



Things That Go Bump in the Night... Happy Halloween! And beware – the undead have checked in at the Lake Terror-Among-Us Manor in Marlborough!

Hebron Library Addresses Youth Behavior Concerns

By Toriana Williams

The Douglas Library of Hebron has long been a cornerstone of the community – a gathering place for readers, students and families. But in recent weeks, the library has faced an unexpected challenge that has left staff shaken and residents talking: unruly after-school behavior from local youth – culminating in what library staff have dubbed “the day of the flying frogs.”

Library Director Drusilla Carter recounted the incident during an interview with the *Rivereast*. She said a couple of middle school-aged boys “thought it would be really funny to go catch some frogs down on the stream and throw them at some of the other people in the library.”

The situation quickly escalated, with startled patrons and distressed staff forced to clean up what Carter described as the “body parts of said wildlife that were left on the carpet afterwards.”

“It was very distressing for all of the staff,” she added, noting that several employees are “real animal lovers.”

The “flying frogs” episode, as staff now refer to it, was one of a series of behavioral problems the library has faced from local school students. Carter explained that, since RHAM students are “not allowed to stay on campus after school,” the library has become a de facto gathering spot.

“There aren’t a lot of places for kids to go in Hebron after school,” she said. “So a lot of them come here, and we get a lot of kids.”

While most young patrons behave responsibly, Carter said a subset has caused recurring issues.

“We’ve had kids who thought that throwing furniture was fun. We’ve had issues with kids harassing other kids, harassing the staff,” she said. “And we deal with those incidents as they occur. But throwing frogs was a new one to me.”

Following the reptilian rampage, Carter communicated with Andrew Tierney, Hebron’s town manager, to address the situation.

“As a department head, I keep him abreast of everything that’s going on,” she said. “I went over and chatted with him and he very nicely made sure that we had some backup from some of the other departments for a bit, just to try to remind everyone that there were rules.”

Tierney, in turn, reached out to the RHAM school district to coordinate a response. In a letter sent to families, RHAM Superintendent of Schools Colin McNamara, explained that the district had been asked “to communicate with RHAM families about the behavior of secondary school-aged children that is happening at the Douglas Library of Hebron.”

McNamara’s letter described the reported behavior as “inappropriate and destructive,” including “harassing staff and other patrons, disturbing parents with young children trying to access library resources, throwing and turning

See *Hebron Library*, page 10

Belltown Man Swimming for a Cause

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton resident Mike Flatley has always been up for a challenge. When he was serving in the Navy in Afghanistan, he rowed a million meters on the erg. Last year, he rode over 2,500 miles on his bike. This year, though, he said he was looking to set a special goal to honor both his parents and his 55th birthday.

Flatley set a goal of swimming 55 training miles this year, and topping it off with two 5-mile lake swims, one of them around Lake Pocotopaug. His goals? To raise money to fight cancer, which led to the deaths of both of his parents, and “to inspire people to live their most active lives, such as they can have the most time available to them with their loved ones.” The current Pratt & Whitney employee said he’s hoping to raise \$5,500 for the American Cancer Society.

Flatley said he has always been a dedicated athlete, adding that he’s long been motivated by

something a coach told him when he was a student at the United States Naval Academy.

“He taught us that we only lose physical capability when we don’t use the physical capability we have,” he said, “and that’s stuck with me my whole life.”

That zest for living life to its fullest aligns with Flatley’s goals of raising money to fight cancer, which he said robs people of quality time with their loved ones. Having lost his father to pancreatic cancer in 2020, and his mother to complications from lung cancer treatment in 2011, Flatley has felt the pain cancer can cause to patients and their families, and he hopes that these swims will inspire others to donate to cancer research. He is currently fundraising at <https://raiseyourway.donordrive.com/campaigns/Swim-55-to-Cure-Cancer>.

To complete his challenge, Flatley said he spent a lot of time in his home pool working to complete the 55-mile goal, but the bigger chal-

lenges were the two lake swims: one at Friends Lake in upstate New York, and the other closer to home, right here at Lake Pocotopaug.

That first lake swim happened in August, and clocked in at a little over 1 hour and 56 min, while the Lake Pocotopaug swim took place in September and lasted about 2 hours and 10 minutes.

Solo swims in a lake take some guidance, so Flatley had kayakers to guide him (and to be there, equipped with a life jacket, just in case of an emergency). His kayakers also provided him with water and food.

“I eat small orange wedges, because they’re easy to kind of pop and they give you a little bit of sugar and a little bit of water,” Flatley said, “and so after the first two miles, I stopped [to have a wedge], and then every mile thereafter I’d stop, get a couple wedges. I’d take a quick pause and then move forward.”

See *Swimming for a Cause*, page 24

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Holiday Bazaar & Artisan Fair

Congregation Kol Haverim, located at 1079 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar & Artisan Fair Sunday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Buy local and handmade from 30+ artisans. There will be the Judaica Gift Shop, specialty foods, candles, winter wear, pottery, jewelry and more. Also, you can enter to win 30+ raffle prizes.

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Standout Athletes of the Week

By Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standout Athletes of the Week for the week of Oct. 20 – 26:

Breckin Burke - Portland High School (Cross-Country): Burke was the runner-up, placing second overall, at the Class S state championships at Wickham Park in Manchester on Oct. 25. Burke, a senior, finished the grueling course in 16:50 to place behind only Dominic Lombardo of Bolton and ahead of 151 other competitors in the field. Burke's twin brother, Hayden Burke, placed fourth overall with a time of 16:54 as the Highlanders posted a seventh-place finish overall as a team.

