented cast ages 16+ including BIPOC roles to bring this story to life on stage. For more information, email info@colchestercommunitytheatre.com.

Show dates for this production are Feb. 13, 14, and 15, 2026. Anyone who is unable to attend the auditions on the above dates must contact CCT before Nov. 13 to make other arrangements.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Caroline Banning, David Gazdzicki and Kelly Ann Kessler made the summer 2025 Dean's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.

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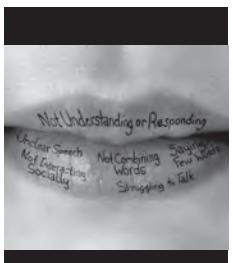

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Snow Plow Roadeo… **Hebron Public Works attended the annual CASHO Snow Plow Roadeo event on Oct. 9 – and the crew took home three trophies for competing in multiple events. The Snow Plow Roadeo scores are based on obstacle courses, a written test, and safety checks for different classes of vehicles. Pictured from left are Paul J. Forrest (Director), Steve VanCedarfield (Mechanic II) holding the second-place trophy for Utility/Mason Dump Truck class, John Harwood (Equipment Operator) holding the trophy for overall Winning Municipality since Hebron placed the most in this year's events, and Paul Sylvester (Equipment Operator) holding the first-place trophy for Six Wheel Dump Truck class.**

Voter Registration Event

The Hebron registrars of voters would like to remind residents that a limited one-day in-person voter registration session will be held on Monday, Nov. 3, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St. No appointment is necessary.

This session provides an important opportunity for eligible residents who have not yet registered to vote in the upcoming election. Individuals may also update their voter information, such as address or party affiliation, during this time.

Residents are encouraged to bring proper identification and proof of residence to ensure smooth processing.

For more information, call the registrars of voters office at 860-228-5971 ext. 134 or visit the town website for registration guidelines.

Help with Online Historic Research

Need assistance with your historic and genealogy research? Romano Ghirlanda, president of Marlborough Preservation Society, is returning to Douglas Library on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Ghirlanda will assist you in your research and navigating free online resources available through the Connecticut State Library. Some resources require a Connecticut State Library card to access but a card is not required to attend.

Bring your laptop and questions. Space is limited; to register, visit douglaslibrary.org.

This free program is a collaborative offering of Hebron Historical Society and the Douglas Library of Hebron. Donations are appreciated. The program is part of the historical society's America 250 series.

Hebron Lions Winter Storage Available

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

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

Indoor, barn, and outdoor spaces are available, and facilities are secure and monitored. Space for indoor and barn storage is limited, and demand is expected to be high as winter approaches. Outdoor storage remains widely available.

Interested residents are encouraged to contact Mike Beaulieu at 860-712-6713 for more information and for rates, or to reserve a spot.

The Hebron Lions Club is a part of Lions Clubs International. For more information on upcoming events or volunteer opportunities, email volunteers@hebronharvestfair.org.

'Giggles at Gilead' – Laughter for a Cause

"Giggles at Gilead," a night of comedy, community and giving back, will take place Friday, Nov. 21, at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St.

Presented in partnership with Funny 4 Funds, this PG-13 comedy fundraiser will feature local comedians, raffle baskets and more -- all to support local charitable causes.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets: $25 per person. Popcorn will be provided; bring your favorite snacks.

Space is limited. For tickets and more information, visit www.funny4funds.com/events/giggles-at-gilead/1569.

For more information, contact the church office at gcc@gileadchurch.net or 860-228-3077.

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 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.

Parks and Rec News & Notes

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

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

Youth Basketball: Registration is open for Recreational programs for grades 9-12.

Minds in Motion RE/CO Robot: At Hebron Elementary School Tuesdays, Nov. 18-Dec. 16, from dismissal until 4:20 p.m. Build and take home your very own RE/CO Robot, a mechanical off-roading adventure.

Karate: Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m., at Gilead Hill School, for ages 6 through adult. These are six-week ongoing sessions. Must register for each ongoing session.

Crafternoons at GHS and HES: From dismissal-4:30 p.m. Mondays starting Oct. 27 at HES and Wednesdays starting Oct. 29 at GHS. Each session will feature different age-appropriate crafts.

Food Explorers at HES: Thursdays, Nov. 20-Dec. 18, from dismissal-4:15 p.m. Each week you'll make a dessert inspired by your favorite holiday flavors and foods. All recipes are nut-free and vegetarian but will contain dairy, eggs and gluten.

Barre-Yoga Fusion: Wednesdays, Nov. 12-Dec. 17, 6:15-7:15 p.m., at GHS. All fitness levels welcome. Equipment needed: Yoga Mat, Light Hand Weights (2-3lbs).

St. Peter's News & Notes

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St. (mailing address: P.O. Box 513) in Hebron. Priest is the Rev. Ron Kolanowski. The church is located on Route 85, a quarter-mile south of the intersection with Route 66, at 30 Church St. For more information on St. Peter's, visit stpetershebron.com or search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook.

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

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

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

Special Veterans' Worship Service: Nov. 9 at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. St. Peter's invites all veterans to come as the church gives thanks for their service.

Outreach: This month, food donations will go to the Andover food pantry. A collection basket is in the church and outside the parish hall. A portion of the proceeds from the Pumpkin Fest will be given to the Hebron Synagogue to help with their roof reconstruction.

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

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Medicare Open Enrollment/Winter Fuel Assistance: The Open Enrollment period takes place annually from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. This is your opportunity to review all of your options and decide to stay with your current plan, or switch to another plan, or change the way that you receive your Medicare benefits. To set up an appointment, call the senior center and ask for Sharon or Dennis.

Weekly Shopping Trips: Pre-registration is required by noon the day before the trip. Upcoming schedule: Wednesday, Oct. 29, Big Y, pick-ups begin at 10 a.m.

Sunshine Singers Monster Mash: Thursday, Oct. 30, 11:45 a.m. Come dressed in your best costume and sing along with the Sunshine Singers to fun Halloween/seasonal songs. There will be a contest for best costume and a Halloween treat provided. Costumes encouraged, but not required.

Audrey Carrol Painting Class: Fridays, Nov. 7 and 14, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost is $40 for both sessions or $25 for one. All levels of experience welcome. Create a holiday floral with an extra surprise. Sign up by Wednesday, Oct. 29.

Veterans Appreciation Lunch: Wednesday, Nov. 12, 11:45 a.m.; doors open at 11:30 a.m. The center will host a free lunch for local veterans and a guest. The menu will consist of pulled barbecue chicken, a Hawaiian sandwich roll, baked beans, coleslaw, dessert, coffee and tea. Registration required by Friday, Nov. 7.

Senior Transportation: Offered to ages 60 and up and all adult disabled individuals, for medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Transportation available Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance, but 48 hours is recommended – and required for new riders. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 860-228-1700.

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

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

Veterans Day Flag Ceremony

All are invited to a demonstration and explanation of the role of American flag-folding during ceremonial occasions on Veterans Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11, at noon, in front of the American Legion, 18 Main St.

The demonstration will follow the 11 a.m. Veterans Day ceremony at the Hebron Veterans Memorial.

The demonstration is a collaboration of American Legion Post 95, Hebron Historical Society, Douglas Library and Hebron ACE Hardware, and is part of the historical society's America 250 series.

The scouts of Junior Girl Scout Troop 65092 of Hebron and Marlborough recently earned their Bronze Award, which is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn. Pictured from left are scouts Willa Menditto, Holly Toebbe, Annabelle Hnat, Olivia Coyne, Monica Poirier, Lila Yerukhimovich, and Douglas Library Director Drusilla Carter. Not pictured, but who also earned the Bronze Award, is Emma Coyne.

Scouts Earn Bronze Award for Disaster Kits

For their Bronze Award project, the scouts of Junior Girl Scout Troop 65092 of Hebron and Marlborough have come up with Disaster Kits for the community.

The Bronze Award is the highest achievement a Junior Girl Scout can earn. It is earned by identifying a problem in the community and working together to solve it. This time the Girl Scouts learned that some communities are struggling because of storms and power outages, so the scouts made Disaster Kits just in case people end up needing it. To determine what to put in the kits, the scouts sent a survey to the community, collecting 100 responses.

In the Disaster Kit you will find a rechargeable lantern, rechargeable battery pack, charging cords, first aid kit, emergency blankets, hand warmers, antibacterial soap, batteries and can opener.

If you end up needing a kit, there are currently three Disaster Kits available at Douglas Library in Hebron. Inside each kit there is a survey to provide feedback from the user so that Girl Scout Troop #65092 can determine whether or not to take something out or put something else in, if it was useful, or any changes are needed to be made.

The Girl Scout troop learned a lot about the needs of others, the gap of resources during times of emergencies and how they can fill that gap. The scouts added that, once the Disaster Kits take off at Douglas Library, they are looking to expand to other libraries or facilities to make these easily accessible for other community members.

Community Conversation on Immigration

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

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

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

This community conversation is sponsored by the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE). For more information about CoDE, visit www.code-diversity.org.

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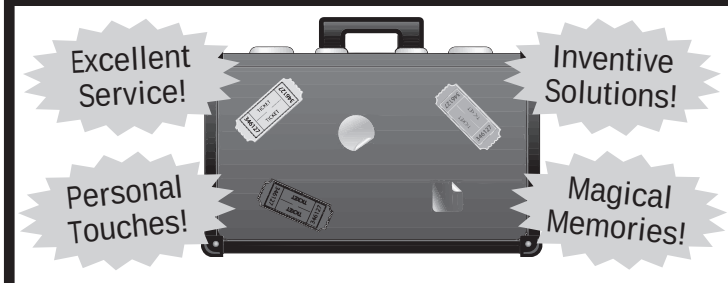
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Gilead Congregational Church News

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

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

This Week's Scheduled Events/Meetings: Saturday, 10/25: Yoga, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Sunday, 10/26: Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meeting at 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service at 10 a.m. with Youth Bibles and October Birthday Cupcakes (in-person in the sanctuary, as well as online and livestreamed); Coffee Hour at 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Board of Missions Chili Cookoff at 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall hallway; Monday, 10/27: Bible study at 9:30 a.m., online via Zoom; Tuesday, 10/28: AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 10/29: Yoga at 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, 10/29: Choir Practice at 7 p.m., sanctuary.

Board of Missions Chili Cookoff: Sunday, Oct. 26, 11:30 a.m. Enjoy a variety of chilis while supporting the 2026 youth and adult mission trip.

Gilead's Annual Membership Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 2, following the 10 a.m. worship service. The meeting will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in-person; see the church newsletter or reach out to the church office to receive the link.

Faith and Film Potluck Series: Friday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a movie, food and fellowship. Meets the first Fridays of each month through fall, winter, and early spring. All are welcome.

Annual Church Workday: Saturday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m. Join the Trustees as they spend time cleaning up the church grounds and facilities. Rain date: Saturday, Nov. 22.

Save the Dates: Friday, Nov, 21: 'Giggles at Gilead' comedy fundraiser (PG-13), doors at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m., $25 tickets, raffle baskets, and BYO snacks; Sunday, Nov. 30, Hygiene Kit Assembly at 11:30 a.m. for Church World Service – help pack essential supplies for those in need.

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.

Bad Movie: Wednesday, Oct. 29, 1 p.m. Today's movie will be *Yor, The Hunter from the Future*, from 1983.

Local Author – Cynthia Adams: Wednesday, Oct. 29, 6 p.m. *First He Killed the Minuteman* by Cynthia Herbert-Bruschi Adams is a true account of a series of crimes, including murders, which swept through towns in Connecticut in 2020.

Friday Film: Friday, Oct. 31, 1 p.m. *M3GAN 2.0,* rated PG-13, will be shown.

Chair Yoga: Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. In these classes led by Karen Gomez, you will use the support of the chair to arrive in yoga poses, move, breathe, and ultimately feel good. Registration is required as space is limited.

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.

Chess Nights: There are pickup games every Thursday starting at 4 p.m. in the Community Room. All skill levels and ages are welcome.

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

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

Children: Lego Club: Every Monday, 4-5 p.m. All kids are invited to come build some Lego creations.

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

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

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Halloween Fun at Burrows Hill School

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

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

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

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

At 4 p.m., the school house will be lit by candlelight creating spooky shadows as visitors enjoy the tale of a gullible New England schoolteacher trying to ingratiate himself with the Dutch inhabitants of Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., in the 1790s. This program is suitable for children 10 and up. Cider and doughnuts will be served after the reading.

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

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

Church of The Holy Family News

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

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

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

"Neighbors Feeding Neighbors": The Social Outreach Committee collects breakfast cereal on the second Sunday of each month for the benefit of the Covenant Soup Kitchen (CSK) in Willimantic. The next collection date is Nov. 9. However, cereal is most welcome any time. Place bagged donations in the oak collection box near the Robing Room.

Meatloaves for CSK: The parish also provides meatloaves to CSK each month. Parishioners are asked to deliver a cooked meatloaf to the freezer in the garage (use side entrance) closest to the Parish House or the freezer in the St. Columba church hall by the 4th Tuesday of the month. Meatloaves are delivered the next day. The next due date is Oct. 28. Contact Diane (860-508-9959) for more information.

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

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

"Socktober" Campaign: During October, bins are available for the annual collection of new winter socks for needy children and adults. The socks will be distributed to charitable agencies and shelters that the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd supports.

Homebound Ministry: The church ministers to homebound parishioners who wish to receive the sacraments. Call the church office (860-228-3727 ext. 106 or 110) to set up a schedule.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: OCIA meetings started Sept. 28 in the Parish House. The sessions are open to adults who wish to join the Catholic Church, Catholic adults who have not yet completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation), and Catholic adults who wish to learn more about their faith. Contact the parish office (ext. 105) or email ocia@goodshepherdct.org for more information and to register.

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Founder's Dinner at St. Peter's

The inaugural Founder's Dinner was held Friday, Oct. 17, at St Peter's Episcopal Church. Pictured is John Loge, one of the organizers of the event and the master of ceremonies.

The inaugural Founder's Dinner was held Friday, Oct. 17, at St Peter's Episcopal Church, to kick off what will be the year of celebrations and activities that will culminate in the grand celebration of the church's 200 years of existence from 1826-2026.

The dinner was a potluck meal where members were invited to dress in costume as a past member from any time period in the past 200 years. The 80+ in attendance dressed in costumes including farmers, soldiers, hippies, typical "church ladies" from the '50s complete with hats and gloves, and ladies and gents from late 1800s and early 1900s.

A surprise guest was the Rev. Samuel Peters, the first vicar of the parish portrayed by the current rector the Rev. Ron Kolanowski, who narrated the history of the church over the decades. The 200-year celebration is planned for Oct. 18, 2026.

The choir Voce launched its 20th anniversary Oct. 11, before a full house at St. Peter's. Voce artistic director Mark Singleton is shown here speaking to the concert audience.

Choir Launches 20th Season in Hebron

On Saturday, Oct. 11, the choir Voce launched its 20th anniversary season before a full house at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

The choir members are artists-in-residence at Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford, yet chose to come to Hebron to begin their season.

"We were deeply honored and somewhat surprised that they accepted our invitation to perform as part of our Sanctuary Performing Arts Series," stated the Rev. Ron Kolanowski, rector of St. Peter's.

Composer Eric Whitacre called Voce "one of my favorite choirs in the world." Led by artistic director Mark Singleton, Voce performed with world-renowned tenor Andrea Bocelli, joining him on his Valentine's Day and Christmas tours in 2024.

Singleton's work has earned praise from "exemplifying choral performance at its finest" by composer Morten Lauridsen and noted as "heartbreakingly beautiful" by the American Record Guild. With recordings on the Signum Classics label, Singleton has established Voce as a major force in the choral world, with composer Paul Mealor describing him as "a conducting legend" named Voce as "one of the finest choirs on the planet."

Singleton was deeply moved by the entire evening and the exceptional hospitality extended to him and the parish. As he was leaving, he told Kolanowski, "This will not be the only time we will be together I see in the future where we can work to benefit both our choir and the concert series in Hebron."

Singleton added, "Bringing this level of performance to Hebron is truly a rare treat and we cannot wait until they return,"

So, if you missed Voce the first time, the choir will be back soon.

Christ Lutheran Church News and Notes

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

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

Bi-Annual Voters Assembly Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 9, immediately following service.

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

Early Childhood Center (Daycare): Offers childcare, preschool, and before/after school care, and is open to all faiths. For more information, call director Jennifer Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are at www.clecchebron.org.

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

Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots for the municipal election are available at the town clerk's office located at 15 Gilead St.

To request an absentee ballot, complete and submit an application online, or by mail or in person to the Town Clerk, Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248. The ballot drop box located at the front door of the Town Office Building can be used for depositing applications and ballots 24 hours a day 7 days per week.

Regular town office hours: Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. For information, call 860-228-5971 x 125.

Early Voting Days: Early voting runs through Nov. 2, including weekends, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. There will be extended hours on Oct. 28 and 30, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

In-person voting for the election will be held at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St., Hebron, CT between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

If unsure of your voter registration status, you may check online at portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx

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

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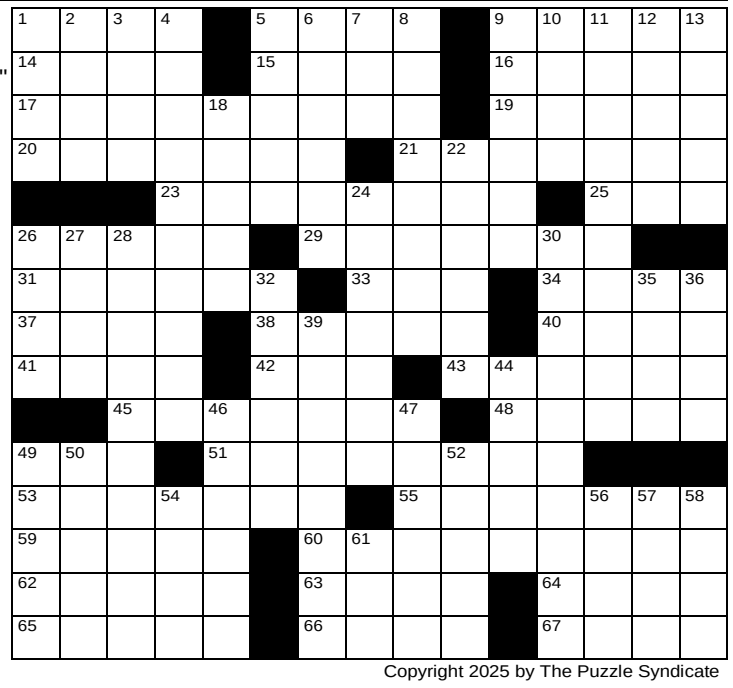
The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

1 Carb or fat unit
5 "Gilligan's Island" actor
9 Reduce drastically
14 Glorified gofer
15 German auto
16 Suggest
17 Spa feature
19 Rubbernecked
20 Putting in a corral
21 Medal giver
23 Self-doubting
25 Ike's WWII command
26 Swiss capital
29 Irregular
31 Leaped forward
33 VA time zone
34 Shaver's bane
37 Snowman in "Frozen"
38 Muse of love poetry
40 Kind of package
41 Andean land
42 Do lacework
43 Tear gas target
45 Splits in two
48 Like some lingerie
49 Shade of blonde
51 Heartbeat phase
53 Attacking, as the fridge
55 Middle bit of a Venn diagram
59 Some downloads
60 Uncomfortable
62 Group of eight
63 Yuletide song
64 TV's Nick at ___
65 Musical intervals
66 Bulgy biceps, slangily
67 Sink pipe

DOWN

1 Struggle for air
2 Confirmation, for one
3 Yemeni city
4 Having significance
5 Trumpet and trombone
6 Highest point
7 DiCaprio, to fans
8 Chicago suburb
9 Document seal
10 ROFL relative
11 Increase in value
12 Cold shower?
13 Prefix with plane or electric
18 Chop finely
22 Loud speaker
24 Fashions
26 Broadway disaster
27 ____ of thumb
28 Opponents of government
30 Hard to follow
32 Keep in custody
35 Canadian tribe
36 "An Affair to Remember" co-star
39 Wreaking havoc upon
44 Speck in the sea
46 Official orders
47 Hot, as in goods
49 Jousting gear
50 Lasagna layer
52 Track shapes
54 Paleo, for one
56 Animal shelter
57 Dog in "The Thin Man"
58 Chick's chirp
61 Rawls or Reed

Answers to Previous Crossword:

M	A	R	C		M	A	N	E		A	T	T	A	R
O	L	I	O		O	L	I	N		N	O	R	S	E
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T	I	D	E	S		N	E	W	S		S	L	E	D

HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Better Dental HEALTH
by George M. Mantikas, DMD
A Practice For Optimal Dental Fitness

CHILDHOOD CAVITIES

Children can get cavities in their baby/non-permanent teeth, and these cavities must be treated and filled even though the child may soon lose those teeth. If a cavity is left untreated, it may cause pain and lead to infections, some of which can be life-threatening. If a tooth with a cavity has an adult tooth coming in behind it, a dentist may choose to extract the tooth rather than fill the cavity. Cavities in children are somewhat common because children have more bacteria in their mouths and lower saliva production than adults. In addition to regular dental checkups, every six months, establishing good brushing and flossing habits at a young age is the best way to prevent cavities in children.

Introducing children to dental care at an early age sets the stage for a lifetime of healthy dental hygiene. Begin with proper brushing and flossing techniques and a tooth-friendly diet. Continue with regular professional care and cleanings for a beaming smile that will last a lifetime. If you would like more information on how to get your child's dental experience off to a good start, we welcome your call. We see both children and adults as patients, because we believe everyone, regardless of age, deserves a winning smile.