Talan Ladyga – Bacon Academy (Soccer): Ladyga scored two key goals as the Bobcats eliminated Fitch, 3-0, in the quarterfinals of the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) tournament. Ladyga, a senior, was assisted on his goals by senior captain Troy Johnson and junior Zach Russo. Bacon now opens the state tournament today (Friday, Oct. 31) at Nonnewaug High School to take on the Chiefs in the opening round of the Class M tourney at 3 p.m.

Ellie Ballard - RHAM High School (Cross-Country): Ballard finished fifth overall at the Class M state championships at Wickham Park

in Manchester on Oct. 25. Ballard, a senior, crossed the finish line with a time of 20:10 to place ahead of 105 other competitors in her field. The Raptors placed fourth overall as a team, finishing ahead of 11 other teams, as Edith Ranta (13th / 21:06), Alyson Margaitis (27th / 22:01), Ryan LaVecchia (28th / 22:01), and Jaclyn Coffey (57th / 24:24) also scored for the Raptors.

Cassie Owocki - East Hampton High School (Soccer): Owocki, a sophomore goalie, was flawless in net as the Bellringers blanked Morgan, 2-0, in the semifinals of the Shoreline Conference (SLC) on Oct. 25. It marked the ninth time this season that East Hampton has held an opponent scoreless. Giuliana DonAroma and Quinn Rurka provided the offense, each scoring goals thanks to assists from Kota Cloutier and Liv Correia. East Hampton now enters the Class M state tournament at the No. 2 seed and will welcome No. 31 Windham to EHHS today (Friday, Oct. 31) for a first-round Halloween showdown at 2 p.m.

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

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 Had-dam, 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.tcleague.com or contact GM Len Lampugnale at Lampugnale@comcast.net or at 860-295-0437 for more information.

A Day of Fun, Family and Service

On Saturday, Nov. 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the Lions clubs of District 23 (Eastern Connecticut) will host the Lions Service Carnival at Cromwell Town Hall & Library Complex Gymnasium, 41 West St., Cromwell.

The carnival invites families to spend National Family Volunteer Day engaging in various hands-on activities. At each of the 15 exhibitor stations, visitors can experience what it means to serve – from promoting vision health and environmental care to supporting mental wellness and veterans in need. Pick up a “service passport.” Children can visit stations for “passport stamps” and earn a “Service Hero” cape for a selfie backdrop and for keeps.

The event will feature RJ and the On the Spot

Jug Band (audience sing-along and percussion), balloon animals, face-painting, and a “Servant Hero” selfie backdrop. There will be free lunch for up to 75 participants between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

“The Lions Service Carnival brings our community together in a day of joy and purpose,” said Lion Hilary Kumnick. “It’s amazing what families can accomplish when they serve side by side.”

For updates, message the Lions through the District 23C Lions Facebook page.

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

This is it, folks – we’ve made it. It was a long past few months, as it always is, but finally Election Day is here. Well, almost here. Technically it’s still a few days away. But, for our purposes, this is it. The end of all the election-related letters to the editor. The end of all of the candidates’ previews. To quote an old southern expression, now it’s all over but the shouting. This year, we mixed things up a little bit; the last few weeks we’ve had an early deadline for all letters to the editor, which we’ve then stuffed into a special second section. Thank you all for your cooperation. This week was also the annual “no negative letters” week and thank you all for cooperating here too. (Yes, a few letters I had to send back for rewrites, but that was definitely the exception and not the rule.) This week, we decided to put a couple of letters on page four, just to whet your whistle, with the vast majority (oh, and it’s vast, folks) coming in that special section – which this week is all about the election. Lots of political letters, and lots of political ads too. But don’t discount the main section of the paper! There are even more political ads there too –as well as election previews and candidates’ profiles for all six of our towns. In short, after reading this week’s issue, as well as the issues of the last couple of weeks, you certainly can say you’re an informed voter – all ready to go on Tuesday. Or, before Tuesday, if you wish. Early voting is again a part of this year’s election process. It started Oct. 20, and continues right through the weekend. So, if you don’t want to wait ‘til Tuesday, you can head out today, tomorrow or Sunday and cast your ballot. I personally plan on heading out to my early voting location at some point this weekend and doing my civic duty. I love having this option, to be honest. Election Day is always a long day at the office (well, due to our production schedule, Tuesdays generally always are), and usually the last thing I want to do when I get out of here is drag myself to the local high school and fill out a ballot. For me, then, this is a very welcome option, and I’m glad Connecticut is finally on board with it. It’s safe, secure, and convenient. I imagine it only enhances the overall voter turnout – and that is a very good thing. As I’ve

Bulletin Board

It appears that the war is over. I refer to my lengthy war against the GDWPTDMH (The Goddamn Woodpecker Trying to Destroy My House). This unprovoked assault began about three years ago when what is apparently an intellectually challenged woodpecker mistook my humble abode for a rotting tree and decided to peck it full of holes. Worse, he invariably launched his attacks in the early morning hours while I was trying to sleep. The culprit as portrayed in my Audubon Guide to birds—which features an impressive selection of bird mugshots in living color – was a downy woodpecker. A mere couple of inches tall with a little red cap, he looked fairly inoffensive in the picture. But, similar to certain pint-sized people, my particular version had an outsized attitude, exemplified in his disdainful sneer whenever I chased him away from one of his destructive attacks. My first response to what would soon evolve into full-scale warfare was pathetically naïve in retrospect. Roused from sleep by his jackhammer assault on the side of the house just outside my second-story bedroom, I opened the window and politely advised him that a house is not a tree; that people live here; and that while I inherited by mother’s fondness for birds, I’d appreciate it if he’d leave my house alone and go find himself a nice piece of suet somewhere. Clinging to the clapboards, he responded with an irate “gwack” and flew away as I congratulated myself on my superior negotiating skills. The next morning he was back. And the morning after that. And the morning after that... By week’s end, my negotiating approach had evolved from gentlemanly persuasion to profanity-laced threats to tear his wings off and feed his entrails to a rabid possum. All to no avail. He was like the Vladimir Putin of the bird world. Summer came and my tormentor disappeared, much to my relief. But he was back with the arrival of fall. He was gone when the snows arrived, but back in the spring. This was his routine over the next couple of years. I found myself waking up before the alarm each morning, nerves on edge as I awaited the jackhammer pounding that announced his arrival. I comforted myself with the thought that the damn thing can’t live forever. But looking up woodpecker lifespans, I found that while the average downy woodpecker in the wild lives an average of one to two years, the maximum recorded lifespan is 11 years and “some individuals have been known to live up to 15 years.” Hovering on the edge of a psychotic breakdown, I began to ponder various ways to ensure that my sworn enemy’s lifespan would be measured in minutes rather than years. My first thought was to simply blow him into next week with a shotgun, but I quickly realized this would probably be counterproductive as I already had enough holes in the side of my house. I reviewed other lethal solutions such as positioning a hangman’s noose over the hole in the siding he liked to pop in and out of. If it worked, I intended to leave his mangy remains suspended there as a warning to others foolish enough to try my patience. Well, it didn’t work. The bird was too quick, too agile and—like so many diabolical creatures—either not as stupid as I first assumed or incredibly lucky. Undaunted, I spent many satisfying though ultimately unprofitable hours fantasizing about redesigning a mouse trap to snap his scrawny little neck. I wondered how I might entice him into a toaster oven. I found myself drawing doodles of miniature guillotines that could be attached to the side of the house. In the meantime, I discovered (to my horror) that downy woodpeckers, like songbirds in general, are protected by federal law. We are not allowed to kill them, despite all provocations. Instead, we (the victims!) are encouraged to replace wooden clapboards with armor (aluminum siding) or erect nets over the house to keep the birds at a distance. There were other “solutions,” most of them equally ridiculous, but none of them permitted the use of lethal force on an offending woodpecker. The damn things are allowed more latitude than an underaged car thief—which is to say, they’re practically untouchable (except, apparently, you are actually allowed to chase a woodpecker without risking a lawsuit, at least for now). This summer, when I painted the side of the house, I carefully repaired the damage my unwelcome visitor had inflicted over previous months. And then, as fall neared, I awaited his return. A couple of weeks ago, I awoke to a tentative tap-tap on the side of the house. I got up, opened the window and poked my head out to curse him to whatever level of hell it is that evil woodpeckers inhabit. There he was, hanging onto the clapboard. He looked confused. Before I could begin my usual rant, he fluttered off without a single “gawk” and he hasn’t been back since. I’m thinking that maybe my new paint job and meticulous repairs fooled him into believing he was at the wrong house. Or maybe he’s aged to the point where he couldn’t remember what he came for (I can certainly sympathize with that). No matter. It appears that the long war is over and I am victorious. I’m thinking maybe I should put myself in for some sort of peace prize.

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

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



Teens Clean Up... Teens from the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd recently supported their local community by raking leaves for an elderly parish-ioner. For more information about youth ministry programs go to: www.good-shepherdct.org/youthministry.

often written in this space over the years, the more people who participate in a democracy, the healthier that democracy is. I like to see turnout rates as high as possible. Ultimately, though, regardless of when you vote, the important thing is that you vote. Especially in these local elections, a matter of a few votes can make all the difference in an outcome. Don’t be the reason why the person you wanted to see win office winds up crying in his or her beer next Tuesday night. Get out there and vote. * * * In addition to be the last week before Election Day, today is also Halloween. And I know the drill. Even if you’re a bit too old to go trick-or-treating tonight, chances are you’re going to wind up with candy. Either you’ll have some from the copious amounts of bags you have on hand for when the neighborhood kids come calling tonight – or when your kids get home you’ll perhaps swipe one or two or six pieces of candy from their stash. The bottom line, though, is you’re getting candy tonight. Don’t try and pretend you won’t. So you may be looking to burn some of that sugar off. What better way to do it than the annual Ghost Run? The parks and recreation departments of Hebron, Colchester and East Hampton are collaborating with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to host this year’s Ghost Run tomorrow morning, Nov. 1. The 13.1-mile certified half marathon course follows the historic Air Line Trail for roughly 11 miles. The trail is mostly flat with packed stone, gravel, and earthen material. Cost is \$50 for an individual runner, or \$100 for a relay team. The event is for runners only; no walkers allowed. Also, no dogs are allowed either. The race begins at Hebron Elementary School, located on Route 85. Runners will run south on Route 85 for about two miles and pick up the Air Line Trail behind Juliano’s Pools. The race continues on the Air Line Trail through Colchester and into East Hampton. At the Trail Head runners will continue on the trail to Watrous Street, to Summit Street. Follow Summit Street to Center Elementary School, where the race will wrap up. And voila! You’ve burned off all that chocolate you’re going to consume tonight. Heck, after running 13.1 miles you might even wind up burning off that fried chicken you had the other day. Don’t worry about having to get back to your car after you’ve completed that exhausting run, by the way. Shuttle buses will be available for all the runners in each direction. To sign up for the race, visit runsignup.com/Race/CT/Hebron/AirLineTrailGhostRun. For more information, email the race director at esantos@hebronct.com. * * * See you next week – and don’t forget to vote!