P.S. Your child may receive one of two types of fillings: direct and indirect. A direct filling can be done in one dental visit. An indirect filling involves customized repairs to the tooth and is usually done in two stages and two dental visits.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC
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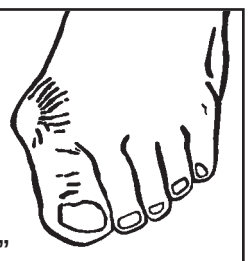

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Obituaries

Hebron

Timothy Fitzgerald

Timothy Guerin Tucker Fitzgerald, beloved son of Elizabeth and Robert Fitzgerald of Hebron, died Monday, Oct. 13, in Washington, D.C., where he had lived for the past eight years. Tim was born April 20, 1995, and grew up in Hebron surrounded by a family and friends whom he loved and who loved him in return.

Tim was a 2013 graduate of RHAM High School, where he gathered friends and had many adventures. Following graduation, Tim spent much of the following year engaged in volunteer work in Chaing Rai, Thailand, teaching English to the people of that region. When he returned, he took classes at Manchester Community College and Trinity College. In 2017, he moved to Washington, D.C. and soon began working in the restaurant industry, first as a server and later as a manager.

For the past two years, he worked with the Starr Restaurant Group on a team which conceived and executed wildly successful and critically well-received openings for its new restaurants, Pastis and The Occidental. Tim was proud to ensure that his guests, be they internationally known politicians and public figures or families out for a special occasion, were treated to a wonderful dining experience. He was proud to promote the success of his team and spent hundreds of hours teaching himself Spanish in order to be a better mentor for his colleagues. Earlier in his time in Washington, Tim enjoyed the five years he spent working for the José Andrés Group at Oyamel and Zaytinya, where he charmed guests and coworkers with his delightful way.

A well-coordinated and talented athlete, Tim enjoyed competing with teammates in a variety of sports including baseball, soccer, basketball and lacrosse and in individual sports such as golf and skiing. He was a devoted fan of UConn basketball, Liverpool soccer, and all of the New England sports teams, especially the Boston Red Sox. One of Bob's greatest memories was when Tim came down from bed to sit with him and watch the final outs when the Red Sox won the 2004 World Series.

Tim also enjoyed politics and U.S. history, having recently developed an interest in Civil War battlefields. Beth and Bob will never forget the wonderful time they spent with him at Gettysburg this August.

In addition to his parents, Tim is survived by his devoted sister, Margaret, with whom he lived; his loyal brothers, Kevin and his wife, Molly Dinardo, of Seattle, Wash., and Colin and his girlfriend, Emma Healy, of West Roxbury, Mass., and his caring and thoughtful younger sister, Madeline, of Brooklyn, N.Y. Tim's childhood in the Fitzgerald house was a nonstop circus of meals, meetings, practices, games, and books, with poorly behaved dogs rushing about at all times. None of the Fitzgeralds would have had it any other way.

Tim also leaves his aunts and uncles, Paul and Debbie Fitzgerald of East Hartford, Jack and Gina Fitzgerald of Wallingford, Neil Tucker and Mary Ellen Tucker of Oradell, N.J., and Joanne Gillooly and Jeffrey Gillooly of Worcester, Mass., as well as dozens of cousins and hundreds of friends.

Tim was predeceased by his grandparents, George and Nancy Fitzgerald of East Hartford and Robert and Madeline Tucker of Vernon, and his uncle, Thomas Fitzgerald of East Hartford.

Please join us for a funeral Mass at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron, on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 11 a.m., with a gathering in the church hall from noon-3 p.m. A service in Washington, D.C. will be announced shortly.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial gifts to charities which feed people in need, such as Hebron Interfaith Human Services (www.hihsct.org/donate) and DC Central Kitchen (dccentralkitchen.org/donate).

Hebron

Nancy Kirkham

With profound sadness, we share that Nancy (Taber) Kirkham, of Hebron, passed away peacefully at home Thursday, Oct. 16, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born Feb. 20, 1952, in Deep River, Nancy was the daughter of Cliff and Audrey Taber. She graduated from Valley Regional High School and attended Eastern Connecticut State University. Nearly 50 years ago, she made Hebron her home, a place where she raised her children, built lifelong friendships, and became a beloved figure in the community.

Nancy's life was centered around family, and her greatest joy came from the deep bonds she nurtured with loved ones. She and her husband Geoff Kirkham shared over forty years of marriage, creating a blended family filled with laughter, love, and warmth. Their home was a haven for children and grandchildren alike.

Nancy was lovingly known as "Nanny" to her grandchildren and to the many children she cared for over the years. Her nurturing spirit, gentle wisdom, and unwavering kindness made her a trusted presence in young lives. Whether she was babysitting, offering a listening ear, or simply being nearby, you knew everything was okay with Nanny in charge.

Nancy and Geoff shared many adventures throughout their years together. They loved to travel, exploring new places hand in hand, and Nancy was the consummate planner – thoughtful, organized, and always making sure every detail was just right. Whether it was a camping trip or a cross-country journey, she made each experience memorable and fun.

She also touched many lives through her work in the community. Nancy brought her gracious spirit to The Shops at Marlborough Barn, where she enjoyed connecting with people and sharing in the joy of home decor. Later, she became a familiar and friendly face at Hebron Pharmacy, where her warmth and reliability made her a favorite among customers.

Those who knew Nancy will remember her gentle heart, her love of camping and travel with Geoff, and her unwavering devotion to their life together. Her legacy is one of compassion, connection, and quiet strength.

Nancy is deeply mourned by her children and their families: daughter, Lisa Massicotte and her husband Todd of Exeter, N.H.; son, Michael Pomprowicz of Hebron; stepdaughter, Stacey Durden and her husband Jeff of Redmond, Ore.; and stepdaughter, Heather Murphy and her husband Justin of Marlborough; grandchildren, Cameron, Tommy and Michael Massicotte, Avery and Jake Pomprowicz, Ila Durden, and Caitlyn, Amelia, and Jillian Murphy.

She is also lovingly remembered by her brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Donna Taber of Deep River; her nephew Brian and his family, Betsey, Maren, Teagan, and Peter Taber of Glastonbury; and her niece Karen and her family, Josh, Ethan, and Haddie Esposito of Hebron, CT.

Nancy was grateful for the enduring friendship and co-parenting partnership she shared with Paul and Carla Pomprowicz of Hebron, and for the love and support of her former mother-in-law, Alberta Pomprowicz of Hebron.

A service to honor Nancy's beautifully lived life will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron. A reception will follow immediately at St. Peter's Phelps Hall, where friends and family are invited to gather in remembrance and celebration.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Hebron Historical Society, P.O. Box 43, Hebron, CT 06248, or Hebron Interfaith Human Services Food Pantry, 28 Pendelton Dr., Hebron CT 06248.

Portland

Shirley Long

Shirley (Hale) Long, 90, of Portland, wife of the late Edward F. Long Sr., died Wednesday, Oct. 15, surrounded by her family. She was born in Middletown Jan. 4, 1935, daughter of the late Watson A. and Mary (Dingwell) Hale Sr.

Shirley's joys in life were her family, baking and knitting. She was a devout Catholic and loved taking care of her grandchildren.

Shirley is survived by her children, Nancy Arcand (Michael) of Portland, Mary Eccles (Timothy) of Portland, who cared for her, along with her niece, Cindy Granata. She also leaves daughters, Deborah and Karen. Shirley also leaves behind 20 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren; her oldest sibling, Harriet (William) Sanborn; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband, Edward Sr.; sons, Edward Jr. and Gary; siblings, Patricia (Hale) Long and Watson Andrew Hale Jr.

The funeral liturgy will be held Saturday, Oct. 25, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will follow at St. Mary Cemetery.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to St. Mary Parish, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480, or The Portland Volunteer Fire Dept. P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

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

Portland

Sylvia I. Archer

Sylvia I. Archer (Foster), nearly 91, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Water's Edge Health and Rehabilitation Center in Middletown, after a long illness and recent complications with COPD. Sylvia was born Nov. 6, 1934, in Dennysville, Maine, the daughter of the late Vivian Trott and Carleton Foster. She was married to the late Lynn E. Archer for nearly 50 years.

Sylvia leaves her son, Gregory Archer and his wife Catherine of Portland; a grandson, Michael Archer and his wife Ashley of Portland and their children William and Emily; a granddaughter, Cheryl Richards and her husband Todd of Waterville, N.Y., and their children Rylynn and Owen; a brother, Dana Foster and his late wife Mary and their children and grandchildren; and a brother, Ray Foster and his wife Sarah and their children and grandchildren; as well as several cousins. She also leaves behind her loving 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 four great-grandchildren.

The family offers their most sincere appreciation 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. Website: poainc.org.

Please visit the Biega Funeral Home at www.biegafuneralhome.com for an online registry.

East Hampton

Myrtle Jane Robida

Myrtle Jane (Foster) Robida, 92, of East Hampton, beloved wife of 72 years to John Robida, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at Hartford Hospital.

Born in Portland on June 16, 1933, she was the daughter of the late James and Ada (Gustafson) Foster. Known to all as Jane, she grew up in Portland and married the love of her life, John, in 1953. Jane and John raised their family in Middletown and East Hampton. A devout communicant of St. Patrick Church, she dedicated her working life as a nurse's aide at both Middlesex Hospital and Cobalt Lodge.

Jane cherished her family above all else and was known for her warmth, deep kindness, and special ability to make everyone she met feel welcome and loved. Her legacy is carried on by her devoted husband, John Robida; her two sons, James Robida (Donna) of Cobalt, and John Robida (Cheryl) of Virginia; and her two daughters, Elizabeth Robida-Eiman (Gerry) of Windham, and Chrisandra Robida (Craig) of East Hampton.

She is also survived by her sister, Carol Emmons of Cobalt, 15 beloved grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. She was predeceased by her sisters, Beverly Goff and Janet Grover.

Friends and family may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, Oct. 27, from 4-6 p.m. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m., at St. John Paul II Parish of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may

Obituaries

be made to the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424 or Haddam Neck Volunteer Fire Dept., 50 Rock Landing Rd., Haddam, CT 06424.

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

Moodus

Patricia Ann Kelly

Patricia Ann Kelly, of Moodus, passed away Monday, Oct. 13, with her loving family by her side. She was 91 years old. She was fondly called "Patsy."

Patricia was born Aug. 5, 1934, in Clinton, Mass. She was the daughter of Chester F. Reardon and Augusta R. (McCann) Reardon. Patricia raised five children as a single mother in Clinton, Sterling and Princeton, Mass. She was a longtime parishioner of Saint John the Guardian of Our Lady Parish in Clinton.

Patricia was a stay-at-home mom for 14 years and then began a long career with the Firestone Company. A self-taught bookkeeper, she retired after 20 years as office manager and bookkeeper of the Shrewsbury White City and Leominster Firestone stores. After retiring, she worked part-time from 1990-1993 in the housekeeping department at Notre Dame Health Care in Worcester, Mass. She then went to work part-time in the housekeeping and activities departments at the former University Commons in Shrewsbury, Mass. She had a great love for the elderly and extended kindness and help to all those in vulnerable and disadvantaged positions. She retired completely at age 65.

Patricia was great fun and was always a shining light at gatherings. She came from a jovial family of Irish heritage and was fortunate to travel to Ireland. She disputed the results of her ancestry testing when it came back stating that she was 78% Irish. We decided that there definitely had been a mistake and that she was indeed correct and that she and her entire family were 100% Irish.

She loved big band music, especially Frank Sinatra, and was a beautiful dancer. She enjoyed exercising at Gloria Stevens and with Jack LaLanne on television. After retirement, she traveled to Maine in the summers and Florida in the winters. She was a wonderful homemaker and enjoyed cooking and baking and worked in the vegetable garden in her backyard. She was an avid reader and she and her friends traveled with small libraries in the trunks of their cars so they could exchange books when they met. She still socialized with grammar and high school friends.

Patricia was predeceased by her ex-husband James J. Kelly in 2003, and her long-term companion of 25 years, Robert S. Nedroscik, in 2005. She was predeceased by all her siblings: Chester F. Reardon Jr., Thomas J. Reardon, Kathleen Gallagher, Nancy DiRienzo and Robert J. Reardon Sr. Very sadly, she was predeceased by two daughters, Maureen Kelly at age 7 in 1970 and Carolyn Kelly at age 30 in 1990. Patricia was fortunate to live close to all her family which provided a great source of support for her and her children over the years.

Patricia is survived by her three children: Kathleen (Kevin) Hastings of Colchester, Timothy J. Kelly and his companion Kelly Bachand of Worcester, Mass., and Coleen (John) Logomasini of Marlborough, Mass. She leaves two grandchildren, Bridget (Kevin) Komosky of Colchester, CT and Brittany (Kyle) Fernandez of Cherry Valley, Mass., as well as four great grand-children and extended family and friends. She is also survived by her dear friend, Patricia Laflash of Worcester, Mass.

We would like to express profound gratitude to those who helped care for Patricia: Kim, her longtime companion and caregiver while at home, and Judy of Prisms Hair Studio in Colchester, who patiently and lovingly tended to her hair in the salon – one of Patricia's favorite things to do. In her younger years, it was a weekly visit to the hairdresser that she enjoyed and it spanned decades.

Many thanks go out to all staff at Chestelm Health and Rehab Center who gave exceptional care to Patricia during her four years there. Many would visit her daily to chat and bring her to activities and The Rosary Group. And many thanks to all medical personnel in the community who worked to make Patricia's days easier.

Patricia made the world a better place and will be deeply missed. She was beloved by many and she left a little sparkle wherever she went. Her sparkle has remained in the many lives she touched along the way. Patricia always tried to look on the bright side of things.

Patricia had asked that, upon her passing, for people to consider donating to the Jimmy Fund/Dana-Farber Children's Hospital or The Dementia Society of America.

Patricia's care has now been entrusted to Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. There were calling hours at the funeral home on Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 9-10:30 a.m. A funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew Catholic Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester.

To write a condolence or share a memory of Patricia with her family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Robert Paul Watkins

It is with heartfelt sadness that we announce the passing of Robert "Bob" Paul Watkins, 79, of Ormond Beach, Fla., formerly of East Hampton. Bob passed away peacefully on Sunday, Sept. 28.

Bob was born in Middletown on Sept. 9, 1946. He was the son to the late Quentin Watkins and Lucy Mazzotta. Bob served in U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from 1964-1967 and then worked as a laborer until his retirement. He was a member of Connecticut Laborers Union.

Bob is survived by his devoted wife of 21 years, Susan, and his children, Eric Watkins, Toni Corriveau (and her husband, Michael), Michelle Carrero (and her husband, CJ), and Ashley Gubtil.

He leaves behind his grandchildren, Triston, Rylee, Chase, Austin and Logan, who were his pride and joy. Bob will be sorely missed by his siblings: sister, Marilyn Pitruzzello (late husband, Tom), sister, Donna Laskin (and her husband, Joel), and brother, Jim Watkins. He will be fondly remembered by his in-laws, Deb Ewald (and her husband, Kevin), Colleen Roccapriore (and her husband, Dave), Laura Harwood (and her husband, Greg), George Tuttle (and his wife, Kim), and Tracey Brown (and her husband, Clayton). He leaves behind many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Bob enjoyed life to the fullest when riding his Harley with his friends and had a passion for music. He was a kind man with the sweetest smile. His most cherished moments over the last few years were the times spent video chatting with his grandchildren. His passion for life and positive spirit will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

Bob's wish was to have a Celebration of Life with family and friends with his favorite music playing. Family will have a Celebration of Life ceremony at a later date in Connecticut.

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www.TriCountyMemorials.com
tcmemorials@aol.com

RE9-26-25

Town of Portland

Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that quarterly bills are due and payable October 17, 2025. Payments not made in full on or before November 17, 2025 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the original due date.
Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the charge. Please contact the Water/Sewer department if you do not receive your bill at (860) 342-6735 or by email darce@portlandct.org
Payments are accepted in person at the Town Hall, 33 East Main Street, Portland. Payments can also be placed in the dropbox or mailed to the address listed below.
Town of Portland
Water/Sewer Dept.
P.O. Box 71
Portland, CT 06480-0071
Michele Nuhn, CCMC, CCMO
Town of Portland
Collector of Revenue

3TB 10/10, 10/24, 11/7

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of Marlborough that a sewer usage charge is due in one installment on October 1, 2025.
The last day to pay without interest is November 3, 2025. Interest for a late payment is 1.5% per month reverting to the due date. Minimum interest is $2.00. The usage charge set for the Fiscal year 2025-2026 is $633.00 per EDU. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the fee or interest. Contact the tax office immediately if you do not receive a bill.
Please make checks payable to MWPCA (Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority).
Payments may be mailed to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. There is a lock box to the left of the Town Hall door for check payments only (do not leave cash), or at the Tax Office in the Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT. The tax Office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Barbara Lazzari, Tax Collector

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

Legal Notice
Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission **APPROVED** the following application on October 16, 2025:

• Application **#IWWC 25-14:** Chris Sutyla, **322 Lake Road**- Abandoning existing septic tank, removing existing leach fields, and installing a new tank, line and leach field within the Upland Review Area of Andover Lake.

The above decision may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at www.andoverconnecticut.org.

1TB 10/24

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At its Regular Meeting of October 15, 2025, the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decision:
PZC2025-011 Downing Park, LLC Special Permit and Site Plan application for proposed 26-unit multi-family residential development on 6.02± acres located on Wall Street (MBL 10-00-007-000). Zoning District: Town Center (TC) & Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone (APOZ). **Approved, with conditions.**
Planning & Zoning Commission
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1TB 10/24

LEGAL NOTICE of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
November 5, 2025 at 6:40 PM
Portland, Connecticut

The electors and those persons eligible to vote in town meetings of the Town of Portland, Connecticut, are hereby warned and notified that pursuant to Chapter V Section 503(g) of the Town Charter, a Special Town Meeting will be held by the Board of Selectmen on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 6:40 P.M. in the Public Library Mary Flood Room, 20 Freestone Avenue, Portland, CT for the following:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves a supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of $85,000 from General Fund fund balance; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves a total supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of $85,000 to be transferred to Fund 24 – School Construction Fund to first be used to continue to move a school construction project toward referendum, with any remaining unexpended funds to be used on any needed school construction project.

A copy of the complete resolution to be voted on is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.portlandct.org. Dated this 22nd day of October 2025
Attest: Michael A. Pelton, First Selectman

1TB 10/24

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at their meeting on Wednesday November 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Hampton Town Hall – 1 Community Drive, Room 107 and via ZOOM to consider
Application # PZC-25-010: Town of East Hampton, PZC, Amendment to Sections 8.3 and 7.6 of the Zoning Regulations and Section IV of the Subdivision Regulations to add regulations relating to material processing and construction activity.
Application # PZC-25-011: Dream Developers of Connecticut, LLC, Amendments to Sections 6.3 B, G, and K of the Zoning Regulations relating to change affordability restrictions for a Housing Opportunity Development.
Application # PZC-25-012: Julia Henry, 27 Sillimanville Road, Special Permit for Accessory Dwelling Unit in Basement, Map 36/ Block 96/ Lot 1B
Application # PZC-25-013: Investment LLC, 8 Aldens Crossing Road, Two lot Re-subdivision. Map 12/ Block 16/ Lot 2
Applications and Plans are on file in the Land Use Office 860 267-7450.
Kevin Kuhr, Chairman

2TB 10/24, 10/31

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

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 6th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.
PZC Application #25-04: 94 Ames Hollow Road. Proposed 2 lot resubdivision. Application and property of Marth and Jay Swanson. Map 41 Lot 4-2. Zone R-25.
Dated at Portland, CT this 14th day of October 2025
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 10/24, 10/31

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF COLCHESTER

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

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

TOWN OF HEBRON
SEWER USE LEGAL NOTICE

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:
The first installment of the taxes listed on the October 1, 2024 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on October 1, 2025. Payments must be US postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by November 3, 2025 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting November 4, 2025 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of October 1st, with a minimum charge of $2 for each bill.
View or pay taxes online at www.andoverct.org. Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Typical office hours during collection months are Monday 8:15am- 7pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:15 am-4pm. Please refer to www.andoverct.org for updated office hours.
Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.
If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.

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

MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Conservation Commission will hold the following public hearing on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 7pm in the Senior Center, 17 School Drive

APPLICATION #Z-09-25 – 11 Old Cider Mill Ln, Jeffrey Popham and Jennifer Carini (Applicant/Owner) Addition.

Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building/Land Use Department at the Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.

YVONNE BOLTON, CONSERVATION COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 10/24, 10/31

YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!

Call us at: 860-633-4691

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

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

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

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

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

CASH PAID **for any Toyota**
Other makes, running or not, crashed ok. Will take other makes and models.
Free pickup. Call any time:
$ 203-600-4431 $

CIT1-12-23

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

PET TRAINING

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

INSTRUCTIONAL

SEW HOW - KNOW HOW: Learn basic alteration skills with one-on-one lessons: shorten pants, let out a dress, replace a button, patch holes on clothing or home decor, and more. Call Close to Home 860-633-0721 and ask for Maria.

EMPLOYMENT

DRIVER WANTED: Monday, Wednesday and Sunday, 9am-12pm. $17 per hour. Call 860-228-0809.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: A Glastonbury Wealth Management firm is seeking a full-time Financial Administrative Assistant. Experience in the financial services industry is required. Must be detail-oriented and organized to work independently, effectively, and efficiently with minimal supervision. Responsibilities include service to existing clients, processing new business, and assisting in preparing client meetings and reviews. Experience with BD's LPL preferred. Please email resume to james@4yourassets.com.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: of East Hampton is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant to work in the Church Office for 10 hours per week. Responsibilities include welcoming visitors to the office, answering phones. church record keeping, assisting with preparations for Sunday worship services and other duties as needed. The right individual must have strong organizational skills, computer proficiency, and a pleasant, get it done attitude! Experience with MS Office and Goggle Docs is required, and experience with Breeze CHMS is a plus. Please forward resume/cover letter to Mary DeCoursey, marybdec62@gmail.com or send to 57 Main St, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Colebrook Village at Hebron:
NOW HIRING!
Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)
2nd shift- 3 Full Time (32 hours)

We are seeking family oriented, fun, and dedicated people to join our team! Colebrook Village is a proud community and home to Independent, Assisted Living, and Memory Care Residents. If you are looking for a change and aspire to be appreciated for the important, and honorable work you do; reach out for more details! Medical, Dental, Vision, 401k, Meals…

Call Marie DeCoste at 860-801-1114 or email mdecoste@colebrookvillage.com

CIT10-9-25

POSITION WANTED

HOME HEALTH CARE AID SEARCHING: for full-time, live-in position with elderly. Over 19 years' experience. Cooking, bathing, dressing and much more. Excellent references. 203-815-2690.