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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All About Leadership

To the Editor:

It's all about leadership. I would be remiss in not describing what that means. We need to be more detailed in discussing our budgets at BOE meetings during the meeting instead of just reviewing them. After all, the vast majority of your property taxes goes to this budget. Republicans are for transparency and will show you where your money goes.

Budget accounting is so difficult that the BOE can't get a CPA or business graduate to take the job. The board should investigate more into this. Do we need to spend \$120,000 for this single position? We need special BOE meetings about this.

Contracts are difficult as East Hampton competes with our surrounding towns regarding pay and raises. At the Town Council it was stated that challenging the contractual norms should occur at the BOE before presenting them to the TC. Assuming people will leave East Hampton to work elsewhere should be closely scrutinized. There should be meetings on that.

Special education has enormous costs but should be cost-effective. The protection of our educators and others is a priority but we cannot just leave someone suffering illness behind. The state requires towns spend money for educating particular children well into their 20s. Communicating these unique issues with the public should reduce the 'no' votes against budgets as many families have seen these issues themselves. I believe we need to have these discussions openly to really explain to the public where their money is spent and why.

We almost lost the middle school sports. We could have had a special meeting of alternatives over a \$40,000 item. Alternatives should be presented to the board for consideration to determine who or what is being protected over what has been proven helps students with autism become more socially interactive. Did you know the BOE supports almost 20% of the student population with autism?

Yes, this requires more time and late nights by the board. We need to challenge the state norms if we really want to be cost-effective and keep our children's time in school interesting and enjoyable as well as focused on learning.

Vote Nucifora for a better BOE.
Sal Nucifora – East Hampton

Vote for Hebron

To the Editor:

I always enjoy the excitement that surrounds local elections. The irreplaceable tradition of self-governance in Connecticut reaches back over 100 years before the American Revolution to the Fundamental Orders of 1639. Among the key principles found in this remarkable document is that political power is inherent in the people and it is their right to change their government through regular elections. Also included are the right to assembly, free speech, a free press, and the right to property. These rights are what led to the enormous significance of the Town Meeting and eventually to the right to be an independent nation. In Hebron, throughout Connecticut and across the country, November brings this historic moment to life.

Watching the pages of the *Rivereast* Reader's Forum fill up in the weeks leading to the election is truly watching democracy in action. I particularly enjoyed last week's Letter to the Editor by Hebron resident and respected local official Jim Cordier. His comments reflect an encouraging view of our hometown, "We live here with a yearning to escape life's fast pace and the rigor and turmoil of our times. We treasure our forests, farms, ridgelines and streams and places of play, worship and work. ... We aspire to live in an awesome environment that nurtures happy, healthy, and productive lives for those who live here. Preserving these attributes and priorities remain paramount." I could not agree more with Mr. Cordier's sentiments and his affection for Hebron. I also appreciate his dedication to preserving Hebron's environment and distinctive rural character.

In this year's election Hebron residents and elected officials have a responsibility to embrace the places, history and features that make Hebron special. In the weeks, months and years following the election, Hebron's new leaders will be faced with many choices and challenges. Our town is at a crossroads and we have the opportunity to embrace a sustainable future based on education, historic preservation, and eco-tourism. I look forward to continued engagement with everyone in our community, including old friends and new in Town Hall, to find a path forward that will preserve and promote the unique environmental and historic gem at 17 Kinney Rd. As noted by Mr. Cordier, "Preserving these attributes and priorities remain paramount." For more information, please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook and #Save17.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulumieri – Amston

Letters continued on page 1 of our
Special Political Insert

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Modern Concrete Pumping, Inc., owned by Andover resident Marcus King, is helping complete work on the new Bunker Hill Bridge. Once the project wraps up, the road will officially reopen – allowing school buses and local traffic to travel safely down Bunker Hill Road for the first time in a very long time.

Company Helps Restore Bunker Hill Bridge

A long-awaited milestone is taking shape in Andover as Modern Concrete Pumping, Inc., owned by Andover resident Marcus King, helps complete work on the new Bunker Hill Bridge. Once the project wraps up, the road will officially reopen – allowing school buses and local traffic to travel safely down Bunker Hill Road for the first time in a very long time.

The Bunker Hill Bridge replacement, overseen by the state Department of Transportation, has been a key infrastructure project for the town. Modern Concrete Pumping provided precision concrete placement for the bridge structure, using its advanced pumping equipment and experienced crew to ensure quality and efficiency.

The completion of the Bunker Hill Bridge

will restore full access along Bunker Hill Road, improving safety and convenience for residents, school buses, and emergency services.

Modern Concrete Pumping owns a pink pump to bring about awareness for breast cancer. The company's special pink concrete pump helps raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research and support programs. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. A portion of proceeds from this pump's work is donated to organizations dedicated to the fight against breast cancer.

"Our pink pump is a reminder that there is still a fight to be fought for those battle breast cancer. We continue to support those causes that help those in need," said King.

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RivereastNewsBulletin

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Members of the public are invited to

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
State Project No. 0028-0210
Replacement of Bridge No. 00395, Prospect Hill Road over Route 2
Town of Colchester

Thursday, November 13, 2025, 6 p.m.