Place Your Classified Ad Online!

Visit www.glcitizen.com and click "Classifieds" Fill out the fields and submit payment via PayPal.

7-3-2025

ProMoldplastics
Custom Injection Molding & Moldmaking

Production Worker: 2nd Shift (Portland)

— Compensation: Minimum Wage & Up —

Full time production worker to work 2nd shift in a clean modern plastics mfg. facility supporting production by running machines, moving raw material and finished goods etc. Will train candidates eager to learn.

APPLY ONLINE

https://promoldplastics.com/general-application

or in person between 9 AM and 4 PM at

91 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480

RE10-24-25

Westside Manor is searching for an Attendant to fill our 2nd and 3rd shift.

3PM-11PM and 11PM-7AM

Attendant Responsibilities: Light housekeeping, Light meal prep and Medication administration required for the position. Medication Certification Course is mandatory and offered with paid training.

Interviews are done by appointment only Mon. thru Fri.

Please call us at 860-267-4401 to schedule an interview today!

9 WEST HIGH STREET, EAST HAMPTON

Job Type: Full time 2nd shift and part time 3rd shift
Salary: $17-18.75

RE10-24-25

New Beginnings for Life is a smaller company with a big heart that cares for individuals with intellectual disabilities. We are seeking kind, patient, and passionate candidates to join our team. We have individuals who need care and companionship in Colchester and surrounding towns. We have great benefits, and the rate of pay is $17.25 per hour.

For our day support program, which is from 8am-4pm and 2pm-5pm, the towns are in Salem, Groton, Hebron, Lebanon, Higganum, East Haddam, New London, Norwich, East Hampton, Colchester.

For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am. These positions are in Colchester.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please feel free to call us and ask for more information at 860-531-9426

RE3-15-24

REAL ESTATE

HOME SELLERS: Here are my 4 exclusive benefits you won't get from any other real estate agent in CT. 1st, I'm a full-service discount broker. Your total fee, including professional photography and exposing your home to the entire world of real estate, will be either 3% or 4%, never more. 2nd, my "Cannot Fail" marketing system usually generates multiple offers within several days on the market. 3rd, for most homes sold, I'll give you a certificate for a 5-day, 4-night luxury cruise for 2 with more than 100 destinations available. 4th, your buyer will see online that I'm offering my "Peace of Mind Guarantee". If, within 6 months of homeownership, you decide you no longer want to live here, I'll sell your home for free. If they have an interest in your home, this intensifies that interest. I've sold 1000+ homes, including in your town; I can sell yours. Alfonso Carbone; Best Real Estate Agents; direct: 860-798-6095. thepropertyprofessor@yahoo.com.

RENTALS

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

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

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL For Help Call 888-247-4401

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

Your local friend in Real Estate

RE10-24-25

RE10-24-25

Century 21 Allpoints Realty

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CIT4-4-24

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 26 No Main Street

APPLICATION #Z-09-25 – 11 Old Cider Mill Ln, Jeffrey Popham and Jennifer Carini (Applicant/Owner) Addition

Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building/Land Use Department at the Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.

ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 10/24, 10/31

PORTLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING
November 5, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Mary Flood Room-Public Library,
20 Freestone Avenue, Portland, CT 06480

Pursuant to Section 1303.3 of the Portland Town Charter, a public hearing will be held by the Board of Selectmen on **Wednesday, November 5, 2025** at **6:30 P.M.** in the Public Library Mary Flood Room to consider public comments and questions, both orally and in writing on the below supplemental appropriation as it pertains to the school construction project. Public Access also through the Zoom link A –www.portlandct.org

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves a supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of $85,000 from General Fund fund balance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby approves a total supplemental appropriation in line item #01-093-000-90006 Transfer Out-Other in the amount of $85,000 to be transferred to Fund 24 – School Construction Fund to first be used to continue to move a school construction project toward referendum, with any remaining unexpended funds to be used on any needed school construction project.

A copy of the complete resolution to be voted on is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.portlandct.org. Dated this 22nd day of October 2025

Attest: Michael A. Pelton, First Selectman

1TB 10/24

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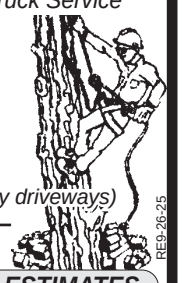

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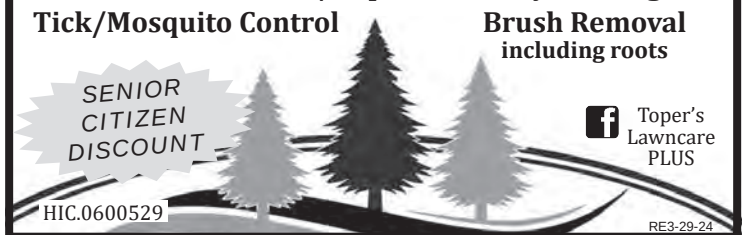

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BEST TAG SALE!!: 2 Eastwood Rd, Cromwell, Saturday Oct. 25th, 8am - 3pm. Antique furniture, train set, glassware, dinnerware, albums, 45's 78's, radios, books, linens, much more.

ESTATE SALE: 10/24-10/26, Fri 8am, Sat/Sun 9am. 39 Judith Drive, Manchester. Whole House Contents! Hummel & Goebel, collectibles, tools, furniture, postcards, stamps, kitchen items. Cash & Carry! Factor Property Services.

GARAGE SALE: October 25 & 26th. 9-4. 151 Salem Rd, East Haddam. Men's 26in bicycle, flexible flyer sled, fishing poles, tools, German beer steins, glassware.

MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE: Sat, 10/25, 9am-3pm, Old Maids Lane, South Glastonbury. Household, furniture, games/books, boating/camping, clothing, tools, 2HP Honda outboard BMW R1200RT motorcycle, more.

TAG SALE: Sat, Oct 25th, 9am, 68 Portland Road, Marlborough. Seniors who are beginning to clean out so our kids won't have to. Low prices!

YARD SALE: Fri/Sat 10/24-25, 9:00-2:00. Moving. Household, small furniture, antiques, Collectibles, snow blower, 125 old bricks. 43 Dudley Rd, Wethersfield. Rain or Shine.

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RE10.25

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) has named Renee Behlman as Volunteer of the Year 2024-2025. She is pictured here with her husband Nick and children Natalie and Ben.

C3 Volunteer of the Year

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) has named Renee Behlman as Volunteer of the Year 2024-2025, for her service as secretary on the Parent Council over the past two years.

C3 said Behlman has brought exceptional organizational skills, dedication, and a positive spirit to her role, ensuring that the work of the council ran smoothly and efficiently.

"Her commitment to keeping everything and everyone organized and motivated has made a lasting impact," C3 said in a press release. "We are deeply grateful for the energy and care she has poured into supporting the Parent Council's mission."

Dot's Annual Pasta Dinner

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

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

Cost is $20, with kids 10 and under free. Many varieties of pasta and dessert will be served. See the Colchester Democratic Town Committee's Facebook page or website for more information. To purchase tickets in advance, please visit secure.anedot.com/colchesterdemocrats/donate.

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

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.

Same-day registration (SDR) is available at the early voting location during the early voting period, which runs through Nov. 2 (see below). 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 through Nov. 2. Hours are 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. through 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.

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.

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RE 10-10-25

Sweet New Beginnings at Marlborough Bakery & Café

By Toriana Williams

The smell of freshly baked bread and apple fritters drifts through the air of Marlborough Bakery & Café on a crisp October morning. Behind the counter, the hum of an espresso machine mingles with the low murmur of conversation and the occasional burst of laughter. A woman with a bright smile and a thick New York accent, who is often busy floating between tables and greeting customers, warmly greeted the *Rivereast.*

That woman is Sandy Squillante, the new owner and driving force behind the bakery's revival.

"I did take it over," she said, leaning casually back in her office chair. "What inspired me? I moved here six years ago, and I fell in love with the bakery."

For Squillante, who spent decades in the restaurant industry, taking over the bakery was both a change of pace and continuation of a lifelong passion.

"I'm 70 years old," she said. "I didn't want to stand behind the stove for 12 hours anymore, and [the bakery] was an easy fit. It looked like fun – it was always buzzing."

She laughed that it's still hard work; she said running the bakery is "a labor of love," but one that she wouldn't trade.

The bakery, nestled in the heart of Marlborough, is a gathering place for locals and visitors alike. Since taking over, Squillante has added tables near the fireplace, and the decor feels both cozy and vibrant.

"The bakery is a place not only where you get some of the best baked goods - pastries, cakes, muffins, bagels, breads, the works - it's also a gathering place," Squillante said. "We've brought the whole place in with more tables and made it cozier. It's really on its way to becoming a real community meeting group."

Since taking over the business about three and a half months ago, Squillante said business has increased by nearly 30%. A Sunday brunch, live guitar music and an expanded menu have all played a part in that growth. The kitchen now turns out breakfast from 6 a.m. – egg sandwiches, omelets, burritos- and then switches to hearty lunches around 11:30 a.m.

"Big fat sandwiches," Squillante called them proudly.

At the same time, the bakery keeps its sweet side alive.

"Of course, you know, the classic apple fritters and apple cinnamon donuts, pumpkin cheesecake, apple-laced cheesecake," she said. "And now we've started with the pies – the pumpkins, the apples – and those have gone wild."

Her enthusiasm for both food and people radiates through the shop.

"I want the customers to feel like you're not coming to a bakery," Squillante said. "You're coming to my place, and you're welcome here."

Part of what makes the place special is her team. She beams when listing their names: pastry chef Sebastian, head baker Billy, breakfast chef Nancy, sous chef J.R. and lunch cook Lester. "They're great to work with," she said. "They were anxious for new owners; not that there was anything wrong with the old owner - but they were anxious for a fresh start."

At the front counter, Anya Katya, a young barista with an easy smile, steams milk for a latte. She's also the bakery's unofficial social media manager.

"I started last week [inside], but I've been working probably for like the last month or so on social media," she said.

Katya runs her own company, Anya Katya Media, which specializes in photography and content for small businesses. She explained how her friendship with Squillante led to her joining the team.

"Once I started taking photos here, I kind of got the vibe a little bit," she said. "I was a barista for the last six years, so I kind of thought, hey, I might as well."

Katya's creativity and coffee skills fit right in.

"Sandy is just very personable, which is nice," Katya said. "She really takes the time to get to know everyone individually, and she knows our strengths. We can kind of build on each other. Like, say, I have an idea – she's like, 'Okay, why don't we work with the bakery side of things to make this drink possible?' We're going to do a homemade apple syrup so that we can make caramel apple lattes."

She laughed, eyes bright. "That's probably my favorite part – having her knowledge and then building up on that."

New owner Sandy Squillante stands behind the counter at the Marlborough Bakery & Café, which she recently revitalized with a new menu and cozy atmosphere. *Photo contributed by Anya Katya Media.*

Katya's goal is to help the bakery grow among younger customers. "I think it has the potential to be something super special," she said. "It's always nice to have a little cafe you can go to."

Across the room, a man and a woman settle into a table near the window, steaming cups in front of them. Blase Skully, a first-time customer, and Samanatha Tanguay, a longtime customer, are big fans of the new ownership. "You're about to witness my first bite of anything that I've ever bought from here," Skully said with a grin. He dove headfirst into his portobello melt, grinning and nodding his head as he pulled back with a mouthful of tasty goodness.

"The food tastes better," Tanguay added. "The speed's a little better too. It was very slow before. It's close, it's convenient and the food's good." Blase agreed, "The coleslaw is actually really good. Sometimes coleslaw has no flavor, or it's watery. This is actually really good."

They both laugh as Skully began to take another bite. "I'll definitely come back," he said. "I work right here in town, so I'll always come back," shared Tanguay.

Employees pass by their table, flashing a knowing smile. It's that sense of welcome, the easy chatter, the feeling that everyone who walks through the door belongs – that's what Squillante is built here.

"The importance of community is so serious," Squillante said. "People need to feel welcome, that they have a place to go to, no judgment. Come and have fun, gather, sit as long as you'd like. Community is the supporting backbone of every business. And without the community, we have nothing."

In the Marlborough Bakery & Café, that philosophy fills every corner – warm as the ovens and as sweet as the cinnamon in the air.

Marlborough Bakery & Café is located at 8 Independence Drive. For more information, call 860-295-9251 or look for the business on Facebook.

Thiele & Lawrence for Hebron BOS

Dear Hebron Neighbors and Friends:

I am enthusiastically endorsing Tiffany Thiele and Jan Lawrence for the Board of Selectman open seats in the upcoming municipal elections. Tiffany has demonstrated great leadership on the board, isn't afraid to ask the tough questions, seek transparency and do all she can to make Hebron an amazing to live and raise our families. Her re-election will bring the same drive for improvement in town services, being mindful of the financial burden on tax payers and supporting balanced & smart economic development to town. She is no nonsense and always ready to pull up her sleeves and do the important work as a town leader.

Jan is a newcomer to the political scene, but he brings valuable experience as a former business owner and a current state employee as a team lead. As a multi-decade resident of Hebron, he brings the perspective of time, wisdom and experience to the Democratic ticket. I believe he will make a strong addition to the board by bringing new energy and vision to Town Hall.

I appreciate you all considering these fine folks for election to office. Be sure and vote on Nov. 4th!

Sincerely,
Claudia Tejada Riley – Hebron

Note: *Riley is a member of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but is writing as an individual.*

Steady

To the Editor:

Every week, Dan Rather writes two letters. One discusses the news from DC. The second reminds us of great music from the past. Since 1971, I've been in the constant company of music; I, too, learned most of the lyrics, voices and values of each era. The '70s were pretty great. Let's reflect. My parents were middle class, had four kids and an 18% interest rate on their mortgage. Everything at public school was paid for, except your milk. USA kids were being well-educated, including the notion of being self-reliant and not dependent on government.

But, at the same time, there was another energy brewing. This one emanated from bitter dinner guests sneering over bourbon. Jane Mayer filled in the blanks when she wrote, "During the 1970s, a handful of the nation's wealthiest corporate captains felt overtaxed and over regulated and decided to fight back. Disenchanted with the direction of modern America, they launched an ambitious, privately financed war of ideas to radically change the country. They didn't want to just win elections; they wanted to change how Americans thought. Their ambitions were grandiose-to 'save' America as they saw it, at every level, by turning the clock back to the Gilded Age before the advent of the Progressive Era. Charles (Koch) was younger and more libertarian than his predecessors, but…his ambitions were, if anything, even more radical: to pull the government out 'at the root.'"

To return to the Gilded Age means the middle class must be eliminated. We take the middle class for granted, but it's relatively new in history and appears to be struggling. I don't how or if we can reverse course.

"About 40% of middle-class older (US) workers are projected to be downwardly mobile into poverty or near poverty when they reach age 62 and beyond." forbes.com

It's political season. We read about coaching sports and living in town for decades as if this means something. Are these candidates actually in touch with residents? Most politicians seem totally out of touch with residents. Where are the gutsy candidates who will stop bending the knee and stand up for what the public wants: Open Space, saving farms, retiring in their own homes, groundwater protections, keeping Hebron small and sustainable and not losing our middle class? #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Why I'm Seeking Your Vote

To the Editor:

As a lifelong East Hampton resident, I've always believed that our community's greatest strength is its people – neighbors who volunteer, pitch in, and care deeply about this town. For more than a decade, I've been proud to be one of them.

From 2011 to 2022, I served on the Elementary School PTO, helping support students and teachers through countless projects and events. In 2022, I began leading the Center School drama program, where we've raised over $20,000 for new stage lighting, sound equipment, and curtains – all to give our students the tools and confidence to shine.

In 2023, you elected me to the Town Council. Since then, I've worked to make transparency, accountability, and open communication the foundation of local government. I believe residents deserve factual information and thoughtful decision-making that reflects community priorities – not politics.

As liaison to the Inland/Wetlands Watercourse Agency and the Planning & Zoning Commission, and a member of the steering committee updating our Plan of Conservation & Development, I'm focused on modernizing our zoning regulations to support intentional, smart development that grows our tax base while preserving our small-town charm.

Public service is something I take seriously, and I'm truly grateful that residents have trusted me to represent them for the past two years. I remain committed to working collaboratively, listening carefully, and helping East Hampton plan responsibly for the future.

Together, we can keep East Hampton a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

Karen Wanat – East Hampton

Note: *Wanat is the current vice chair of the East Hampton Town Council and is running for reelection.*

Responsible Leadership

To the Editor:

I am proud to endorse Joe Spada for the Portland Board of Selectmen. I have had the privilege of knowing Joe personally for more than five years, and in that time, I have come to know him as a person of integrity, compassion, and commitment to our community.

Joe has dedicated much of his career to public service through his work as a building construction specialist for the State of Connecticut, where he is responsible for home improvements for children with special needs. He also understands the needs of local businesses as a small business owner, giving him a balanced perspective on the issues that shape Portland's future.

As a parent who has raised his child here, Joe cares deeply about the well-being and success of our town. He has served on several town committees and he listens to people, values collaboration, and has the steady judgment we need in local government.

Portland deserves leaders who combine real-world experience with a genuine dedication to the community. Joe Spada is exactly that kind of leader. I strongly urge my fellow residents to vote for him for the Board of Selectmen.

Respectfully,
Melissa Shortell – Portland

Portland BOE Balance

To the Editor:

There is no question that the current Democratic majority on the Portland Board of Education is made up of caring, highly educated, and capable professionals. Many of whom I've supported in past elections.

However, our schools deserve leadership that not only brings competence but also values diverse viewpoints and encourages open dialogue. By electing the entire Republican slate, consisting of Dave Murphy, Karen Renner, and Anne Whalen we introduce much-needed balance to the board. While Democrats may still retain a majority, they would be compelled, at the very least, to listen to differing perspectives before making decisions. On the November ballot we can select up to four candidates which is why I am also personally supporting Jim Motes who is running as an Independent.

Open, honest, and good-faith debate is a healthy process that leads to the best outcomes for our students and our community.

In the spirit of true diversity, not just in background, but in thought, let's bring a mix of experience and new voices to the Board of Education. Let's get Dave Murphy, Karen Renner, and Anne Whalen and Jim Motes elected in November.

Vin Pitruzzello – Portland

Note: *Pitruzzello is a Republican candidate for the Portland Board of Selectmen, but said he is speaking as an individual.*

Civility of Candidates

To the Editor:

As Election Day approaches and candidates vie for our votes, I urge my fellow Andover residents to reflect on the qualities that truly matter in a leader.

We need individuals who will work together to move Andover forward—regardless of party affiliation. What matters is character, integrity, and a genuine commitment to serve. Leadership comes in many forms, but not all are good. Ask yourself: Are you being a good leader, or following one?

We need leaders who listen – really listen. Too many people focus on being heard, rather than hearing others. We need those who care deeply about our community and show it through civility, mutual respect, kindness, and patience.

Experience and motivation matter. Are candidates running to serve the town—or to serve themselves? Leadership is not about power, prestige, or ego. There is no room in public service for bullying, ranting, or intimidation. Disagreement is natural; how we handle it defines us.

Before casting your vote, look beyond slogans and affiliations. Consider the values, intentions, and conduct of each candidate and choose those who will lead Andover with integrity and vision.

Sincerely,
Gerard Cremé – Andover

Note: *Cremé is a member of the Andover Board of Education, but 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

Voting for Vergean

To the Editor:

I am writing to enthusiastically support Bethanne Vergean for a seat on the Portland Board of Education. Bethanne is a dedicated and compassionate community member who has consistently shown her commitment to Portland's children and families. She will bring a balanced, collaborative, and student-centered perspective to the board.

I've had the privilege of first knowing Bethanne through the Portland Soccer Club, where she has been deeply involved as both a coach and active member. She coached my son's soccer team, and through that experience, I saw firsthand how she leads with patience, fairness, and encouragement. She focuses on developing each player's confidence and teamwork, always modeling respect and sportsmanship. Her ability to connect with every child, meeting them where they are, and motivating them to grow is truly remarkable. Her strengths of listening, empathy, and understanding, are exactly what make her an ideal representative for our school community.

Beyond the soccer field, Bethanne has shown the same commitment to helping Portland thrive. She believes in the importance of strong public schools that support every student academically, socially, and emotionally. Bethanne is the kind of leader who does the work quietly and effectively, without seeking attention or credit. She brings people together, and will make decisions based on what's best for Portland's kids and teachers. Her perspective as a parent, coach, and active community member gives her a invaluable understanding of what our schools need.

On Election Day, I hope Portland residents will join me in voting for Bethanne Vergean for the Board of Education. Our students, teachers, and families will be well-served by her steady leadership and genuine care for our community.

Jennifer Martinez – Portland

An Important Date

To the Editor:

An important date will soon be here – Nov. 4, Election Day. A day on which we have the responsibility and the privilege to vote for the candidates who will best serve the residents of Colchester. You've had the opportunity to meet the candidates at forums, meetings and at door appearances. You may have read about them on social media or in the newspaper's Letters to the Editor.

I have met the candidates, listened to them and read about them. After evaluating their accomplishments and their experiences I will vote for those that I believe are most qualified. Therefore, I support Bernie Dennler for first selectman and Denise Turner and Rosemary Coyle for the Board of Selectmen. They have proven their capabilities over the past few years.

Gussie Gilberto and Nancy Nelson have many years of experience as classroom teachers. They would bring their expertise to the Board of Education for the benefit of the children and the school community.

Jillian Vinci, Sean Gillespie and Krista Kardys all have experience in finance and will prove to be especially helpful on our Board of Finance.

Dave Koji is a successful businessman and will do a fine job as treasurer.

Andrew Cournoyer and Eric Jackson will be able to make fair and unbiased decisions on the Board of Assessment Appeals.

I will be voting Row A. I hope you will too!

Thank you for taking the time,
Goldie Liverant – Colchester

Andover Sustainable CT

To the Editor:

Congratulations go out to the Andover Sustainable CT (ASCT) committee. On Oct. 1, the ASCT committee was awarded the Bronze Certification for Andover. This certifies that our town is Sustainable and devoted to being "green." Our committee consists of Elaine Buchardt, Michael Burke, Beata Gadomski, Michelle King-Lorentz, Mike Palazzi and Chairman Cathy Palazzi. It has been a long time accomplishing the many points required to ascertain this certification-but we did it. Thanks go out to the many people we have called upon asking tons of questions – Lake District, EDC regarding mapping, local businesses especially those owned and run by women. Unknown to us, this was a big part of our action items we needed to answer.

Thank you to Eric Anderson, town administrator, who offered his advice on capturing our needed information for extra points. Thank you to Jed Larson, chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission who was extremely helpful on my questions about affordable housing and the updated POCD. We found out although one needed 200 points to reach bronze status that is nearly not enough points as the action items are harshly analyzed by an outside source. In August we felt ready and submitted our action plan with 280 points-however; we ended up with 255 points once the outside source finished grading our hard work!! This has been a challenge for the team! We are enjoying our accomplishment but are now moving ahead to hopefully make Silver Certification in late 2026. Thank you to everyone who helped us with our challenge.

Cathy Palazzi
ASCT Chairman

BOE Needs New Leadership

To the Editor:

If you want change you need new leadership. The Board of Education hasn't been as active as it should be when commucating to the general public the reasoning behind the large costs that impact everyone's taxes. We were lucky to save the middle school sports. We need to encourage more teachers making over $120,000 to retire to provide a place for younger teachers to start their careers that can last over 30 years with 3% or higher increases in salary every year. We need to encourage the merging of para educators and interventionists into a single contract. We need to focus on our special needs children without compromising the rest of the general population.

Our leadership, Nancy Kohler, only sent one letter to the state regarding their unfunded mandates. She could have done more but she prefers not to be that involved. It was stated at the Town Council meeting where the majority chose to abstain from voting on it that the real fight should ave been at the Board of Education. There will no such fight without voting for everyone except Nancy Kohler.

Thank you,
Sal Nucifora – East Hampton

Note: *Nucifora is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but is speaking as an individual.*

Reelect Council Democrats

To the Editor:

East Hampton has made great progress over the past two years. There has been a commitment to a strong plan of conservation and development. Boards and committees are getting replenished with qualified volunteers. Government business is conducted with class and respect.

All that improvement is the result of the Democrats regaining the majority on the Town Council and better communication between the elected boards in East Hampton. Led by Dean Markham, the council has committed itself to doing what is best for the town, even if decisions were at times unpopular.

There is still so much to be done. East Hampton must be affordable. At the same time, our schools need to be the best they can possibly be and town development must be carefully planned and executed. The team of Dean, Karen, Jack, Rich, and Joelyn will continue the progress of the past two years and put people over politics. The Council Democrats are fostering a commitment to the community that has been a breath of fresh air.

The Democrats on the Town Council deserve to continue to lead. Please join me and remember to vote for Line A on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Sincerely,
Carol Williams – East Hampton

Research Slate Carefully

To the Editor:

It is with both amusement and sadness that I read the campaign "promises" from various East Hampton candidates for TC, BOE and BOF appearing in Rivereast. Finger pointing, promises of change, support for education, fiscal responsibility, lower taxes, help for senior citizens, more police, lake health, yadda, yadda. Doesn't matter who is running, results are the same every election. Nothing changes.

Past, current and potential candidates claim they are against overdevelopment, yet various commissions continue granting permission to selected few developers to run rampant, hence the current problems.

Property taxes rise each year without an increase in services (67% goes to the BOE). Roads remain deteriorated, police force remains undermanned, water supply is still threatened, the firemen work from struggling bases, Brownfield sites remain an eyesore, our lake goes begging for sufficient funding, and senior citizens are being taxed out of their homes.

The BOE extorts money, threatening to cut teachers and programs, gets more funding, and the rest of the town has to make do with less. The administrators continue to draw salaries/bonuses, as reported in the *Rivereast* last week, well above other towns in CT and our town officials are loathe to fight the BOE. Despite an ever-growing budget which many say is necessary to guarantee a good school system, EH public schools (according to Public School Review) have an average math proficiency score of 49% and reading score of 58%. Schools in EH have an average ranking of 5/10, which is in the bottom 50% of Connecticut public schools.

We have town officials regularly writing "as individuals" promoting their specific agendas or supporting those who will support that agenda. How is it a person holding an elected or appointed position can offer a truly unbiased view, claiming to write as " individuals" when they are clearly using their position to advance their agenda? None of them seem to have the entire town in mind, only their specific interests, despite what we read in the newspaper. If these candidates truly looked at the big picture, we wouldn't be facing the depth of the ongoing issues.

I am neither a Republican nor a Democrat. I am, however, in favor of the candidate that will actually stand up and say no overdevelopment, no to the BOE, no increased taxes, no to greedy school administrators. Research the slate of candidates carefully and vote accordingly...your financial well-being may depend on it.

Bob Yenkner – East Hampton

Supports Nancy Nelson

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Nancy Nelson for the Board of Education. While I'm relatively new to Colchester, I have known Nancy for approximately 7 years. She is a tireless volunteer within the Colchester community, i.e., CORE, Coalition for Youth, and the Senior Center.

In addition, Nancy was a teacher for more than 30 years before retiring and has experience communicating and collaborating with school administrators, the community, and BOE members. She understands the need to attract, support, retain and value highly effective teaching and the importance of a curriculum that prepares all graduates to enter the 21st century workforce.

I would urge you to vote for Nancy Nelson for the BOE.

Best regards,
Pat Anderson – Colchester

High Taxes

To the Editor:

It's interesting to read how Democrats are the blame for recent high taxes. Yes, Democrats can get their budgets passed to referendum. Yes, they can crank up their get out the vote machine. Yet, contrary to beliefs they can't control the outcomes. That is left up to the voters.

For the last three years, the no votes averaged 500; 1,000 and 780 respectively. Never enough to stop tax increases. In general, Colchester voters stay home in droves to decide tax increases.

As an ex-BOE and BOF member, I used to scratch my head why. Why vote in a town election and stay home for the annual budget? Sixty percent of registered Democrats that cast a vote in the town election stayed home the following year to decide on a budget. Seventy percent of registered Republicans and unaffiliated voters did the same.

I spent many years tracking voting patterns and asking around. My opinion is there is the local effect. It's easy to support tax cuts for foreign aid, CDC, PBS and other areas way outside our borders. Yet, in Colchester to truly reduce taxes you need to get rid of administrative staff, teachers, special ed staff, public workers and cut local social programs. I feel many don't want to bear the burden of making that decision.

This is the great disconnect between politicians and voters. Some claim to be for progress and building our future. Yet do they mention at what cost? What are their spending plans over the next few years? Others say taxes are too high. What their spending reduction plan over the next few years?

In closing, more voters need to put both parties' feet to the fire. It shouldn't be about slogans. It should be about the money.

Be well,
James D. McNair III – Colchester

O'Reilly for RHAM Board

Dear Hebron and RHAM District Residents:

My name is Brian O'Reilly, and I'm proud to endorse my wife, Brandie O'Reilly, for a seat on the RHAM Board of Education.

Brandie has been deeply involved in this community since 2007. Together we've raised four children – all graduates of the RHAM district – and we've experienced firsthand what makes our schools strong, as well as where continued support and thoughtful leadership are needed.

Brandie brings a unique combination of professional insight, educational experience, and personal dedication. With a bachelor's degree in business management and her work as a process coach for the School Governance Council in the Hartford Public School District, she's spent years helping educators and administrators strengthen collaboration, accountability, and results. Those skills – paired with her calm, balanced approach – are exactly what the Board of Education needs.

As both a parent and a professional, Brandie understands how important it is to maintain high educational standards while being fiscally responsible to the community. She listens carefully, values every perspective, and always looks for practical solutions that put students first.

I've seen how hard she works for the people and institutions she believes in – and I have no doubt she'll do the same for RHAM.

Please join me in supporting Brandie O'Reilly for RHAM Board of Education this November. She'll be a steady, thoughtful, and committed voice for our students, families, and schools.

Sincerely,
Brian O'Reilly
Hebron Resident & Small Business Owner

Why I'm Running for BOE

To the Editor:

As a proud resident of Marlborough for over 40 years; I have seen firsthand how vital our school is to the strength and character of our town. My grandchildren now attend Marlborough Elementary School, and like many families, I want to ensure our school continues to provide the best possible education for every student. That is why I am running for a seat on the Marlborough Board of Education.

My professional career has been dedicated to public education and leadership in Connecticut school systems. I have worked with families, educators and town leaders to strengthen academic programs, develop curriculum improvements, and teacher support initiatives. I have managed district budgets with transparency and a focus on directing resources to classrooms. These experiences have given me a deep understanding of how to balance educational goals with financial accountability -- skills that are essential for any Board of

See Letters, page 4

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★ *Letters cont. from page 3*

Education member. I have learned that the most successful districts are built on collaboration, open communication, and a shared commitment to doing what is best for students.

If elected, I will bring this same approach to Marlborough. I will work to ensure that every decision reflect's our town's priorities: excellent teaching, maintaining responsible budgets, and fostering safe, inclusive learning environments. I believe in transparency, teamwork and listening to the voices of parents, staff and community members.

Our school is the heart of Marlborough's future. It not only prepares students academically but helps shape their values, confidence and sense of belonging. After four decades in this town and a career in education, I want to give back by helping our school continue to thrive.

I would be honored to serve on the Board of Education and to work together to ensure Marlborough remains a source of pride for generations to come.

Sincerely
Bill Guzman – Marlborough
Candidate for the Marlborough
Board of Education

Endorsing Candidates

To the Editor:

I want to write a letter of endorsement for some candidates in East Hampton, but I don't have the personal stories of how I've known them for years or anything like that. My familiarity of these individuals mostly comes from our kids going to school together, and seeing and hearing about what nice kids they've raised.

Daniel Finn for Board of Finance, and Sarah Strange and Nancy Kohler for Board of Education, all have kids that have been in classes with my kids at one time of another, and I've heard about what good, kind kids they have from mine through the years. I certainly put trust in people who have raised good kids like these. Also, David Caterisano, being a financial professional, and Corinne Clark-Barney, being in education her whole adult life, just make those two common-sense picks for Board of Finance and Board of Education.

In fact, just vote row A to keep our town government civil and professional for another 2 years.

Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton
Candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals

Vote for Vision and Integrity

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support for Chris Cyr for a position on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Chris is exactly the kind of thoughtful, balanced, and community-minded individual we need guiding decisions that will shape our town's future.

Chris brings a deep understanding of how responsible planning and sensible zoning protect both the character of our community and the interests of residents and local businesses. He values transparency, fairness, and open communication — qualities that ensure all voices are heard when important land-use and development issues are discussed.

What sets Chris apart is his practical approach to problem-solving. He listens carefully, does his homework, and strives for solutions that promote smart growth while respecting the environment and preserving what makes our town special.

I encourage everyone who cares about our community's future to support Chris Cyr for the Planning and Zoning Commission. His integrity, experience, and commitment will serve us all well.

Sincerely,
Angela Corentin – Amston

Get Out and Vote!

To the Editor:

How can you serve? It all starts with getting involved! Take the first step in your community by coaching your children in sports, helping with local organizations, joining a board, and having the mindset of how can I serve and what do I bring to the table to support those around me.

Join me in supporting Rob McLaughlin for Board of Selectmen. Rob has done just that for over 20 years. He has been a youth coach, is the president of Friends of RHAM Football, and is now joining local politics and running for the Board of Selectmen. He has been committed and will continue to devote his time and heart to the town of Hebron. Rob also brings 25 years of experience from the insurance industry including risk management services for several local businesses. He and his wife raised their two sons in Hebron and feel blessed to be part of this amazing community.

Early voting started Monday, Oct. 20, and Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School. You can find a list of candidates at https://tinyurl.com/bdhrmp3z to see who is running and you can learn more about candidates at hebronrepublicans.org.

Join me in participating in our democratic republic and getting out to vote between now and Nov. 4th.

Kim Hills – Hebron

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

Supports McLaughlin

To the Editor:

I support Rob McLaughlin for Board of Selectmen. Rob's presence on the board will be an asset for Hebron. Rob will make decisions to benefit the entire community. I've known Mike Beaulieu for decades. His approach will assist in seeking the proper facts and figures necessary to make balanced decisions on the Board of Finance.

Please join my wife Tracy and me in voting for Rob McLaughlin and Mike Beaulieu on Nov. 4th.

Thank you,
Scot Kauffman – Colchester

Note: *Kauffman is vice chair of the Hebron Economic Development Commission, but said he is writing as a private citizen.*

I Ask For Your Support

To the Citizens of Colchester:

I am a Democratic candidate for the Board of Education in Colchester. Having a good open relationship between Board of Education and superintendent of schools can result in a high-achieving school district. As a Board of Education member, I will ask questions to understand how Colchester students are performing and work diligently towards the achievement goals set by the administration while respecting each other responsibilities. My background as a math interventionist and test coordinator have given me the experience to analytically look at data and help strategize how to improve student test scores.

The Board of Education must communicate openly with the leaders of the town and the citizens of Colchester. My decisions will be based on data along with listening carefully to everyone involved: the superintendent, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, residents, parents, students, school administration, teachers, paraprofessionals and staff. I believe that the best way to make decisions is to research, listen, ask questions; I will then base my final decisions on all the information gained making sure all decisions are in the best interest of students and adhere to the law of the federal and state governments.

My profession as a professional educator required years of study, research and knowledge of the laws and regulations. I will do the same as a member of the Board of Education – I will do my best to ensure that our schools provide the very best education for our children while being mindful of my responsibilities, following the laws of the federal and state government while being fiscal responsible for the citizens of Colchester, Connecticut. I ask for your support on Nov. 4th.

Respectfully,
Nancy Nelson – Colchester
Democratic Candidate for the
Board of Education

Facts and Rules Matter

To the Editor:

You learn as an elected official that true facts, policies, procedures and personal integrity matter in making decisions for our town. The residents approve the charter and ordinances, and prior/current elected officials create all the policies we follow.

During the last few weeks before municipal elections, facts and rules are often misrepresented/blurred to the public at meetings, in the newspaper and on social media. Here are some examples of the correct information.

Just the facts: Water rates stayed flat. Thanks to grants and consolidating operations, we are improving service, protecting our drinking water, and saving ratepayers money. The largest driver in the sewer budget was due to a $161,651 increase in the regional Joint Sewer Facility Maintenance passed through from the regional joint facilities for the 1980s aging sewer treatment plant.

The town and BOE budgets have been passed by an overwhelming majority of Colchester residents for the past two years on the first referendum ('24-25 and '25-26 budgets), moving our town forward.

Just the facts: In 2024-25 the town budget saw increases due to the deficits in the 2023-24 budget (underfunding of pension contributions, FICA, 401a contributions, service contracts and municipal insurance) that was prepared and created by the previous administration.

Just the facts: The 2025-26 saw significant revenue loss due to state legislation, increases in health insurance, energy costs, and wage inflation but offset increases with new efficiencies and $5 million in grants, use of the cannabis tax revenue, and strategic use of reserves to protect taxpayers. These efforts result in Colchester delivering a lower tax rate than neighboring towns like Hebron, Marlborough, and East Hampton.

I'm proud and honored to be part of the Democratic team led by First Selectman Bernie Dennler, a team that relies on the facts and personal integrity in following the rules of the town to make sound and concrete decisions. I've seen firsthand the chaos, disconnect and confusion when that doesn't happen.

Vote Row A, a team that continues to move Colchester forward. Early voting runs through Nov. 2nd and Election Day is Nov. 4th.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

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

Vote for Alfano

To the Editor:

Andrea Alfano has my vote for Portland's Board of Selectmen. I've seen firsthand her hard work and dedication to improving our town as chair of Portland's Democratic Town Committee. Her leadership style is one of listening and learning to achieve the very best outcome.

Andrea worked for over 30 years for the State of Connecticut in social services. She served on Portland's Board of Education for nine years. She will work hard to ensure that Portland's future is the very best it can be.

Please join me in support of Andrea Alfano in this year's elections.

Nancy Goodwin
Vice Chair, Portland Democratic
Town Committee

Why I'm Running for BOF

To the Editor:

I want to share with you why Hebron is important to me and why I'm running for the Board of Finance.

Our community is important to all of us, and supporting each other is critical to its success. Over the last three-plus years, I have been able to help various organizations in town that provide services to our community. AHM Youth and Family Services, Hebron Interfaith Human Services' Food Pantry, RHAM Youth Lacrosse, and Hebron PTA are all amazing organizations supporting our community in different ways. It has been a great pleasure to support them in their causes.

A little background about myself so you know who you're voting for. I have lived in town for 13 years and have two kids attending the elementary schools. I have been volunteering to coach both soccer RHAM Youth Soccer and basketball with Hebron Parks and Recreation for the last three years in town. I am an Army veteran with eight years of service. I am proud to serve and represent our country. To be transparent, I am a moderate, appreciating the perspective of the Republican and Democratic parties.

I'm excited to have the opportunity to represent my neighbors, friends, family, and all members of the community. My vision is to have a focus on fiscal responsibility, long-term sustainability, and transparency. Additionally, making sure to balance investments in schools, infrastructure, and economic growth.

I would appreciate any and all support to be voted in to represent everyone in town, with the best interest of our Hebron community. I hope I can count on your support to get out and vote Nov. 4th. I look forward to the opportunity in representing our community on the Board of Finance.

Ryan Herrick – Hebron

Misleading Accusations

To the Editor:

OMG, we're in trouble again with some political opponents in their letters to last week's Reader Forum. While I prefer to write in with a vision of leadership that brings East Hampton together, the misleading accusations in each really require clarification.

As to Melissa Engel's letter re: abstaining in the vote to reject the school's administrators' contract, the fact is this: this motion was probably the most financially irresponsible and politically motivated motion the council has seen in its two-year term. Once rejected, the outcome of the contract is out of our hands, and goes to an independent set of arbitrators who then decide whether the last best offer of the union or the town should be chosen. They compare each of the offers to those settled throughout the state, and choose one. No compromise. In virtually all components of their analysis, East Hampton administrators rank in the mid to low end of their peers. Clearly, the town would have lost. And in that charge of the light brigade, presenting our case would have cost tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees to prepare for the contest, all of which would have gone down the drain. Fiscal responsibility? No.

The motion to reject didn't deserve the dignity of a 'yes' or 'no' vote, simple as that. We should all abstain from cheap politics that cost taxpayers thousands.

As to Bryon Turner's letter: the council's support of the two-year project to pursue relocating the fire department to 11 Skinner was based on facts: after hundreds of hours of work by our Fire Commission, firemen, town staff, environmental consultants, architects and contractors, the plan presented to the finance board covered all bases. The accusation that there were unaddressed environmental issues is pure bunk; all of this was covered in the plan. Of course, the finance board wouldn't know this because no member attended public meetings on the subject throughout its two-year deliberation.

It is likely that the finance board's decision was a multimillion-dollar mistake, because we could never buy and build a suitable fire station from scratch as inexpensively, or get it online as quickly. Fiscal responsibility? No. But we will proceed with a clean slate, with all likely more costly alternatives on the table.

Rich Knotek
Member and Candidate,
East Hampton Town Council

Vote Row A!

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my excitement about the East Hampton Democratic candidates for office who will be on the ballot for the upcoming election. I attended a recent meeting where the candidates spoke about some of the issues facing our town. They were firmly focused on local issues, while not turning a blind eye to what is happening nationally. They spoke intelligently and thoughtfully about issues and clearly had spent time researching and considering the details surrounding issues instead of responding with knee-jerk, ideologically motivated stances.

They were focused on fully examining the impacts on all East Hampton residents, with a focus on protecting the elderly and those who may be struggling to make ends meet. If you want a strong Town Council and local boards who will build community and work in your best interests, vote Row A!

Michelle Levy – Middle Haddam

Reelect Tiffany Thiele

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support for the reelection of Tiffany Thiele to the Hebron Board of Selectmen. Tiffany has been a thoughtful, hardworking, and approachable leader who consistently puts the needs of our residents first.

During her time on the Board, Tiffany has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to transparency in town government. She believes that residents deserve open communication, clear information, and genuine opportunities to participate in decisions that affect our community. Her efforts have helped make Hebron's local government more accessible and responsive to everyone.

Tiffany has also been a reliable advocate for our town's schools, understanding that a strong education system is at the heart of Hebron's quality of life and long-term success. She supports collaboration between the town and the Board of Education to ensure that investments in education are both responsible and effective.

Equally important, Tiffany supports smart economic development - the kind that preserves Hebron's rural character while encouraging the right kind of growth to strengthen our tax base. She has worked with members of both parties to keep Hebron safe, maintain high-quality services, and keep taxes as low as possible.

Tiffany Thiele's record reflects balance, common sense, and genuine care for our town. Hebron has benefited greatly from her service, and we need her continued leadership on the Board of Selectmen. I encourage residents to join me in voting to reelect Tiffany Thiele this November.