Register: portal.ct.gov/DOTCOLCHESTER28-210

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the community with an opportunity to learn about the proposed project and allow an open discussion of any views and comments concerning the proposed improvements. A Q&A session will immediately follow the presentation.

The purpose of the project is to address the structural deficiencies and numerous vehicular strikes associated with the existing bridge and provide a new bridge in a State of Good Repair with increased vertical clearance over Route 2.

Right-of-way impacts associated with the proposed improvements include easements based upon the proposed slope limits.

Construction is expected to start in Spring 2028, depending on funding, right-of-way acquisition, and permits. The estimated cost is \$10.25 million with 80% federal funds and 20% state funds.

The public can submit comments and questions during two-week public comment period following meeting. Direct comments and questions by Thursday, November 27, 2025, to DOTProject28-210@ct.gov, (860) 594-2020, or Christopher Patria at Christopher.Patria@ct.gov or (860) 594-2958.

ACCESSIBILITY

Non-English language closed captioning will be available on Zoom. The recording will also be posted following the meeting in CTDOT's public meeting playlist at portal.ct.gov/ctdotVPIMarchive.
For limited internet access, call (877) 853-5257 with Meeting ID 874 2147 6649. Project information can be mailed within one week by contacting Christopher Patria at Christopher.Patria@ct.gov or (860) 594-2958.

For hearing/speech disabilities, dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Request language assistance from CTDOT's Language Assistance at (860) 594-2109 at least five business days before meeting.

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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 andover-ctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andover-ctchurch.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.

Bingo & Baskets: Friday, Nov. 21, cost is \$12 per person. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m., and the game at 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Dinner: Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27. Open to anyone; RSVP preferable.

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; contact Mindy He-gener at 860-706-3074.

Your Money Matters

Your Money Matters, a budgeting game expe-rience, will be held at the Andover Community and Senior Center on Wednesday, Nov. 19, from 6-8 p.m. Students in grades 7-12 and their par-ents are encouraged to attend.

Led by Rebecca Bentley, assistant director at UConn's One Stop Student Services, this inter-active game puts students in teams to tackle the real-world rollercoaster of monthly income and expenses. From rent and groceries to surprise car repairs and unexpected bills, participants will navigate the twists and turns of financial decision-making in a collaborative setting.

For more information, call the center at 860-742-7305 ext. 4510.

President's List

Breana Adams of Andover made the summer 2025 President's List at Goodwin University in East Hartford.

Recreation Commission Vacancy

Any Andover elector interested in serving on the Recreation Commission for a term ending June 30, 2027 should send an email to cleee@an-doverct.org.

Reflective Address Markers

All are invited to stop by the Andover Volun-teer Fire Department at 11 School Rd. on Sun-day, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The fire depart-ment 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.

Donations Sought for Clothing Sale

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6 in Andover, will hold a Clothing Sale on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., with a bag sale from 1-2 p.m. The church is ac-cepting donations for this sale.

Donations can be left on the ramp in back of the church or dropped off daily between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., starting Thursday, Nov. 6. Call the church at 860-742-7696 and leave a message with your contact information for more information.

Election Day is Nov. 4

By Toriana Williams

Here are the candidates running for office this year:

For Town Clerk: Jayne Jurovaty (D) and Ro-bertha Dougherty (R).

For Board of Finance: Robert T. England (D), Nicholas Clark (D), Heather M. Van Cara (D), Anna Dzladosz (R), Ronald Langlois (R); and Donald Denley (R).

Andover Board of Education: Sharon St. Rock (D,R), Michael Beckworth (D), Gerard Creme (D) and Marcie Miner (R).

Planning and Zoning Commission: Patrick I. Dougherty (D), Leigh Ann Hutchinson (R) and Stephen King (R).

Planning and Zoning Alternate: Jay R. Ka-mins (D) and Beata Gadomski (R).

Zoning Board of Appeals: Michael D.

Greenhouse (D), Julia A. Haverl (D), Andreas Halidis (R) and Adrian Mandeville (R).

Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate: Jeffrey C. Ballard (D) and Suzanne Langlois (R).

Board of Fire Commissioners: Scott Yeo-mans (D) and Shawn Covell (R).

While the Andover Democratic Town Com-mittee chair Shannon Louden could not be reached for comment for this story, Republican Town Committee chair Carol Barton could, and seemed optimistic as to the GOP's chances next week.

"I think everybody ... has a good chance," said Barton. "There's people that are incum-bents, and then we've got new people on both sides of the line, so ... it's all in how the residents feel about each of the candidates."

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 any-time, 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 newslet-ter 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 in-structors and other volunteers with special tal-ents willing to share with the community. Even-ing hours are available. Please call or stop by the center if interested.

Transportation: Call Linda at 860-498-2326 to schedule transportation. Provide one week's notice for all requests. All seniors, veterans, and disabled are welcome.

Upcoming Special Events: Transportation available for all programs. For full event de-scriptions, call the senior center or see the on-

line newsletter. And for a listing of all weekly programs, see the online newsletter.

Harvest Parade: Friday, Oct. 31, 1 p.m. Call the center to participate or for more details.

Art Class with Kim: Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m., Nov. 4-25. Fee is \$120 for the four classes.

Food Pantry: Wednesdays, 8 a.m., Nov. 12 and 26. **Foodshare Truck: Wednesdays, Nov. 5 and 19, 8:30 a.m.** Transportation to Andover Congregational Church, both the pantry and the truck, is available. For more information on other available dates and times please contact Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226.

Knitting: Wednesdays, Nov. 5-26, 10:30 a.m. Transportation is available.

Birthday Bingo/Lunch: Wednesday, Nov. 5, noon. **Lunch:** Wednesdays, Nov. 12 and 26, noon, cost is \$5. **Bingo/Lunch:** Wednesday, Nov. 19, noon. This will be a free Friendsgiving light lunch with prize bingo to follow.

Chair Massage with Linda: Wednesdays, Nov. 5 and 19, 30-minute appointments avail-able from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Cost is \$32. Sign up by calling Linda Derick at 860-655-4409.

Field Trips: Heirloom Market at Comstock Ferry; Friday, Nov. 7. UConn Rock & Roll Mu-seum Exhibition: Friday, Nov. 21. This is free.

UConn Hearing Class: Monday, Nov. 3, noon-1 p.m. The event is free. A licensed audiol-ogist will be on hand for screenings & cleanings. 20-minute appointments. Spots are limited.

Art Display: Artist Kim Desrosiers is our highlighted Artist of the Month. Stop by and see her work. Call the center if you would like to display your work in the upcoming months.

Travel In Time Club: Friday, Nov. 14, Field Trip. This is a free intergenerational partner-ship with Andover Elementary School. Contact Grous to participate or for more information.

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.

PAL Program: People Across Lifetimes: This intergenerational pen pal program will resume Nov. 10. Call Grous for more details.

Christmas Fair & Bake Sale

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will be hold its annual Christmas Fair & Bake Sale on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be vendors, baked goods, and Grand-ma's Attic items

If you are a vendor and are interested in rent-ing a table, they are \$20 and include a six-foot table and two chairs. Call the church to reserve!

If you have any questions, leave a message at the church, at 860-742-7696.

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.

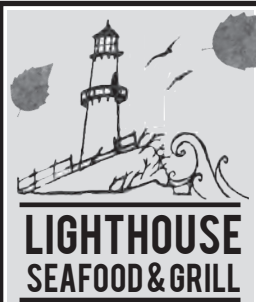
All items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance to main-tenance will be removed. These items include pots, shepherd hooks, glass objects, cans and any items in front of the stone. Please remove and take home any item you plan to use next season.

Dia de los Muertos

All kids are invited to the Andover Public Library Saturday, Nov. 1, at 11 a.m., as the li-brary celebrates Dia de los Muertos (or, The Day of the Dead) one day early!

Library Friend Doris Maldonado Mendez will have Spanish/English stories and a bin-go game. All are invited; no RSVP is neces-sary. The event will be held downstairs in the library, and the back door will be unlocked.

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Candidates Outline Experience, Goals

By Toriana Williams

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4, and while the Board of Selectmen isn't on the ballot this year, two other major town boards – the Board of Finance and the Board of Education – are, as is the Andover portion of the RHAM school board.

Several of the candidates recently sat down with the *Rivereast* and shared what they hope to accomplish if voters next week choose to give them the opportunity.

Board of Finance

Democrat **Heather M. Van Cara** is seeking a position on the Board of Finance, and said she is driven by a lifelong desire to serve her community. “I have always wanted to be involved and helpful to the town,” she said. “Now that my daughter is away at college, I feel like I have more time to get involved.”

Van Cara explained that her background aligns closely with the board's responsibilities.

“I chose the Board of Finance given my professional background in business, underwriting and risk management.”

If elected, she said, “managing finances is always about a balance of meeting day-to-day needs and investing in the future. I am interested in those things that will continue to make Andover a great community and wonderful place to live as we move forward. We need to be solvent and keep the budget balanced.”

Republican **Donald Denley**, a longtime resident and community volunteer, is seeking another stint on the Board of Finance – noting that he served two terms on the board in the early 2000s.

The Army veteran and 30-year resident of town added he's served as an alternate on the Inland Wetlands Committee, had two terms on the Charter Revision Committee, and also served on the committee behind the Andover Elementary School building project.

Denley emphasized the importance of civic engagement in a small town.

“We have a small town, and so it's important that the citizens are able to volunteer their time,” he said. “I have an interest in keeping the character of Andover as a sweet, peaceful, friendly,

little piece of heaven.”

Denley owns The Hungry Tiger Music Club & Café in Manchester, and he said his business experience gives him a practical perspective.

“I'm a conservative Republican, so I watch the spending,” he said. “My concern in Andover is that we've seen our taxes go up significantly over the last five or six years ... I'm trying to just keep it affordable so seniors and working families can still afford to live in our sweet town.”

Denley added that he values education and community. “We have two great schools,” he said, referring to the local elementary school as well as the RHAM middle and high school campus in Hebron. “People move to Andover because it affords small class size and learning opportunities.”

If elected, Denley stressed people would be able to count on him to listen – and also do his homework.

“I'll be a reliable player; I'll do my research,” he said. “The public will always have my ear if they have a concern or an opinion.”

Fellow Republican **Ronald Langlois**, who is seeking his first term on the Board of Finance, said he hopes to bring “fresh ideas” to the board.

“I've been living in town since 2011,” he said. “I just retired last fall. I want to give back to the town.”

Langlois brings decades of professional experience to the table.

“I was a customer service manager dealing with all kinds of issues and budgets with emergency services that we have to provide,” he said. “We always seemed to be able to accomplish solutions and work them out and get things going.”

Langlois said he wants to ensure open-minded, collaborative decision-making.

“Let's just listen and see what [everyone has] to say,” he said. “It might be better than what I'm thinking.”