Sincerely,
Brian Thibeault – Amston

Dillon Deserving of Vote

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of John Dillon, who is running for reelection for Portland's Board of Selectman.

I have known John for decades - we are neighbors and our children have grown up together. He is a lifelong resident of Portland, a graduate of Portland High School and is a respected member of our community. He has had many community roles in our town, spanning decades and has served on the Board of Selectmen since 2021.

John is kind, honorable and deserving of your vote on Nov. 4.

Jill Deane – Portland

Our Fire Department

To the Editor:

Our town is extremely fortunate that we have so many volunteer firemen who spend many hours keeping us and our property safe. The fire stations which we now use are old and in some cases do not meet the codes and requirements needed.

Fire Station History: During the previous Town Council a fire house steering committee was formed and the Town Council chose 11 Skinner St. to be the new fire house. The town manager suggested that we continue work on this project in this Town Council. It was approved by a unanimous vote of all members. The fire chief and the Fire Commission have supported this work at every step. This work resulted in an agreement to buy the property and convert it to a firehouse. Environmental consultants assessed the building and an architect prepared design and cost estimates. There have been three hearings on this project at which the plans were presented and the public and others had a chance to comment.

The members of the Town Council of both parties have voted to move this project along. There is no political issue here; the town needs a new firehouse that will serve the needs of the Town and meet the codes and requirements. I support the formation of a committee to find a location we can all agree on. I hope that in the future those on our various town boards would bring their concerns forward during town meetings/hearings on a subject and not wait until it is too late to rectify.

Jack Solomon – East Hampton
Candidate for Town Council

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

Congrats, Bus Drivers

To All Bus Drivers:

Congratulations on Bus Drivers Appreciation Day Oct. 20. A special thank you to the three bus drivers at Colchester Senior Center for your care, patience and safety you have for us.

Sincerely,
Kaye Chamberland – Colchester

Young, Fresh Voice

To the Editor:

I am writing is support of the election of Jayne Jurovaty as the Democratic candidate for Town Clerk in Andover. Although new to politics I have known Jayne for more than 15 years and find her to be a hard-working person of integrity.

It's exciting to have young, fresh voices in town politics.

Mike Covello – Andover

Supporting Susan McFarland

To the Editor:

Susan McFarland has been a resident of Marlborough for 18 years. For 12 of those years she served on the Zoning Commission. I knew of her from the few Zoning meetings I had attended, but I didn't know her.

When I learned that she was running for the Board of Selectmen in Marlborough, I decided I needed to know more about her. I read her extremely strong resume and was impressed. But I needed to know more. So I made an effort to meet her in person and have a chat. This was many, many weeks ago.

What was my impression of this woman? Wow! She's intelligent, strong, well-versed in what's happening in town, asked the right questions, could put pieces of the puzzle together, and proved that she was someone who needs to sit on the BOS. Over these past weeks we have had the opportunity to meet and talk several times, and each time I come away even more impressed that the last time we met.

Susan has proven that she's invested in the future of our town, in keeping it an affordable place to live while making sure our school and our infrastructure are top notch. She's learned about the CNR, has reviewed the 2024-25 budget, is aware of upcoming big ticket items that will affect each and every tax payer, and has made it clear that she plans to be active on all fronts affecting Marlborough, to represent all of the residents in town.

It was an easy decision as to whether or not I should vote for Susan McFarland on November 4. Marlborough will be well-served with Susan sitting on the BOS. She has my vote, and I hope she will have yours as well.

As a matter of fact, candidate Anthony Bratz will have my vote as well. He is equally strong and would make an excellent choice for a seat on the BOS alongside Susan. Let's come out to support both Susan and Anthony as new members of the BOS.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Deb Bourbeau – Marlborough

Note: *Bourbeau is a member of the Marlborough Board of Selectmen but said she is writing as an individual.*

Protecting Every Tax Dollar

Dear Colchester Neighbors:

As a 14-year Colchester resident and a parent with students in our school system, I care deeply about both the quality of our schools and the responsible use of your tax dollars. As a candidate for the Board of Finance, one of the questions I hear most often is: "How can we save money – especially when it comes to the school budget?" One of the most effective answers is also one of the simplest: follow Connecticut law and work together as a community.

Under Connecticut General Statutes § 10-153d, the Board of Education must meet with the Board of Finance and give at least 30 days' notice before beginning contract negotiations. The law also allows a member of the Board of Finance to be present during those negotiations and provide fiscal input. If elected, I will volunteer to serve in that role to help make sure the process is transparent and accountable – so that families, taxpayers, and students can all have confidence in the decisions being made.

I've spoken with our Republican candidates for the Board of Education, and we all agree: following the law isn't a partisan issue – it's simply good governance. We share a common goal of strengthening our schools while being responsible stewards of your tax dollars.

This spirit of cooperation between the Board of Education and the Board of Finance is exactly what Colchester needs. Together, we can support excellent schools, give teachers the tools they need to help every student succeed, and ensure families get the most value from their tax dollars.

Early voting has begun and runs through Nov. 2 at Town Hall. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. The Republican team and I would be honored to earn your trust and your vote. Together, we can make sure every dollar is spent wisely, every contract is negotiated transparently, and every student has the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,
Michael Dubreuil – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Finance

Elect Michael Beaulieu

Dear Hebron Residents:

Please join me in voting for Michael "Mike" Beaulieu for the Hebron Board of Finance in this year's Hebron municipal election. Mike has lived in Hebron for more than 29 years and he knows this town very well. He is a leader, having served on the Hebron Lions Club Board of Directors for years, including as its current President, and he has been an active member of the RHAM Board of Education. He has also served as a youth sports coach in Hebron.

Hebron faces various economic and financial challenges in the near future and our Board of Finance will play an instrumental role in navigating those challenges. The Board needs to continue to focus on fiscal responsibility while maintaining the high-quality education in our schools, with an eye on pragmatic solutions for our town and its taxpayers. I believe Mike is the proper candidate for that role. Mike graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a degree in finance and currently serves as an assistant vice president in compliance for a large financial services firm. Locally, he has been praised for his work on the RHAM Board of Education. This experience will prove valuable in addressing the financial issues related to town operations and the monetary impact on the taxpayers of Hebron.

Please take the time to vote in the upcoming municipal election. When you do, please join me in voting for Michael Beaulieu for Hebron Board of Finance.

Michael McCormack – Hebron

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

Experience, Integrity and Heart

To the Editor:

I've known Art for 11 years and worked with him for five. He's been like a second father figure to me – down to earth, a straight shooter, and someone who doesn't get caught up in political games.

Art makes decisions based on experience and what truly matters. His financial savvy and practical approach have always impressed me and set an example to follow. Most importantly, he genuinely cares about this town and its people. He rises above drama and works well with everyone, regardless of political affiliation – something I've witnessed time and time again.

Art often says, "The last person you have to live with is yourself – make sure that makes you proud." That sums him up perfectly. He leads with integrity, experience, and heart – and he'll always have my respect and admiration.

I'm proud to support Art Shilosky for the Board of Selectmen.

Tricia Dean – Colchester

A Trusted, Dedicated Voice

To the Editor,

Good communities don't just happen — they're built by people who care, get involved, and lead by example. That's why Ryan Herrick is exactly the kind of person Hebron needs on the Board of Finance.

Since moving to Hebron in 2012, Ryan and his wife have embraced everything that makes this town special. They're raising two children here and are strong supporters of Hebron's outstanding schools and close-knit community. Ryan has also given his time generously, volunteering as a youth sports coach and serving on the WZ Gives charity board, where he's helped award grants to local groups like AHM, HIHS, the Hebron PTA, and RHAM Youth Lacrosse.

Professionally, Ryan is an executive franchise director at Wireless Zone, where he oversees budgeting, planning, and operations – experience that directly translates to managing town finances responsibly. As an Army veteran, he brings discipline, teamwork, and integrity to everything he does.

Ryan believes in transparency, fiscal responsibility, and protecting the quality of life that makes Hebron such a great place to live. He will work hard to balance smart spending with strong support for our schools, families, and community values.

Vote for Ryan Herrick – a trusted, dedicated voice for Hebron's future.

David Rose
Member, Hebron Democratic
Town Committee

We Trust Pitruzzello

To the Editor:

Our family proudly calls Portland home, and as we prepare to welcome twins, we're thinking deeply about the future of our community. That's why we support Vin Pitruzzello for the Board of Selectmen.

Vin is a highly educated professional with decades of proved real-world leadership experience our town needs. His deep understanding of business best practices and financial management make him the ideal person to help guide Portland forward.

We've known Vin for years and can speak personally to his integrity and passion, especially when it comes to education. He understands the importance of investing wisely, and we trust that he will work tirelessly to save money where it can be saved, so it can be reinvested into the areas that matter most, like our children and our schools.

As Portland continues to grow, we can't think of a better person to help lead us than Vin Pitruzzello. Please join us and support Vin for Board of Selectmen.

Jonathan and Danielle Oliveira – Portland

Voting for Jim Motes

To the Editor:

I am happy to say that I will be supporting and voting for Mr. Jim Motes for Portland Board of Education. He has lived in Portland for 15 years; we met as starting members on the Solidarity Committee, as well as the Ethics Commission. He has been an educator and an administrator for 22 years, which in my opinion makes him a perfect choice to be on the board because he understands the needs that students should have in order to have a successful and positive education and educators to also have great support.

Jim is running on neutral ground as an Independent,which means he is not tied to any one political party, but one of the greatest things about him is he will have conversations and support another candidate whether they are Democrat or Republican because as he says "it is not about party" and I have to agree.

So I am hoping that you all will vote for Jim Motes for Portland Board of Education on Nov. 4th, Election Day!!!!!!!!!

Barry James Rodgers – Portland

Moving Forward Responsibly

To the Editor:

As a lifelong resident of East Hampton, I've seen the town change in many ways. Since I was growing up, the town has almost doubled in population. There needs to be a balance between growth and keeping our small town charm. I've had the opportunity to sit on Town Council for nearly eight years. I was elected for three terms and appointed for the current term. As a third generation resident, I enjoy being involved with the community and supporting our small businesses. You will often see my wife and I dining out at our local establishments.

I think we can all agree that a great education is important, but we also need to consider all of our residents when it comes to affordability. We need to think about our senior citizens and other residents that are on a fixed income.

As most residents know, the proposal for a new firehouse has been a major topic over the past few months and will continue to be for the next council. I'm hopeful that the newly formed steering committee will thoroughly vet all of the possible options and come to a conclusion that will support the fire department and be as affordable as possible for all residents. I would like to see the committee present their report in six months rather than one year that was set by the current council.

I am proud to say I was part of the Town Council that approved the ongoing Village Improvement project. Perhaps not all residents are aware that approximately 80% of the cost was covered by two grants – Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) and the Community Connectivity Grant Program. While I understand the construction has been challenging at times for the impacted businesses, I believe the end result will be something we can all enjoy.

I'm looking forward to continuing my role on Town Council and I appreciate your continued support this November as I run for a fifth term. As a multiple term member, I have always tried to keep the best interest of our residents as a top priority.

Please help shape the future of our town and come out and vote on Tuesday, Nov. 4th.

Tim Feegel
Member and Candidate,
East Hampton Town Council

Veterans Day & Memorial Day

To the Editor:

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Both holidays were established to recognize and honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. But, Memorial Day, which is observed on the last Monday in May, was originally set aside as a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country.

While those who died are also remembered on Veterans Day, which is observed on Nov. 11 on the Colchester Veterans Green at 11 a.m., Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military – in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served have sacrificed and done their duty

It is important that all veterans, their families and in fact all Americans pause to reflect on, remember and give thanks to our many heroes. We owe them no less.

Alphonse Letendre
Deputy Commander Post 54
Colchester

Time to Vote Row A

To the Editor:

Yes, we have a municipal election on Nov. 4th! Early voting began Oct. 20th and will continue until Nov. 2nd. Times are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Extended hours on Oct. 28th & 30th will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All early voting is at Town Hall. You can also register to vote and cast your ballot on the same day if you need to. If you vote on Nov. 4th, you will go to your usual polling location between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

It is important to make voting in municipal elections a priority. Your municipal vote has the biggest impact! Decisions made by local leadership directly influence the quality of life in your neighborhood- like your schools, roads, emergency funding, senior services, and youth services.

Municipal elections have historically low voter turnout which means the weight of every vote is extremely high! When they say "every vote matters" it really does at the local level! Local elections have been won and lost in Colchester by as few as two votes.

Two years ago the town finances were in turmoil. We had million-dollar shortfalls due to underfunding of pension liabilities, employee benefits, and more. We had overdue audits and understaffed departments. Under the leadership of First Selectman Bernie Dennler, the town has completed backlogged and overdue audits and secured an AA+ bond rating.

Bernie's leadership, along with the steady hand of Karen Belding, Democratic chairwoman of the Board of Finance, our town is on a financially sound path. We do not want to go back to the chaos of a past administration. I am seeking a seat on the Board of Finance so that, with my experience on the Board of Assessment Appeals, I can work

See Letters, page 6

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★ *Letters cont. from page5*

to keep Colchester affordable and moving in the right direction.

You, the voter, can assure we continue to move Colchester forward. Please make a plan to vote! Remind your neighbors and friends how important it is to vote. With early voting it has never been easier. I, along with the rest of the Democratic candidates, are hoping for your support.

Krista Kardys – Colchester
Democratic Candidate for Board of Finance

Note: *Kardys is a member of the Colchester Board of Assessment Appeals, but said she is speaking as a citizen.*

Competence in Colchester

Colchester Friends:

The math is pretty simple.

Bernie Dennler – three successful audits versus zero under previous Bisbikos/Thomas/Vaillancourt administration.

People know competence when they see it.

Proud to be voting for Bernie and the Democratic team on Nov 4th.

Respectfully,
Vincent Rose – Colchester

Planning is Important Too!

To the Editor:

In most Connecticut towns, planning and zoning responsibilities are combined into one joint commission. That is not the case in Marlborough, where we have two separate commissions. The Zoning Commission develops zoning regulations that determine how land can be used and evaluates project applications based on those regs. The Planning Commission does things like reviewing applications for the subdivision of land and reviewing proposals to amend zoning regulations for compatibility with town planning documents. Planning also oversees initiatives like Sustainable Marlborough and the Housing Opportunity Committee.

As a member of the Planning Commission, I joke that Zoning is the more exciting commission with lots of things to argue about. That is tongue-in-cheek, but Planning is also incredibly important. Our job as volunteers is to ensure that development occurs appropriately and sensibly and in accordance with town planning documents – all while striving to maintain the character of our small town that my family has grown to love so much.

I was elected as a Planning Commission alternate in 2021 and have been a full voting member since 2022. Despite having two young daughters that keep me busy, I have attended nearly 100% of commission meetings and forums in four years. I believe I bring an important perspective to the commission due to my background in municipal land use. For nearly 15 years, I worked on projects to clean up and redevelop contaminated properties in urban areas and towns even smaller than Marlborough.

I learned firsthand the ins and outs of municipal government and have brought that experience to every vote I have made. It would be my honor to continue serving our community as a Planning Commission member, and I respectfully ask for your vote on Nov. 4th.

Beth Lander Morris – Marlborough

Note: *Lander Morris is a current member of the Marlborough Planning Commission but said she is writing as an individual.*

My Friend, Tiffany Thiele

To the Editor:

When I think about what makes a good friend – someone who listens, shows up, and truly cares – I think of Tiffany Thiele. These same qualities that make her such a loyal and dependable friend are exactly what make her an outstanding member of our Board of Selectmen.

Tiffany takes the time to listen. She wants to understand people's concerns, not just hear them. She follows through on her promises and always approaches challenges with thoughtfulness and integrity. Her loyalty to this town and to the people who call it home shines through in everything she does.

Tiffany isn't just a caring friend and selectwoman – she's also deeply experienced and dedicated to serving our community. Tiffany brings a wealth of experience to her public service. With more than 20 years as a communications professional – including her role as director of communications for the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services – she brings professionalism, calm, and skill to every conversation. Since 2017, she's served Hebron in many ways: as DTC chair, on the RHAM Strategic Plan Committee, and as a Citizen-At-Large on the CIP Committee.

Tiffany is committed to transparency in government, supporting fair budgets, standing by our schools and staff, and fostering an inclusive community. She works hard to make Hebron a place where everyone feels valued.

I'm proud to call Tiffany my friend, and even prouder to support her for reelection to the Board of Selectmen. Hebron is lucky to have her. Please join me in voting for her on Nov. 4.

Heather Petit – Hebron

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

McLaughlin for Selectman

To the Editor:

The focus of this election is not on Washington, but on Hebron, where the traditions of kindness, respect and working together to solve local problems prevail – regardless of party affiliation. We are "small-town" America, and we have rejected the influence of zealots and big-city politics. To date, our community has been insulated from negative thinking and the toxic social behaviors that could divide us as a people.

This is home. We live here with a yearning to escape life's fast pace and the rigors and turmoil of our times. We treasure our forests, farms, ridgelines and streams and places of play, worship, and work. We're here to live our dreams, to raise our families and to educate our children in a remarkable school system. We aspire to live in an awesome environment that nurtures happy, healthy, and productive lives for those who live here and those who wish to live here. Preserving these attributes and priorities remains paramount.

This year, Hebron's Republicans have incredibly talented and personable volunteers that will serve our local community in the spirit of Lincoln's legacy and the values of Frederick Douglass. The design and delivery of protections, services, infrastructure, education and the promotion of entrepreneurship and a sound economy occur not so much in our nation's capital or Hartford, but here, where we stand and serve.

Hebron's Republican candidates for office are sincere, experienced, and selfless individuals. Among the standouts is Board of Selectman candidate Rob McLaughlin. As a longtime community volunteer, he has coached our kids in level-field, fair-play, teamwork skills. I believe that this affable and intelligent gentleman will bring his financial talents, thoughtful demeanor, and positive energy to the board and work for the town's greater good in a cooperative and bipartisan manner. As your neighbor, I encourage you to vote for Rob McLaughlin and his team on election day.

Jim Cordier – Hebron

Note: *Cordier is Hebron's conservation agent, but said he is speaking as individual.*

Dougherty for Town Clerk

To the Editor:

Roberta has my vote for town clerk. She is very qualified for this position. After serving as our assistant assessor for 13 years she has developed many core skills required in the town clerk's office. She has covered that office many times when the acting clerk was on vacation.

She will if elected be able to utilize her past legal, land records, assessment, and overall municipal government experience in the role of Andover town clerk. She has a deep understanding of local and state laws, and would continue to serve our community with respect, professionalism, integrity, and accuracy.

The town clerk position requires successful completion of several specific certification classes conducted by the state such as the town clerk land records class which she has already completed. She also has a B.S. in justice and law administration – paralegal studies.

Since 1999 part of her job has been to administer to seniors as a social services municipal agent. In this capacity she connects residents with services.

She knows our town and has a strong public service ethic. And last but not least, she is friendly, helpful and knowledgeable with education and experience that will enable her to be an excellent town clerk for our town.

Julia Haverl – Andover

Integrity in Marlborough

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago, I wrote about a candidate running for Board of Education, who is currently serving on the Board of Selectmen. This is a clear conflict of interest with regards to control over the budget. I believe that we cannot allow her to win the election on Nov. 4th as we would be giving in to the corrupt mindset of those who would dip their fingers into multiple pots. This is why I must advocate that voters do not vote for the Republican line in this election. We must not vote for people who don't share our values. We must not let our town succumb to the same incompetence and corruption that plagues our national news. I want a Marlborough that I can be proud of; I want a Marlborough that values transparency, values the rule of law, and values integrity.

Therefore, I am compelled by my strong sense of ethics to call for the resignation of Louise Concodello from the Board of Selectmen. If you are going to play fast and loose with integrity, morality, and transparency, you must step down from your position. I do not believe she has the integrity required to resign from her position on the Board of Selectmen as she wants to control the budgets of both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education. However, I always try to look for the best in people, so I hope that she will prove me wrong and make the correct decision. We the people must be reassured that our Board of Selectmen strives for integrity and transparency.

Rob Barstow – Marlborough

Editor's Note: *There is nothing in state statutes or in the Marlborough town charter prohibiting someone from serving on both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education at the same time.*

Howell Cares About Hebron

Dear Hebron Residents:

As vice chair of Hebron's Planning and Zoning Commission, I've had the pleasure of serving alongside Davis Howell. Davis is the kind of person you can always count on – prepared, thoughtful, and ready to jump in whenever he's needed. As an alternate on the commission, he's not only familiar with what's on our plate, but he also keeps up with new state planning policies to see how they might affect Hebron.

Davis played a key role in putting together Hebron's 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development, making sure it spoke to the real needs of our town – especially when it comes to business and housing. His love for Hebron shows in everything he does.

I hope you'll join me in supporting Davis Howell for Planning and Zoning Alternate. He's a steady hand and a true neighbor who cares deeply about our community.

Sincerely,
David Sousa – Hebron

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

Nate Jaycox for BOE

Dear East Hampton Friends and Neighbors:

I am writing to give Nate Jaycox my highest recommendation for election to the East Hampton Board of Education. I have known Nate for several decades and he is a gem of a man. Before even moving to East Hampton, he was an active member of the East Hampton Playscape planning committee. Besides his fine and long career as an engineer at Millstone Power Station, he has, in recent years, received a State of Connecticut certificate for high school physics and was a successful student teacher of physics in Middletown. He is also proficient in history and math, and really can teach just about everything. He is an affable polymath and is uniquely charming.

Although Nate is a scholar, he is also a servant: He has served in leadership in his church. He has also been in leadership within the Toastmasters organization, serving in positions at the club, area and district levels. As to government issues, Nate has kept abreast of Connecticut educational issues that need our serious attention. He is hard-working, organized and gives attention to detail. He is uniquely adept at team work.