If elected, Langlois explained he hopes to “streamline things a little bit differently.”

“Let's look at what we're spending a lot of money on and see if that's what we need to do,” he said. “Are we providing the schools with what

they need? How are the roads? What are we doing now?”

He added that fiscal efficiency and quality services must go hand-in-hand.

Langlois said voters should consider him because he offers “a new person on the board giving different opinions on how things could be.”

He added, “I want to go in with fresh ideas just being out of my job and bringing some of those ideas into the finance board... to make improvements and make people want to come to Andover.”

Democrats **Nicholas Clark** and **Robert England** and Republican **Anna Dzladosz** were unable to be reached for comment for this story.

Board of Education

A long-serving member of the Board of Education, Democrat **Gerard Cremè** is seeking another term.

“I taught for 18 years in the town of South Windsor. I taught fourth and fifth grade, and I just love kids,” he said. “I wanted to see them being active learners. I wanted them to be cared for as I would want my child to be cared for.”

Cremè spoke highly of the people working within Andover's school system. “We have one fantastic superintendent – she's beyond fantastic – and we have a wonderful principal in our school,” he said. “The parent involvement is terrific; second to none. It's a small town with equal care, and that's the nice thing about it.”

Cremè shared that his career in education began as a classroom volunteer; he “felt at home,” he recalled.

“I loved working with the kids,” he said. “I always felt young.”

Creme also described pride in how the Andover school community overcame recent challenges.

“[COVID] was a difficult time,” he said. “We've done a great job and the people of the community have been just terrific.”

He added that the Andover Elementary School “feels very welcoming and warm,” describing it as “something to be said for a town

elementary school.”

New to politics, unaffiliated **Sharon St. Rock** is running for the Board of Education. She has been cross-endorsed, running on both the Republican and Democratic tickets.

“I have been watching the Board of Ed for years since my youngest was in kindergarten,” she told the *Rivereast*. “Now I have the time and energy to put into it. I just really want to advocate for the kids in my town.”

St. Rock, who has lived in Andover since 2007, works as a registered nurse specializing in school-based health.

“The last 10 years of my nursing career have been focused on school-based health,” she said. “I'm a school nurse currently... in a rural town about 20 minutes away.”

St. Rock also serves as “the school nurse consultant for the preschool program at AHM in Hebron” and participates in “the Eastern Connecticut Early Start Collaborative.”

So, she noted, “in my professional career, I'm really advocating for kids. It's sort of what I do.”

If elected, St. Rock said her priorities would focus on transparency and communication.

“What I've heard ... is the townsfolk really have concerns about transparency,” she said. “I really want to make sure that we communicate with the folks in town about the budget process and where the dollars are spent.”

St. Rock said she hopes to serve as a bridge between the school board and residents.

Democrat **Michael Beckworth** and Republican **Marcie Miner** were unable to be reached for comment for this story.

Autumn Afternoon Tea

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold an Autumn Afternoon Tea on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 1-3 p.m. All are invited.

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

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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.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship at Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., is held at 10 a.m. The service is also broadcast live every Sunday at mcc.marlconchurch.org and recorded for later viewing. Church pastor is the Rev. Valerie Seaver.

Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery but children are always welcome at the worship service. Sunday school is open to all children in the community for children ages 3 through grade 8. Contact Elizabeth Kukich at ekukich@marlconchurch.org for more information.

Nov. 2 is All Saints Sunday. The service will include the tolling of the church bell as each name is read of those within the church family who have died within the past year. The service will be led by Seaver and will include an infant baptism and Holy Communion. Communion is open to all, regardless of church affiliation, including children with parental guidance. The bread used is gluten-free. Seaver's sermon title is "Angels in the Outfield." The anthem will be performed by the Chancel Choir.

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

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

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

Outreach: The church collects non-perish-

able food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank with a basket located in the narthex for donations. The next luncheon for Florence Lord Housing residents will be Sunday, Nov. 9. The church-sponsored Drive Thru Café, for Marlborough Food Bank clients and their families, will be Sunday, Nov. 30. Free tickets are available at the food bank.

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.-1 p.m. The Great Hall will feature clothing, antiques and collectibles, tools, furniture, seasonal items, housewares, linens, toys and games, electronics, and more.

Community Sing: Friday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. upstairs in the church lounge. Carolyn Brodgin-ski of Seat of Our Pants invites the community to this monthly no-cost sing-along.

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.

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

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.

Vacancies on Town Commissions

Marlborough is seeking residents to serve on various town commissions.

There is full vacancy on the Commission of Aging, and there are alternate vacancies on the Water Pollution Control Authority and Economic Development, Nature Trails & Sidewalk, and Commission on Agency commissions

All residents of Marlborough who are registered to vote are eligible. Interested candidates should go to the town website, www.marlbroughct.gov, and type "vacancies" in the search bar, click on "Vacancies - Marlborough, CT"

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.

Early Voting: Connecticut allows residents to vote in person before the election. Early voting will be available through 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 are 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

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.

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Republicans Share Goals, Experience Ahead of Election

By Toriana Williams

Republican candidates for the town of Marlborough have spoken about their motivations, qualifications and priorities as the local election approaches. From first-time contenders to long-serving public servants, each expressed a commitment to service and community involvement.

Board of Selectmen

Robert Fraulino is seeking a position on the Board of Selectmen. Fraulino described his candidacy as an extension of decades of public service. “First and foremost, it’s giving back to the community,” he said. “I did 30 years in the service... I retired. I decided that I wanted to continue my ... service to my community, and in a different way.”