Most important, Nate is a man of integrity who will be an asset to the BOE. If you don't know him, try to meet him. You will gain a rare and authentic friend. Elect him and gain a community leader who will serve us all very well.

Pat Gauthier – East Hampton

Supports Dougherty

To the Editor:

Shortly after I moved to Andover in early 2022, I met Roberta Dougherty when I stopped by the Town Hall to file my DD-214 and disability paperwork. I had just moved from out of state and did not know much about the area. Roberta was very welcoming, told me a little about the town, where things were, and what was going on in the community. It was a very positive introduction to my new town.

She told me about the Andover Veterans Representative at the time, Gerry Wright, and shared information about local veteran's programs and senior happenings. Roberta invited me and my spouse to the upcoming senior lunch so that we could meet more people. Roberta mentioned the senior transportation program, and that they were looking for additional part-time drivers. After I was able to be hired, another great opportunity arose to get involved and help others.

In June 2022, I started volunteering with Roberta at the Andover Farmers Market to raise money for the senior lunch program. We sold dips and soups together each month throughout the season. That September, I became the municipal veterans representative for the town. Since then, Roberta and I have worked closely together on many Andover veteran issues. As the town's social services municipal agent, she always handles any issue or request with care, professionalism, and integrity.

Roberta also helped me get the Wreaths Across America program started in Andover in 2024. Her husband Patrick and their son also helped and participated in the ceremony at Veterans Monument Park to commemorate the Wreath Day event. We're now looking forward to our second year and our ceremony on Dec. 13, again at Veterans Monument Park at noon. Please mark your calendars and join us.

I've also witnessed Roberta step in to help in the town clerk's office when needed, making sure residents were helped right away. She knows the town inside and out and always puts the people of Andover first.

With Carol Lee now serving as a selectwoman, and Eric Anderson, our town administrator, moving on, I can't think of anyone better or more experienced to be our next town clerk than Roberta Dougherty. Please vote for Roberta on Nov. 4th.

Susan Camoroda – Andover

Note: *Camoroda is the veterans representative for the Town of Andover, but said she is writing as an individual.*

Thank You, Portland!

To the Fine Residents of Portland:

I would like to thank the Republican Town Commitee and residents of Portland for the opportunity to run for the office of Board of Assessment Appeals. This is a board I currently sit on after the passing of one of our fine residents, Peter Castelli. It's been an honor.

I was chosen to fill in this position due to my extensive real estate experience, holding high positions in both residential real estate as well as holding the position of vice president of an international commercial industrial real estate firm. I have also been a very successful entrepeneur/business owner and wealth manager.

In my personal life I was raised here, this is my hometown. I love this community with my whole heart. I returned 15 years ago after reuniting and marrying my high school crush. I'm currently in seminary working towards my master's degree in Christian ministry and I volunteer at my church's food pantry as giving back to my community is extremely important to me.

I'm asking for your vote on Nov. 4. The people of Portland deserve the incredible slate of candidates in row B.

Thank you,
Margaret (Peggy) Keser
Republican Candidate, Portland Board of Assessment Appeals

Alfano for Portland BOS

To the Editor:

I fully endorse the slate of nominated Democratic candidates for Town of Portland, who are all very dedicated people that are well qualified to serve the public.

For the Board of Selectmen, I am making a specific recommendation for candidate Andrea Alfano. I believe the town would benefit from her background, experience, and personality.

Andrea has a wealth of knowledge from her many years serving on the Board of Education from 2008 to 2017, as well as having an extensive managerial career in public service at the State of Connecticut.

I have found Andrea to be a truly effective leader as chair of the Democratic Town Committee. She is extremely reliable, with excellent analytical and organizational skills. I've been impressed with her attention to details and natural diplomacy. She really listens to the opinions of others, giving careful consideration to issues raised. Andrea is enthusiastic about effecting positive changes, and she works tirelessly to accomplish goals with a team spirit approach.

I hope that you will consider voting for Andrea Alfano, as she would make a great addition to the Portland Board of Selectmen. Thank you.

Theresa Asikainen – Portland

Get Your House in Order

To the Editor:

Three weeks ago, Shannon Nazario submitted an LTE. She shared with me the version she actually submitted to the paper in which elements that would've given more context to support her public statement of not supporting John Thomas, Republican running for first selectman of Colchester, were edited out. I know Shannon and the situation that she's become embroiled in regarding court proceedings with the Thomases that were clearly avoidable, had they just done the right thing.

Shannon, a single mom of three, was a previous tenant of John Thomas and his wife Natalie. She rented from them for six years. She gave them a security deposit of $1,000. They notified her they would be raising her rent by nearly 25% in 2024. This coincidentally following a discussion that she had with John in which she expressed her dislike for the Republican candidate at the time running for first selectman who John wholeheartedly supported. This sudden 25% raising of the rent made it financially difficult for her to remain a tenant and she vacated the rental by 5/1/24. I helped her clean some of the apartment and move. She took pictures of the clean apartment for her own records, which eventually proved to be helpful for what later became evidence for a court case. They did not return her security deposit and the accrued interest when she inquired about it during multiple conversations, which were futile. To fight to get her deposit, she was forced to file a small claims case with the New London Superior Court. Case Detail - KNL-CV24-5025489-S. The outcome resulted in a court order issued on 5/22/25. Here's an excerpt: "This court finds that the defendants were not justified in retaining the Plaintiff's security deposit. As such, this court orders that the defendants return the $1,000 to the Plaintiff, plus interest earned on that deposit, during the period of tenancy, on or before June 23, 2025."

Fast forward to today. They haven't complied with the court order. She now has to seek further legal action. Where's the integrity and accountability that John Thomas claims he's running on? He claims to be a man of God. What comes to my mind is the biblical phrase "Get your house in order." You decide for yourself what you look for in a candidate. For me, even as a Republican, this one is a hard pass.

Sincerely,
Marli Rudko – Colchester

Moving Forward

To the Editor:

Colchester's town motto is "Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow": an aspirational motto indeed. To live up to such aspirations is a delicate balancing act, maintaining the best of what is old and judiciously changing with the times.

The current Democratic-led administration is doing a fine job of juggling priorities to achieve the goals of tomorrow. Help them continue on this path, which includes renovating the Youth Center, providing a new expanded space for the police department and creating a veterans' hall. Moving forward also requires that we provide fire, EMT and police with the necessary resources to support public safety, maintaining safe roads and expanding walkability. It means safeguarding our green spaces, family farms, and rich history. It means valuing the collective needs of our community.

Your vote for Row A can make a difference on Nov. 4 and for the future of Colchester. Please vote for Bernie and the Democratic team.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Vote for Don Denley

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter of support for Don Denley, Republican candidate for the Andover Board of Finance. Don is a successful businessowner who will serve our town as a responsible and fair Board of Finance member. Don understands the importance of fiscal responsibility for our small town. He will provide an objective view and oversee our town budget to keep our taxes at a reasonable rate while providing equitable funding for town government and projects.

Please vote for Don on Tuesday, Nov. 4, or at one of the early voting sessions.

Sincerely,
Alicia Lee – Andover

We Deserve Better

To the Editor:

East Hampton needs and deserves better leadership.

Leadership with experience and a track record of getting things done. Republicans Eric Peterson, Darin Hurne, Alannah Coshow, Tim Feegel and Ted Hintz are the candidates that can provide the leadership our town needs and deserves.

Please vote to return competent, forward-looking leadership for our town.

Linda Ursin – East Hampton

A Plan for Fair School Funding

Dear Colchester Residents:

As a parent and candidate for the Colchester Board of Education, I'm driven to strengthen our schools while easing the tax burden on families. Connecticut's Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula allocates $2.46 billion statewide but falls short for towns like ours. Rising costs, a 10% enrollment drop over the decade, and fixed expenses like busing across our 49-square-mile town strain our budget. By tackling ECS inequities, we can secure fair funding for top-notch education without raising property taxes.

The ECS formula balances quality education with fiscal responsibility, basing aid on student needs, town wealth, and a $11,525 per-student foundation, but it overlooks rural challenges. If elected, I'll urge the Board to pursue these practical, ECS-inspired solutions:

1. Push for ECS Inflation Adjustments: The foundation hasn't risen since 2017. Inflation indexing could bring significant funds annually, supporting arts and sports while cutting tax pressure.

2. Advocate for Rural-Friendly ECS Changes: The formula ignores our geographic and enrollment issues. Rural weightings would ensure Colchester's fair share, preserving quality without tax hikes.

3. Support 'Hold Harmless' Reform: This locks in aid favoring wealthier towns. Gradual reform could redirect $50,000–$150,000 to us, paired with ECS increases to avoid conflicts.

4. Explore Regional Partnerships: ECS rewards shared services. Collaborating with towns like Salem on transportation or special education could cut costs, freeing funds for classrooms.

5. Balance State Funding Priorities: Advocate for state surpluses to boost ECS, while pursuing local grants to ease tax burdens.

My Vision for the Board: Whether elected or not, I'll push these ECS strategies:

• Within 90 Days: Propose a January 2026 community forum on ECS gaps to build support.

• 6-12 Months: Recommend joining groups like the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities to advocate for 2027 adjustments.

• 12-18 Months: Urge representatives to Hartford budget hearings, sharing stories for rural policies.

• Ongoing: Suggest biannual resident updates, a 2028 regional cost-saving pilot, and state budget tracking.

I'm a parent fighting for our kids and wallets. Vote for me to champion these ECS-driven solutions, ensuring Colchester's schools thrive without breaking the bank. Let's do this together!

Sincerely,
Cody McNeely
Candidate for Colchester Board of Education

Change BOE Leadership

To the Editor:

East Hampton had a difficult time handling the Board of Education budget for several years. It seems to me that we need a change in leadership if we want to do better. I propose *not* voting for Nancy Kohler if we want to do better.

Sincerely,
David Cole – East Hampton

An Important Decision

Dear Colchester Community:

As Election Day approaches on Nov. 4th, we face an important decision regarding the future of our community's financial well-being. It is crucial that we continue building on the positive momentum we've seen in recent years – momentum that has led to stronger fiscal management, community investment, and thoughtful planning for the future.

To maintain and build on these successes, I strongly urge my fellow voters to cast their ballots for the three Democratic candidates running for the Board of Finance – Sean Gillespie, Jillian Vinci, and Krista Kardys will each make a great addition to the board. These candidates bring a wealth of experience, a deep commitment to fiscal responsibility, and perspective to help ensure that our tax dollars are used effectively and efficiently. They understand the delicate balance between promoting growth and protecting the financial health of our community.

Under their leadership, we can expect to see continued focus on ensuring that funds are allocated where they are needed most – whether that's in our schools, public safety, or infrastructure. More importantly, these candidates will all join me in prioritizing transparency and public input, working closely with community members to make informed, fair decisions.

In these challenging times, when the cost of everything keeps rising, it is no surprise that the same is true for our town and our school budgets. I believe that Sean, Jillian, and Krista will serve our community with integrity, vision, and dedication as we all continue to make hard budget decisions. I encourage everyone to get out and vote for them, Bernie Dennler, and the rest of the Democratic candidates – early voting is available at Town Hall through Nov. 2 or traditional voting is on Nov 4.

Warm regards,
Karen Belding, Chair

Note: *Belding is chair of the Colchester Board of Finance, but is speaking as an individual.*

Out of Balance

To the Editor:

Take a close look at your last two years of tax bills. Notice anything? Now compare them to the percentage increases in the Board of Education budgets. Do they line up? Next, consider this: school enrollment is actually declining. Yet somehow, more administrators have been hired. Actually, $0.74 of every tax dollar goes to the Board of Education. Does that make sense?

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

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

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

Rich Tanner – Colchester

Colchester Board of Finance

To the Editor:

I am honored to seek your support for my continued service on the Colchester Board of Finance. As a parent of two special needs children in Colchester Public Schools, I have seen firsthand the exceptional dedication of our teachers, therapists, paraprofessionals, and staff. Their commitment has allowed my children to thrive in a nurturing, inclusive environment—something truly special in today's world.

With over 25 years in the finance industry, specializing in employee benefits and long-term financial planning, I have helped organizations across New England achieve sustainable financial goals. This experience enables me to approach Colchester's budget process with a balanced, strategic perspective.

Since joining the Board of Finance in December 2024, I have gained valuable insight into our town's financial needs and priorities. I am committed to ensuring our schools and community remain well-funded and forward-looking, so every child can grow up in a safe, stable, and loving environment.

Colchester's charm as a quaint New England farm town with modern touches makes it a wonderful place to live and raise a family. I am dedicated to preserving what makes our town unique while supporting thoughtful progress.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to serve our community.

Respectfully,
Jillian Vinci
Colchester Board of Finance Candidate

Vote Row C for BOE

To the Editor:

Last week while discussing a school budget issue with a friend, I expressed my traditionally Republican opinion. He had a very strong reaction against it, and he is a Republican as well! I was shocked, but I listened. I could see it from both sides, and that is how town politics must be if we are to have any success. We must decide issue by issue with our conscience. There must be healthy dialogue without name calling or insults. We are all neighbors in this community. Each side must listen to the other.

Then, Monday morning as I went to Town Hall to cast my early vote for the municipal election, I was struck by the clear delineation of party signs. Democrats clearly lined the left side of the driveway and Republicans the right. What a commentary on our town and our country!

My name is Donna Antonacci, incumbent Colchester Board of Education (BOE) chair. For the past few weeks, Margo (Colchester BOE secretary) and I have been faithfully writing positive letters to the editor appealing to Colchester voters. With our four years of experience on the BOE, we have realized that the only way forward is collaboration between parties on BOE issues. Party politics are so unimportant to our kids and our community. Issues cannot be decided strictly along party lines.

So, when I think where I will place our campaign signs, the answer is that they will be left and right. They will look exactly as my ballot looked this morning: a blend of each side. Because I don't just decide on party lines, that would be unfair to Colchester. Please vote Row C for BOE for two of your four BOE votes!

Thank you!

Donna Antonacci
Chair and Candidate,
Colchester Board of Education

Amazing Candidates

To the Editor:

What sort of characteristics do we want in our Board of Education candidates?

Mostly, I think, we want them to be qualified, competent, and compassionate. They need to put kids first. They need to avoid squabbling and focus on real problems and real solutions.

Andover has three great candidates for that.

The first two are well-known to residents who've been paying any attention to local matters. Gerry Cremé has served well on the BOE for many years, including time as its chair. His have been steady hands on the reins, with a clear love for the children that served him well in his career as a teacher and now serves Andover's schoolchildren.

Mike Beckwith is still working as a teacher, after an earlier career in finance. He brings to the Board the zeal of a parent of Andover children and a real understanding of the complexities of school finance.

Sharon St. Rock is running for the first time. With years of nursing background and a decade as a school nurse, she brings a different perspective but the same focus on the needs of children. She is a problem solver, and a wonderful listener. She is so well qualified that after the Democrats endorsed her, the Republicans followed suit. As one who's been extremely upset by the situation caused by national Republicans, I may even vote for her on the Republican line, just to show I still can.

Highly qualified, extremely competent, and unwaveringly compassionate: that's all three of these candidates. With a focus on kids, and backgrounds in education, finance, and health care, they are a formidable group.

Please vote for Michael Beckwith, Gerry Cremé, and Sharon St. Rock for Andover's Board of Education!

Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover

Note: *Sauyet is co-chair of the Andover Democratic Town Committee and a member of the RHAM Board of Education, but said he is writing as an individual.*

Vote Out EH Democrats

To the Editor:

Last Tuesday's Town Council meeting was a horror show! The Zoom audio was absolutely horrible. The Democratic council chair should have paused the meeting until the issue was corrected to accommodate the dozens of people on Zoom who could not hear or effectively provide public comments.

Add to that, the Democrats' version of the Fire House Steering Committee is ridiculous! No interviews, no community outreach, appointing folks who may or may not be on council next term and then appointing Maryanne Dostatler of social media censorship fame? She even censored the Fire Department!

Thankfully, the noise ordinance was removed because the public loudly rejected an ordinance that would include ridiculous rules for citizens to live by, just so some on the Council could weaponize it against a local developer they have a personal vendetta against.

We need to ensure this mismanagement of our town is stopped.

Volte for Republicans Eric Peterson, Darin Hurne, Ted Hintz, Alannah Coshow and Tim Feegel on Tuesday Nov. 4th

Bryon Turner – East Hampton

Let's Do What's Right

Voters of Andover:

Let's do what's right for our town and elect the most qualified candidate for town clerk – Roberta Dougherty.

Roberta isn't just a familiar face; she's a dedicated member of our community. She lives here, raised her family here, and has spent the last 13 years serving in Town Hall. That depth of experience will make her transition into the town clerk's office seamless. Roberta's knowledge will also be invaluable as we hire and train a new assistant in the assessor's office.

With the recent resignation of our town administrator Eric Anderson, Andover is facing a period of transition. Electing someone with Roberta's experience will minimize disruption and help keep our town running smoothly during this time of change.

My support for Roberta isn't about politics – it's about what's best for Andover. Scott Person and I believe in her so strongly that we personally paid for the red, white, and blue "Dougherty for Town Clerk" signs you've seen around town. We put those signs up – without consulting Roberta – because we know how important this election is for our community.

I hope you'll join me on Nov. 4th in casting your vote for Roberta Dougherty for town clerk.

Sincerely,
Jeff Maguire – Andover

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

We Cannot Move Backwards

To the Editor:

Voting early is the easiest and most convenient way to support Bernie Dennler and the Democratic team. You can zip in and out whenever it is good for you without the lines or wait. And you don't have to worry if something unexpected happens on Election Day, because your ballot will already be cast.

Early voting will take place until Nov. 2nd. Normal hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. There are extended hours from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on Oct. 28th and 30th. All early voting occurs at Town Hall. And there is also same day voter registration during early voting.

In 2023, Colchester saw historic turnout. We even won the state Democracy Cup for the highest voter turnout of a mid-sized town in the entire state. People wanted change and they came to the polls in record numbers to elect Bernie Dennler as First Selectman.

Since then, Bernie has brought financial stability to town. The chaos and drama that residents voted out has disappeared. Things are calm and the work gets done.

But here's the problem – complacency. When people are upset, they head to the polls in droves. When people are satisfied with the status quo, they see less of a reason to vote or forget altogether.

We cannot move backwards. To keep Colchester headed in the right direction, please make a plan to vote. Decide when you'll vote early or mark your calendar to vote on Election Day, Nov. 4th, at your district polling place, between the hours of 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

Maybe Colchester can win the Democracy Cup again! Let's go for it!

Sincerely,
Monica Swyden
Chair, Colchester Democratic Town Committee

Our Children's Champion

To the Editor:

This letter is to express support for the reelection of our current Hebron Board of Education chairwoman, Heather Petit. But first, I want to talk about Heather's character, and why it matters now more than ever.

I remember joining the Hebron Democratic Town Committee as a new face in town. Heather was one of the very first to welcome me with open arms. What started that evening in the summer has turned into a lifelong friendship, one that I am forever grateful for. It's this openness and kindness that Heather is known across town for, and it's the kind of person we need making important decisions for our children.

Heather has an exemplary record – personally and professionally – fighting for our children. She has been an advocate her entire life, in her service as a state employee and here in Hebron, fighting against budget cuts and ensuring our children have the very best education we can provide them. She takes a solutions-oriented approach to her work as chairwoman, evidenced by how she successfully reopened our schools safely after a global pandemic. She's focused on maintaining the high-quality programming and services our schools offer while expanding opportunities in world language and cultural studies. Additionally, she supports fair contracts and negotiations with teachers and staff and will advocate for adding an additional school resource officer to provide full safety coverage for all students.

In a highly polarized world, Heather represents the good that happens when we collaborate and work together. If reelected, she will work closely with town leaders to strengthen community ser-

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★ *Letters cont. from page7*

vices and schools while maintaining a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility. I admire the person she is – as a mom, professional, public servant, and wife – and without her support, I would not be the leader I am today. And, our children would not have thrived for the past eight years were it not for her.

I'm proud to vote for Heather, and I'm even more proud that she is one of my dearest friends. Please join me in voting for our children's champion, Heather Petit, on November 4th.

Sincerely,
Tiffany V. Thiele – Hebron

Note: *Thiele is a member of the Hebron Board of Selectmen but said she is writing this letter as an individual.*

The Success of Every Student

To the Editor:

I am running for the Andover Board of Education because I am deeply committed to the success of every student. As an elementary school nurse with over a decade of experience, and a parent of young children, I have learned how impactful board decisions can be and I feel called to serve my community at this time. My years of service to AHM as their School Nurse Consultant, and my current role as a member of the Eastern Connecticut Early Start Collaborative have afforded me the opportunity to gain a deep understanding of the challenges that families and educators face, as well as the ability to present creative solutions through collaboration and communication.

I am committed to promoting fiscal responsibility and transparency, while maintaining academic excellence and equity for all students. I believe that through effective communication with parents, educators, and community members, this can be accomplished.

I am asking for your vote on Nov. 4th to continue the tradition of those that served before me and to ensure that every young learner has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Sharon St. Rock – Andover

It Begins Locally

To the Editor:

Like many of you, I joined in the "No Kings" rally last Saturday. It was not the terrorist, anti-American gala our president said it was. In fact, his version of the event was nothing less than a hideous and shameless lie.

The rally – and the president's misreading of it – made it clear that we must get Trump and his cronies out of American politics.

And that begins at the local level.

That's why I urge voters in Hebron and surrounding towns to vote Democratic, to rid our local government of any and all vestiges of Trumpism.

Independents, liberals, and disenfranchised conservatives: we have marched and we have protested. Now we must vote.

John Surowiecki – Amston

Thank You, Dan Larson

To the Editor:

I have worked in public service for over 20 years, and few individuals embody the spirit of dedication and commitment to their community as profoundly as Dan Larson. As he prepares to step down from the Board of Selectmen this November, I want to take a moment to focus on him, what he has meant to me, and the indelible mark he has left on our town.

Dan began his dedication to our town as a volunteer firefighter. As a firefighter, then fire chief, and also fire marshal, he demonstrated self-sacrifice, service to others, and leadership in the town. Beyond his firefighting duties, Dan's commitment to public service extended into the realm of town governance. Serving on the Board of Finance and then as a selectman, he ensured that the town's resources were managed wisely and effectively.

I moved to town halfway through Dan's 16-year tenure on the Board of Selectmen. Dan has always been present at town events, helping residents and advocating tirelessly for the betterment of our community. His leadership has guided not just me, but many other selectmen during this time. I admire his dedication to those around him, which is the hallmark of a great public servant. He will always think of others before himself and happily sacrifices his time for his neighbors. While some of our leaders today forget what it means to be a public servant, he is a role model that I strive to emulate.

I ask you all to join me in honoring Dan Larson's exceptional service. When you see him around town, and you will at some point because he is always working for Hebron, please stop him and say a quick thank you. He is a reminder that one individual can make a difference and have a profound and positive impact on their community. My wish is that his legacy of dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to community will continue to inspire future generations. Thank you, Dan, for your extraordinary service and for making our town a better place for all.

Keith Petit
Chair of the Hebron Board of Selectmen

Vote Republican!

To the Editor:

Please vote for the candidates in East Hampton who want to keep our small-town feel and quality of life while being fiscally responsible. Vote Republican!

Ray Zatorski – East Hampton

Note: *Zatorski is a member of the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission, but is speaking as an individual.*

Steady Hands, Solid Results

Colchester Friends:

It is incredible what a little competence can do. In just two years under First Selectman Bernie Dennler and the Democratic majorities on the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, Colchester has gone from chaos and bickering to steady, results driven leadership.

Remember when town meetings felt more like social media comment sections—full of noise and personal attacks? Those days are thankfully behind us. The current Democratic leadership brought civility and focus back to the table. The results show it: balanced budgets, responsible capital planning, and a turf field project that is finally happening instead of being endlessly weaponized for political theater.

Yes, taxes ticked up slightly, but that was the honest and responsible choice after years of underfunding and unrealistic budgeting. You cannot maintain roads, schools, or public safety on slogans. This team faced reality and made the tough calls to keep Colchester stable and solvent.

While others were busy filing FOI requests like they were auditioning for *CSI: Town Hall*, Bernie and his team were doing the real work – managing budgets, supporting schools, improving infrastructure, and restoring trust in town government. The difference between leadership and noise has never been more apparent.

Early voting started this week on Oct. 20th, and Election Day is just around the corner on Nov. 4th. Come out and vote for Row A, and help keep Colchester moving forward with common sense, stability, transparency, and teamwork.

Scott Chapman – Colchester

Support Fraulino Team

To the Editor:

I support Rob Fraulino for Marlborough selectman along with his entire candidate slate. Rob has proven leadership and experience from 30 years in the Navy before retirement and now with Eversource for 22 years. For 20 of these years he balanced two careers, one full-time and one nearly full-time with the Navy. His leadership skills and knowledge will be put to good, common sense approaches addressing town matters for all of us.

Rob and his family have lived in Marlborough since 2014 and before that grew up in East Hampton. Since living here, they have been involved in the community. They know the local landscape and understand the challenges of small towns. He will question spending and be transparent in his leadership. I'm confident he will work to wisely budget for needed projects and not increase wants until we can afford them. Family budgets are stretched yearly with unsustainable tax dollar increases.

So join me and vote for Rob Fraulino and the Republican slate!

Thank you,
Bob Gaudinski – Marlborough

I Saw the Need

To the Editor:

The reason I took the leap to get involved on the Board of Education was because I saw the need. I saw a decline in the education of my children and wanted to get involved to improve our educational system in Colchester for our community.

Collaboration among all board members took a broken system and improved it! Together we hired competent, qualified, and proficient leaders for Colchester schools while downsizing administration and central office for net savings. We moved from low to high employee satisfaction and retention while focusing on hiring Colchester residents. We transformed the budget process for transparency so that it is easy to see where your tax dollars are spent. We gained high student performance with Bacon Academy being ranked #1 in college and career readiness in the state in 2024-25*. We celebrated state championships in robotics, soccer and basketball. We promoted a curriculum to include community service hours, bring classics in literature back to the classroom, and reinforce grammar throughout the middle and upper grade levels.

We supported our new administration in revamping our once broken special education system to now have model programs in the state. In particular I would like to thank our director, Eve Hurley, for all that she has accomplished in the last two years for our children and community.

Please consider voting for Donna and me on the November 4 ballot! We would love to continue our collaborative work moving our schools and town forward.V ote Row C for BOE!!

*Source: edsight.ct.gov 2024-25 school year data

Marguerite (Margo) Gignac – Colchester

Note: *While Gignac is a current member of the Colchester Board of Education, she said she is speaking as a candidate for the school board.*

Vote for McSweeney

To the Editor:

Cathy McSweeney is running for the Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals. She is smart, reasonable, responsible, and respectful. You could not ask for a better person to be on this board.

Please vote for Cathy McSweeney!

Denise Rodosevich – Hebron

Put Stretch at the Table

To the Editor:

Eric "Stretch" Peterson is running for Town Council because he wants to return civil discourse and thoughtful decision making to the table.

He is a rare breed. Eric is a genuinely good human being: honest, fair, pensive, intelligently conservative and very funny. As well, he listens before he speaks – a unique quality.

Eric has proven his value on the council in years past. He will greatly improve the Council's table.

Join me in voting for Eric on Tuesday, Nov. 4th at the high school.

Sincerely,
Melissa H. Engel
Chair, East Hampton
Republican Town Committee

Aging Well – Never Too Late

To the Editor:

At the Portland Senior Center, we believe that healthy aging isn't about adding years to life, it's about adding life to years. That's why we're offering a free six-week workshop called Age Well, led by Chatham Health, beginning Monday, Oct. 27th through Dec. 1st, from 2-4:30 p.m., at 7 Waverly Ave.

This interactive series is designed to help older adults living with ongoing health conditions build confidence, manage symptoms, and maintain independence. Participants will explore topics like communication with healthcare providers, decision-making, goal-setting, and lifestyle choices that truly support well-being.

Research shows that education and social connection are key ingredients for longevity, and both are central to everything we do at the Portland Senior Center. Whether it's a fitness class, a shared meal, or a workshop like Age Well, each program aims to strengthen the body, mind, and community spirit.

Registration is now open by calling 860-342-6761 or visiting MyActiveCenter.com. Join us and discover how small steps can lead to a healthier, more fulfilling life at any age.

Sarah Elliott-Caratasios
Municipal Agent and Director,
Portland Senior Center

Support East Hampton Democrats

To the Editor:

Every week – make that every day – the East Hampton Republicans launch another social media attack against their Democratic colleagues. It doesn't matter what the issue is at play. Their entire campaign has been overwhelmingly negative, and it's not difficult to see where they are taking their cues.

It's blatant Trumpism. Pick a target, demonize them regardless of truth, and wait for them to react. When they do, turn the argument on its head and twist their words to fit your own narrative. Retaliate against those who don't agree with your agenda. Then scream about censorship when someone insists you follow the rules.

We have seen dedicated local volunteers in this community who have been harassed to levels that threaten personal safety. I'd like to think we are above that kind of divisiveness at the local level, yet the toxicity continues.

Over the weekend, seven million people across the country gathered to send the message that we are better than the hate that spews from the White House. The protests were overwhelmingly peaceful, unlike the truly anti-American riot that took place on Jan. 6, 2021.

I am proud that many of my fellow Democrats, progressives, moderates, liberals, and even Republicans turned out for the No Kings rallies and to stand up to the ultimate bully. I am especially proud of the East Hampton Democrats who let their voices be heard.

Turning the lens back to Belltown, there is a distinct choice to be made on Election Day. Democrats are running on their record and the positive shift in civility that has taken place over the past two years. Our candidates are making wise investments that are driving East Hampton toward progress and away from self-interest. We are more than happy to talk about the needs of our school system, seniors, public safety, and infrastructure. We are proud to lead and willing to listen to all. We are willing to stand up to bullies.

After the last ballot is counted, whoever wins majorities on the Town Council, Board of Education, and Board of Finance will not just be leaders of the people who voted for them. They will be charged with doing right for all East Hampton.

I encourage you to make the right choice. Vote Row A on Tuesday, Nov. 4 (or earlier) and continue to move East Hampton forward.

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.*

Missing Socks and Quiet Leadership

To the Editor:

The other day, I was checking my child care app for updates about my kids, expecting the usual loud chaos, snack time drama, finger paint everywhere, maybe a note about someone's missing sock. Instead, I saw something unexpected. The first selectman was in the classroom reading books to the kids.

I had no idea he volunteered to do that. There wasn't a big social media post about it or anything in the weekly town emails. Just him quietly spending time with local kids and making their day a little brighter.

It made me realize most of what he does for this town isn't the kind of stuff you see. It's not flashy, and it doesn't end up in a photo or a headline. But now and then you catch a glimpse. Maybe you see him on the green, or out with Public Works or other staff, just helping out and getting things done. That's the kind of leadership that keeps Colchester moving forward.

Sometimes leadership isn't loud. Sometimes it's just showing up and quietly making a difference.

John Farrell – Colchester

Vote for Sharon St. Rock!

To the Editor:

I am an Andover Republican and am supporting Republican candidate Sharon St. Rock for the Andover Board of Education. Sharon has lived in Andover for 18 years and understands the needs of our small town. As an elementary school nurse, she addresses the needs of students on a daily basis and wants to use her experience to support the success of every student at Andover Elementary School while also advocating for fiscal responsibility.

Sharon's experience has prepared her to make difficult decisions with a sensible and informed approach. She will strive for full transparency and open communication among all town boards, the school community, and the residents of Andover to foster trust and create a strong working relationship.

Please vote for Sharon St. Rock on the Republican line for Andover's Board of Education during early voting between now and Nov. 2nd or on Tuesday, Nov. 4th, Election Day. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Alicia Lee – Andover

Vote for Gerry Cremè

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Gerry Cremè for the Andover Board of Education. Gerry is a person of integrity, who has continued to display civility and respect for others as well as a commitment to fact-based information for all discussions and public discourse. A strong advocate for the children of Andover, he is always well informed, and comes to meetings willing to share his knowledge in a transparent, nonjudgmental manner.

Gerry is dedicated to working in cooperation with others seeking positive goals, and outcomes. He is fiscally responsible and does not seek attention for himself. He is kind, deliberate, and an excellent person to have serving on a board of education.

Please vote for Gerry Cremè for the Andover Board of Education.

Joan Foran – Andover

Vote for Nancy Kohler

To the Editor:

As we face another election in this difficult and turbulent time, I struggle to determine how to choose candidates who will do the best work for our community. The one choice that I will make with confidence is a vote for Nancy Kohler for the East Hampton Board of Education.

As a longtime retiree, I know how important the quality of a BOE is for an educational system, And I know how closely tied the quality of a community is to the quality of its schools. A thriving school system does not just benefit children and their families. A thriving school system benefits everyone, and as such, we are all responsible for ensuring its success.

Nancy Kohler has been a positive force on the East Hampton BOE. She works tirelessly, in a bilateral way, to ensure that East Hampton students and their families are represented and supported Despite ongoing financial challenges, social disputes and cultural differences, the educational mission remains the same: to provide all students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences that will enable each and all to thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Nancy works to be a positive force, a builder, in the educational community. She is a listener; she is fair; she is honest; she is compassionate; she is knowledgeable; and she truly cares about the children and this community.

It is important that we not only consider our current needs, but that we also plan for the future. Our children and our community deserve to be represented by competent, caring and knowledgeable people. Please vote to reelect Nancy Kohler and her fellow RowA candidates.

Catherine Goldsmith – East Hampton

Trivia Night Success

To the Editor:

Thank you to everyone across the community in East Hampton and in our neighboring towns who contributed to Smarty Pints for the Pantry trivia night on Saturday. Our event at Rule of 3 Brewing drew a nice and enthusiastic crowd and we could not have asked for a better setting.

The East Hampton Democratic Town Committee raised $670 in donations to the food bank, in addition to collecting about 60 pounds of nonperishable items. It was our pleasure to donate, and we hope that the money and food helps to feed the community during a difficult time.

East Hampton is a wonderful place to live with residents who deeply care about their neighbors. Every time we lose sight of that, events like the trivia night remind us of the goodwill in this community.

Sincerely,
Kevin Reich, Chair
East Hampton Democratic Town Committee

'It's Time for Doers'

To the Editor:

As I've been going door to door these past weeks, one message has come through loud and clear from Colchester residents: people want transparency, accountability, and action. They're tired of surprises – especially when it comes to our town's record tax increase – and they're frustrated that important decisions seem to happen quietly, without enough public awareness or input.

That's why I chose my campaign slogan: "I'm a doer."

Because Colchester doesn't need more talk – it needs people willing to roll up their sleeves and do the work.

I'm ready to do exactly that. As a mom of two children in Colchester Public Schools, I've seen where our schools shine and where they need support. As a small business owner, I understand what it means to manage budgets wisely and make tough decisions. And as a lifelong learner myself, I know that progress takes research, preparation, and heart.

When elected to the Board of Education, I will dedicate myself not only to participation, but to the behind-the-scenes work that makes a lasting difference – ensuring our tax dollars are spent wisely, that communication improves, and that every student and teacher feels supported.

But I can't do it alone.

Our entire Republican slate is ready to work for you — for the citizens, families, and future of Colchester.

Now we need your help to make that happen.

On Nov. 4th, I'm asking you to come out and vote. Let's bring accountability, transparency, and fresh energy to town leadership. Together, we can move Colchester forward – with action, not just words.

Olivia Duksa
Republican Candidate, Colchester
Board of Education

Dementia Talks No. 34

To the Editor:

It feels like a lifetime! But it has only been three years since Mom moved out of her own house… forever. Never to return. Leaving behind her quilting supplies, precious artifacts from her family past, well-worn cookbooks, favorite mugs, the list goes on.

In a blink of an eye, three years was just "poof" gone. Recently I had to stop and really think hard about how long it really was that she moved into her first assisted living community. This is because mom has changed so much since she moved out of the house next door in 2022. I said to myself, "It has to be longer than three years! Surely it is longer than that!"

Time is precious. It needs to be savored. Time is one thing you will never regain.

I recall when Mom's geriatric doctor recommended that we take Mom off her dementia medicine last year; the doctor said that it likely isn't adding any value at her stage of Alzheimer's. So we did. We trusted the clinical recommendation. Mom declined so fast after we did that. I was working so much and didn't connect the dots until several weeks later after reaching out to my "dementia family."

We found out that patients who are benefiting from the drug, when taken off of it, will decline to where they would have been had they never been on the drug in the first place. We had her go back on the medicine. I called the doctor's office and told the nurse that they had taken time away from us and that they need to be more forthright with side effects and possible ramifications. No longer am I afraid to challenge clinicians.

Please learn from my mistakes. I know that I need to ask more questions – always ask questions ad nauseum. Leave no rock unturned.

Some say all we have is time. I say that time is too precious to waste on waiting, second guessing, regrets, "what if's" or keeping things to myself.

Know you are not alone.

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

Decisions Deserve Debate

To the Editor:

While I agree that caucusing is part of the political process, I pledge to listen to all Town Council members before making decisions. Unfortunately, our current council has been devoid of such collaboration. Under our leadership, we will not allow last-minute agenda items to be added or statements made that "a decision has been reached" on topics that have never appeared on a Council agenda. Transparency and fairness must come first.

In just a few short months back on the council, I've seen how far we've drifted from open, balanced government. Having served three prior terms, I have never attended meetings so tightly scripted by one party with no input from the minority. This approach is deeply concerning and does a disservice to the residents of East Hampton.

Ted Hintz Jr.
Member, East Hampton Town Council
and Candidate for Reelection

What I'll Focus On

To the Editor:

As a longtime resident of the Town of East Hampton, I am honored to announce my candidacy for the town Board of Finance. With a strong background in public service, I am committed to ensuring responsible fiscal management, transparency, and strategic planning that supports both our present needs and future growth.

I have many years of experience in public service serving in these positions: firefighting, deputy fire marshal, deputy emergency management director and a compliance officer. My professional career has taught me the importance of balancing budgets, making data-driven decisions, and listening to the concerns of stakeholders and the voters — all of which are essential for serving effectively on the Board of Finance.

In addition to my professional experience, I have been an active member of the community through volunteer work, local committees, etc., which has given me a deep appreciation for the values and priorities of our town.

If elected, I will focus on:

Ensuring taxpayer dollars are used wisely and efficiently;

Supporting sustainable economic development;

Promoting financial transparency and community engagement;

Planning proactively for the long-term fiscal health of our town.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve and to contribute to a financially strong and vibrant Town of East Hampton.

Thank you,
Joey Guest – East Hampton
Republican Candidate for Board of Finance

A Team for Colchester

Dear Colchester Neighbors:

Early voting is underway in Colchester through Sunday, Nov. 2, and Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. It has been an honor to serve as our first selectman, and I hope to be reelected with your support to keep getting things done while bringing Colchester together. This week, I'm asking you to also support the full Democratic slate, a strong team of experienced leaders and new voices ready to serve our community.

I am honored to be joined again on the ballot by selectmen Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner. So much of the progress we have made over the last two years has been thanks to a strong Board of Selectmen that has worked together with our colleagues across the aisle to deliver results for Colchester. Their experience, knowledge, and passion will continue to serve Colchester well.

Stepping up for our next generation of Board of Finance candidates are Jillian Vinci, appointed last year and bringing valuable financial expertise in health insurance and employee benefits; Sean Gillespie, current town treasurer; and Krista Kardys, who currently serves on the Board of Assessment Appeals. Together, they form a qualified team prepared to lead and listen through the budget process.

With Sean running for BOF, Dave Koji is running for Treasurer. Dave brings strong business experience and previously chaired the ARPA Committee.

I am also very excited to support two former teachers running for Board of Education, Gussie Gilbertie and Nancy Nelson. Their classroom experience will help keep the needs of students, parents, and teachers at the forefront.

Rounding out the team are Andrew Cournoyer, current BAA chair seeking reelection to the Board of Assessment Appeals, and newcomer Eric Jackson, a Navy veteran.

Together, this slate will work to build consensus on critical issues that affect us as residents and taxpayers and to implement long-range plans to keep Colchester an affordable place for residents of all ages.

Whether you vote early or on Tuesday, Nov. 4th, let's bring Colchester together again – and cast your votes for the Row A team!

Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler
Colchester First Selectman

A Duty to Serve

To the Editor:

My name is Eric Peterson. I am addressing you today as a candidate for Town Council. I am a lifelong resident and have previously served on the Board of Finance and the Town Council.

I am running again, not out of political aspiration, but as a duty to serve.

If elected, as I have always done, I will consider each issue to come before us with the mindset that every dollar the town spends is a dollar taken from you – the taxpayer. And thus, should be spent wisely and with great consideration, simultaneously weighing the needs and required services expected of our local government. This is not always an easy task.

If this approach to local government appeals to you, please vote for me on Tuesday, Nov. 4th. If not, I thank you for your consideration and wish nothing but the best for you, your families and the Town of East Hampton.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank all current board and council members for serving. Whether you all agree on issues is irrelevant. You have volunteered your time to serve and do what you felt was best for the town. For that you deserve appreciation.

God bless and thank you,
Eric M. Peterson – East Hampton

Come Out and Vote

To the Editor:

Some say all politics are local. Yet many ask, "Why vote in local elections? I don't even know the candidates."

The truth is, decisions made at Town Hall directly affect every resident of Marlborough.

Voter apathy in local elections is reflected in the low turnout compared to midterm or presidential years. But now, more than ever, there is a strong case for voters to go local – and to support candidates with the experience and professional backgrounds that match the decision-making and leadership Marlborough needs. This year's Democratic slate reflects exactly those qualities.

Particularly important this year are candidates who understand finance. Major capital projects – from school renovations to fire department support and infrastructure improvements – require careful fiscal oversight. Your tax dollars should be well spent, and these candidates are prepared to ensure that happens.

Voting is easier than ever. Early voting is already underway and continues daily at Town Hall from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Nov. 2. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4.

If getting to know the Democratic candidates helps, please join Board of Selectmen candidates Anthony Bratz and Susan McFarland, along with others on the Democratic slate, for coffee at the Marlborough Bakery on Oct. 24, Oct. 26, Nov. 1, and Nov. 2 at 9 a.m.

This year's Democratic team represents both lifelong residents and new community members – bringing together deep experience, fresh energy, and a shared dedication to keeping Marlborough a vibrant place to live.

So come out and vote – and let your voice be heard.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Dunn – Marlborough

Note: *Dunn is vice chair of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee.*

Would Be Honored to Serve

Dear Colchester Residents:

I am a Democratic candidate for the Colchester Board of Education with 45 years of experience as a public educator, 30-plus years as a Colchester resident and 3 children who are graduates of the Colchester public schools. Colchester is a great place to live and was a wonderful community to raise our children. It is time to give back.

I believe that with better and clearer communication Colchester can celebrate the successes of our students and our school. There is so much to celebrate and much work to be done to share and continue our growth. My voice will lead these discussions.

Taking a closer and harder review of Board of Education decisions and sharing with the entire community will lead to a better understanding of how our tax dollars support student instruction. I intend to increase openness and transparency.

Responsible budgeting is a must as our town taxes impact all of us, especially those on fixed incomes. Our children are our future, and I have the expertise to ensure they have the opportunities to learn in an enriching educational environment to thrive using every dollar to its maximum efficiency

We need to support our athletic fields and plan for maintenance on our buildings. I will support the proposed fields, HVAC, and roof projects at Bacon Academy and make sure that we use foresight to plan for needs at other schools.

Colchester Public Schools staff are what make our school system one to be proud of. As a BOE member, I will make sure to understand their needs and goals so they can deliver a high-quality education to every child.

I would be honored to serve the town and school system in Colchester and ask for your support

Thank you,
Gussie Gilberti – Colchester
Board of Education Candidate

Support for Herrick, Ockman

To the Editor:

As Hebron prepares to make important decisions about its future, I urge fellow residents to support two outstanding candidates for the Board of Finance: Ryan Herrick and Adam Ockman. Both bring valuable experience, a commitment to public service, and a shared dedication to responsible fiscal management that will benefit our town.

Ryan Herrick has lived in Hebron for 13 years with his wife, two children, and their rescue dog. A U.S. Army veteran, Ryan continues to serve through his company's charitable foundation, WZ Gives, which has supported key local organizations such as AHM, HIHS, the Hebron PTA, and RHAM Youth Lacrosse. Ryan is also a volunteer youth sports coach and brings deep experience in business, budgeting, and strategic planning. His commitment to transparency and fiscal restraint – balanced with a clear appreciation for what makes Hebron a special place to live – makes him a strong, steady voice we can trust.

Adam Ockman and his family have called Hebron home for 12 years. Since 2023, Adam has regularly attended and participated in Board of Finance meetings, showing a deep and ongoing interest in town governance. In 2024, he was appointed to the Charter Revision Commission, contributing to the proposals now on the November ballot. With 23 years of experience as an actuary and a master's degree in mathematics, Adam brings a sharp analytical mind and a data-driven approach to financial decision-making. His thoughtful, forward-looking perspective is exactly what's needed for long-term, sustainable financial planning.

Both candidates are dedicated community members who will bring professionalism, accountability, and fiscal responsibility to the Board of Finance. I strongly encourage my fellow residents to vote for Ryan Herrick and Adam Ockman this November.

Sincerely,
Jan Lawrence – Hebron

More from Hebron's Mother Trees

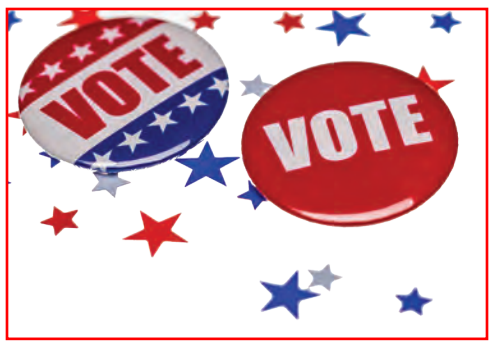
To the Editor:

Hebron's latest entry in the Connecticut Notable Tree Database, hosted by the Connecticut College Arboretum, is the Shagbark Hickory (Carya ovata) nicknamed "Mother Hickory." The name is a tribute to the intriguing work by the noted forest ecologist Suzanne Simard, who published "Finding the Mother Tree" in 2021. Through decades of research, Dr. Simard has discovered amazing new facts about the life of trees: "I conducted hundreds of experiments, with one discovery leading to the next, and through this quest I uncovered the lessons of tree-to-tree communication, of the relationships that create a forest society. The evidence was at first highly controversial, but the science is now known to be rigorous, peer-reviewed, and widely published." The research documents the interconnected relationships of the oldest trees in the forest, the Mother Trees, with the surrounding trees and the underground world of mycelial fungus, offering deep insights into forest society and our own.

Dr. Simard explains the parallels between trees and people, "Ecosystems are so similar to human societies – they're built on relationships. The stronger those are, the more resilient the system. And since our world's systems are composed of individual organisms, they have the capacity to change. We creatures adapt, our genes evolve, and we can learn from experience. A system is ever-changing because its parts – the trees and fungi and people – are constantly responding to one another and to the environment. Our success in coevolution – our success as a productive society – is only as good as the strength of these bonds with other individuals and species. Out of the resulting adaptation and evolution emerge behaviors that help us survive, grow, and thrive."

Three important Mother Trees, including Mother Hickory, are located in the one area of Hebron Center at 17 Kinney Rd. and known as the Horton Property. Lessons from the Mother Trees can show Hebron how to survive, grow and thrive. It is through the strength of our bonds with each other and the natural world that we can find success. Preserving the property at 17 Kinney Rd. offers a rare opportunity for advancing local education, environmental protection and sustainable economic growth through eco-tourism. For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook and #Save17.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

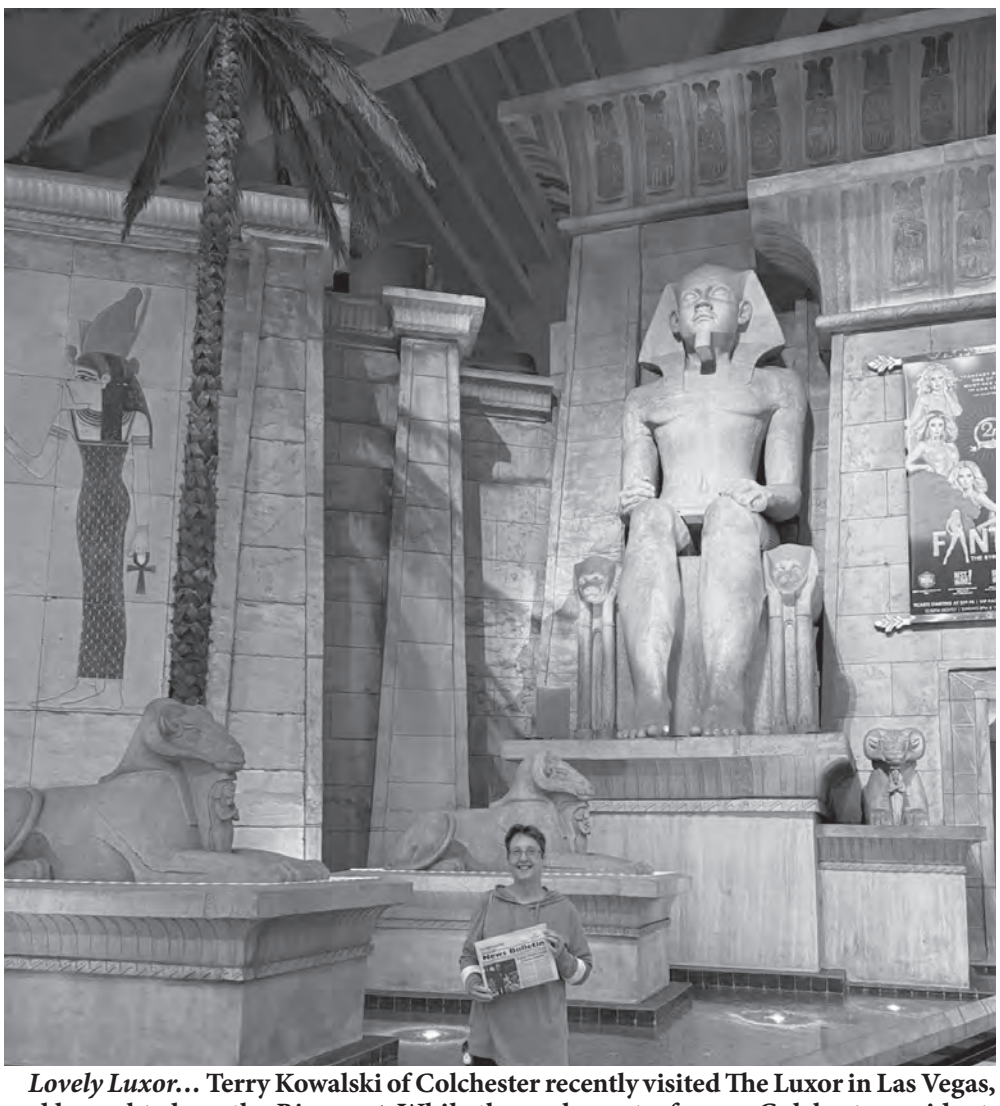


Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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!

Swimming with the Rivereast… **Jarek Barillaro of East Hampton took the *Rivereast* to Key Largo, Fla., to become certified as one of the youngest PADI Open Water divers.**

Children of the Corn – and the Creemees… **The Kelley kids of Portland enjoyed their Silloway Maple creemees in the corn maze in Randolph Center, Vt., over Labor Day weekend. Word has it they finished their creemees before they finished the maze, but they did make it out in time to return to school on Tuesday.**



Lovely Luxor… **Terry Kowalski of Colchester recently visited The Luxor in Las Vegas, and brought along the *Rivereast*. While there, she met a former Colchester resident, who loved reading all the news!**

Here You Go, Mom… **Portland resident Sue Roberts sent in this picture of her dog, Willie Nelson, bringing her the latest *Rivereast*! Thanks for delivering us, Willie!**

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

$25 GIFT CARD

Campagna Restaurant & Lounge

Fine Italian & American Cuisine
151 Marlborough Street (Rt 66), Portland

Sample Ballots

Sample Ballot

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Colchester, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 4, 2025

Sheet 1 of 1
Voting District 1-3

Office → / Party ↓	1 First Selectman Vote for One	2	3 Selectmen Vote for Up to Three	4	5 Town Treasurer Vote for One	6 Board of Finance Full Term Vote for Up to Two	7	8 Board of Finance Vacancy for Four Years Vote for One	9	10 Board of Education Vote for Up to Four	11	12	13 Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for Up to Two	14
Democratic Party	1A Bernie Dennler	2A Rosemary Coyle	3A Denise Turner	4A	5A David Koji	6A Sean Gillespie	7A Jillian T. Vinci	8A Krista Kardys	9A Gussie Gilberti	10A Nancy P. Nelson	11A	12A	13A Andrew J. Cournoyer	14A Eric Arthur Jackson
Republican Party	1B John Thomas	2B Cliff O'Donal	3B Art Shilosky	4B Tim Vaillancourt	5B John Ringo	6B Michael Dubreuil	7B	8B Amber Webster	9B Corrine Loyola	10B Olivia Duksa	11B Cari Duigou	12B Cody McNeely	13B Michael Begun	14B Glenn Shilosky
Petitioning Candidate	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C Donna Marie Antonacci	10C Marguerite M. Gignac	11C	12C	13C	14C
Write-in Votes	1D	2D	3D	4D	4D	6D	7D	8D	9D	10D	11D	12D	13D	14D

Sample Ballot

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Andover, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 4, 2025

Office → / Party ↓	1 Town Clerk To Fill Vacancy for Two Years Vote for One	2	3 Board of Finance Vote for Up to Three	4	5	6 Board of Education Vote for Up to Three	7	8	9 Planning and Zoning Commission Vote for Up to Two	10 Planning and Zoning Alternate Vote for One	11	12 Zoning Board of Appeals Vote for Up to Two	13 Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vote for One	14	15 Board of Fire Commissioners Vote for Up to Two
Democratic Party	1A Jayne Jurovaty	2A Robert T. England	3A Nicholas Clark	4A Heather M. Van Cara	5A Sharon St. Rock	6A Michael Beckwith	7A Gerrad Creme	8A Patrick I. Dougherty	9A	10A Jay R. Kamins	11A Michael D. Greenhouse	12A Julia A. Haverl	13A Jeffery C. Ballard	14A Scott E. Yeomans	15A
Republican Party	1B Roberta Dougherty	2B Aana Dzladosz	3B Ronald Langlois	4B Donald Denley	5B Sharon St. Rock	6B Marnie Miner	7B	8B Leigh Ann Hutchinson	9B Stephen King	10B Beata Gadomski	11B Andreas Halidis	12B Adrian Mandeville	13B Suzanne Langlois	14B Shawn Covell	15B
Write-In Votes	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C	14C	15C

SAMPLE

Sample Ballot

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

East Hampton, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 4, 2025

Sheet 1 of 1
Voting District 1

Office → / Party ↓	1	2	3 Town Council Vote for Up to Five	4	5	6	7 Board of Finance Vote for Up to Four	8	9	10	11	12 Board of Education Vote for Up to Five	13	14	15 Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for Up to Two	16	17 Zoning Board of Appeals Five Year Term Begins 2025 Vote for One	18 Zoning Board of Appeals Five Year Term Begins 2026 Vote for One	19	20 Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates Vote for Up to Three	21
Democratic Party	1A Joelyn Leon	2A Karen Wanat	3A Richard E. Kristek	4A Dean P. Markham	5A Jack Solomon	6A Daniel Finn	7A David L. [illegible]	8A	9A	10A Sarah Stuenge	11A Nancy Kohler	12A Connie Clark Barney	13A	14A	15A Paul Wisniewski	16A Carol Williams	17A John Tuttle	18A Matthew D. Walton	19A Robert Hines	20A Bob Hein	21A
Republican Party	1B [illegible]	2B Tim Feegel	3B Eric Peterson	4B Ted Hintz	5B Dean Hure	6B Joey Guerrett	7B Bridget McLarnon	8B Alison Walck	9B Jim Radavich	10B Nathan Jaycox	11B Sal Nucifora	12B Sarah LeBlanc	13B	14B	15B Diane Acherbach-Zalonski	16B	17B Cathy Ann Clark	18B Julie Clouse	19B	20B	21B
Write-in Votes	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C	14C	15C	16C	17C	18C	19C	20C	21C

Sample Ballot

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Portland, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 4, 2025

Office → / Party ↓	1 First Selectman Vote for One	2	3 Selectman Vote for Up to Four	4	5	6	7 Board of Education Vote for Up to Four	8	9	10 Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for Up to Two	11	12 Zoning Board of Appeals Five Year Term Begins 2025 Vote for One	13 Zoning Board of Appeals Five Year Term Begins 2026 Vote for One
Democratic Party	1A	2A Andrea G. Alfano	3A James K. Tripp	4A David T. Kuzminski	5A John H. Dillon	6A Jody M. Grosso	7A Erin Livensparger	8A Bethanne Vergean	9A Kim Nagy-Maruschock	10A Cynthia L. Tyler	11A Kathleen Richards	12A Christopher Darby	13A Lauren DeCaprio
Republican Party	1B Michael Pelton	2B Vincent Pitruzzello	3B Robert Hetrick	4B Timothy Lavoy	5B Joe Spada	6B David Murphy	7B Anne Whalen	8B Karen Renner	9B	10B Margaret "Peggy" Keser	11B William Donahue	12B Lil Whalen	13B Jennifer Tellone
Petitioning Candidate	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C James I. Motes	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C
Write-In Votes	1D	2D	3D	4D	5D	6D	7D	8D	9D	10D	11D	12D	13D

Sample Ballot

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Hebron, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 4, 2025

Sheet 1 of 1

Vote on the Questions(s)	Question #1	Question #2
	"Shall the Town of Hebron adopt the amendments to the Hebron Town Charter, as approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 10, 2025, except for the specific amendment being voted on separately in Question #2?" Yes No	"Shall the Town of Hebron adopt the amendment to the Hebron Town Charter to transition from an elected to an appointed Town Clerk, as approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 10, 2025?" Yes No

Office → / Party ↓	1 Board of Selectmen Vote for up to Two	2	3 Town Clerk Vote for One	4	5 Board of Finance Vote for up to Three	6	7	8 Board of Education Vote for up to Three	9	10 Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for up to Two	11	12	13 Planning & Zoning Commission Vote for up to Three	14
Democratic Party	1A Jan Lawrence	2A Tiffany V Thiele	3A Francesca Villani	4A Adam Ockman	5A Ryan Herrick	6A	7A Nicole Matthews	8A Heather R Petit	9A	10A Maura Curran Baker	11A	12A David V Sousa	13A	14A
Republican Party	1B Rob McLaughlin	2B	3B Francesca Villani	4B Brian O'Reilly	5B Michael H Beaulieu	6B	7B	8B Toni Livernois	9B	10B	11B	12B Chris Cyr	13B Brenda Nicolo	14B Chad Livernois
Write-in Votes	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C	14C

Sample Ballot

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Hebron, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 4, 2025

Office → / Party ↓	15 Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate Vote for One	16	17 Zoning Board of Appeals Vote for up to Three	18	19 Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Vote for One	20	21 Regional Board of Education Vote for up to Three	22
Democratic Party	15A Davis K Howell	16A Catherine McSweeney	17A	18A	19A Adam R Thiele	20A Rudy A Dellafiore Jr	21A	22A Jessica Hall
Republican Party	15B	16B Martin Halloran	17B Jason Guidone	18B Brian Tyler	19B June Danaher	20B Brandie D'Reilly	21B Lisa Taute	22B
Write-in Votes	15C	16C	17C	18C	19C	20C	21C	22C

Sample Ballot

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Marlborough, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 4, 2025

Sheet 1 of 1
Voting District 1

Office → / Party ↓	1 Selectman Vote for Up to Two	2	3 Board of Finance Vote for Up to Two	4	5 Board of Finance Alternate Vote for Up to Two	6	7	8 Board of Education Vote for Up to Three	9	10 Board of Assessment Appeals Vote for Up to Two	11	12	13 Planning Commission Vote for Up to Three	14
Democratic Party	1A Susan R. McFarland	2A Anthony M. Bratz	3A	4A	5A Travis Michaud	6A Joseph E Sheridan	7A Linda G. Earley	8A William "Bill" D. Guzman	9A Raymond "Chip" Morris	10A Emily P. Collins	11A	12A Beth Lander Morris	13A Peggy A. Golfin	14A
Republican Party	1B Robert J. Fraulino, Sr.	2B	3B Ken A. Hjulstrom	4B Michael Nastri	5B Michael J. Concodello	6B	7B Susan M. Pedrick	8B Louise L. Concodello	9B	10B David Morganson	11B Susan M. Pedrick	12B Subby S. Magro	13B	14B
Write in Votes	1C	2C	3C	4C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C	12C	13C	14C

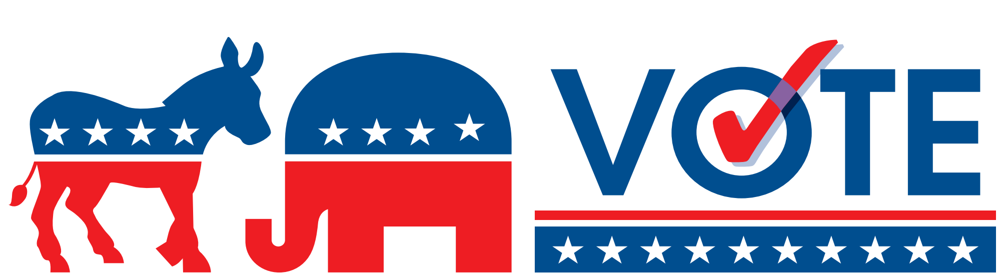
Sample Ballot

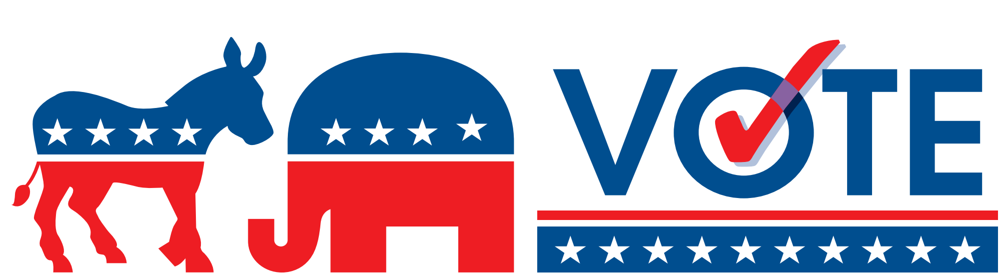
State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Marlborough, Connecticut | Municipal Election | November 4, 2025

Sheet 1 of 1

Office → / Party ↓	15 Planning Commission Alternates Vote for Up to Two	16	17	18 Zoning Commission Vote for Up to Three	19	20 Zoning Commission Alternates Vote for Up to Two	21	22	23 Zoning Board of Appeals Vote for Up to Three	24	25 Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates Vote for Up to Two	26	27 Regional Board of Education Vote for Up to Two	28
Democratic Party	15A Jason A. Cooper	16A	17A Erik Stomberg	18A	19A	20A Justin Bransfield	21A John H. Grasso	22A Matthew E. Wilson	23A Elizabeth Bransfield	24A	25A Robert J. Larson	26A	27A Pamela A. Farrington	28A
Republican Party	15B Zina D. Planeta	16B Mark J. Paul	17B Salvatore V. Sena, Jr	18B Christopher Wherry	19B Eric Colantonio	20B John F. Planeta	21B	22B Zina D. Planeta	23B Patrick A. Pabouet	24B	25B Donna M. Mosher	26B	27B Carey A. Fraulino	28B
Write in Votes	15C	16C	17C	18C	19C	20C	21C	22C	23C	24C	25C	26C	27C	28C





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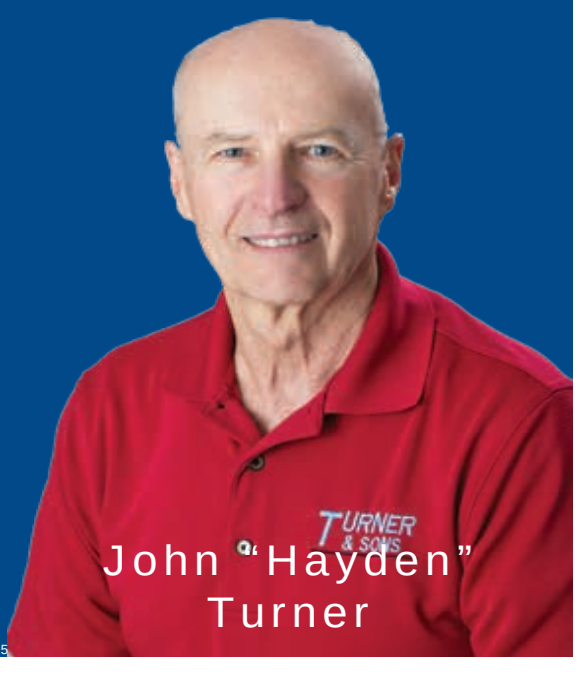

John "Hayden" Turner

RE10-24-25

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