He added that he believes “they need some younger people on the board. Not that I’m young – I’m 65 – but the board is aging.”

His experience, he explained, includes leadership and management at the highest levels of the military. “I’ve retired from the military as an E9, which is the highest enlisted rank that you can achieve. I also was a command master chief of an overseas tour, which means there’s a lot of planning involved, a lot of coordinating, a lot of understanding things that you typically were not an expert on, so you have to dig down and get answers and figure out what the right solutions to problems that you don’t typically encounter.”

If elected, Fraulino said his priorities would focus on “being a steward to the taxpayer dollar... trying to keep costs low and services as high as you can within costs being low. You have to find that balance.” He added, “People that get elected to these positions are rarely experts. But what we do have to do is figure out what the right answers are.”

He emphasized that his approach is one of diligence and reason. “Sometimes decisions

need to be delayed, so that answers can be followed and all information pursued to make them sound decisions,” he said. “Common sense... you know?”

Board of Finance

Michael Nastri, current chair of the Board of Finance, is seeking reelection.

“I’m already on the board ... and I want to kind of see through the way of a couple big projects,” he said. “One being the elementary school renovation, RHAM’s going to have some renovation work. We still have culverts and infrastructure that needs to be taken care of.”

Nastri said his motivation is to help the town manage major improvements responsibly. “I kind of wanted to still be involved and see through some of those projects and try and help the town the best I could to... come up with maybe some creative ways to take care of this without... overburdening the taxpayers.”

He noted that he brings an accounting background and professional experience in budgeting and finance. “I have an accounting degree, and I also worked at a bank. I’ve worked in finance a little bit. Some of my positions I was involved in budgeting for our company. So it all kind of goes together.”

Nastri said the board has delivered “responsible budgets that take into account services that the town needs and wants, balanced with trying to keep things as good as we can from the tax side.” If reelected, his top goal would be managing renovations and infrastructure while collaborating with other town leaders.

He added that the town is “getting caught up on our audits,” and that the board, town manager and finance staff are working to “find some creative financing solutions.”

Ken Hjulstrom is also running for the Board of Finance. “Having previously served on the Board of Education for five years and the Board

of Finance for 12 years, I took a two-year hiatus, but I definitely missed serving our community,” he wrote. “So when the opportunity arose to re-join the Board of Finance, I decided to get involved once again.”

If elected, Hjulstrom pledged to “ensure that our tax dollars are spent wisely and that wasteful projects are questioned and voted down.” He said Town Hall “needs to get the annual audits up to date,” and emphasized careful consideration of spending: “Before any tax dollars are expended, we must think things through to determine if the end product achieves the intended goals and is acceptable to our taxpayers.”

He described himself as a “fiscal watchdog” and expressed disappointment with recent charter changes that “created more problems than it solved,” particularly “increasing the power of the majority party on the Board of Selectmen and reducing the ability of taxpayers to have a say in special appropriations.”

Board of Education

Susan Pedrick is a first-time candidate for the Board of Education. Pedrick said she was motivated to run because, as a high school teacher of 17 years, “I decided that I could fill that position pretty comfortably.”

She described her background as deeply rooted in education and youth engagement. “I’ve run a robotics team for seven years,” she said, “so I’ve been out in the community reaching out to corporations.”

Pedrick said she holds a double master’s degree in statistics and education and previously worked in actuarial work and corporate market research. She added, “I think I am a breath of fresh air. I think I’m open-minded to what the job is and what it entails. I want to listen, I want to learn. And I think that they could use some new blood in some of these positions.”

Louise Concodello, a long-serving town volunteer and current member of the Board of Selectmen, is seeking to return to the Board of Education after nearly three decades of prior

service. If elected, she would serve on both boards.

“My first time on the board was 1995. I was a member of the Board of Ed for 28 years,” she said. “I lost my primary spot for the Board of Ed again by three votes, and I became a member of the Board of Selectmen at the time. I miss it. I go to all their meetings. I’m usually the only one in the audience.”

Concodello said she is motivated by the town’s upcoming school renovation project and by her family ties to the local schools. “I have grandchildren in the school system now,” she said. “I have a passion for elementary school, any school, really.”

Her decades of community service include work on Parks and Recreation Commission for 30 years, Nature Trails and Sidewalk Commission for 20 years and Marlborough Adult Senior Housing for nearly 15 years.

She emphasized the importance of volunteerism: “It’s very hard to find volunteers today to do this. You just can’t show up when you feel like it. You should be there every month.” Concodello said she serves because “I love this town... I’m just a volunteer. I don’t get paid for any of this, and I just do it from my heart.”

She described her goal as continuing the “good work that’s being done” in the schools and said she welcomes new perspectives. “Sometimes you need some of the old timers to put their point of view on,” she said. “And it’s nice to have new people join too.”

Across the interviews, Marlborough’s Republican candidates shared a consistent emphasis on community service, fiscal responsibility and educational commitment. Each candidate described a desire to strengthen the town through experience, collaboration and civic engagement. Their combined perspectives reflect a focus on responsible governance and a deep-rooted connection to the Marlborough community.

Carey Fraulino was unable to be reached for comment, but still remains on the ballot.

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.

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.

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

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

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

Transportation: Available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Must reserve rides two business days in advance. Reservations taken Monday-Thursday. Call 860-295-6209 for more information.

Sewer Use Bills Due

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

Tax payments can be mailed to Tax Collector, Town of Marlborough, P.O. Box 29,

Marlborough, CT 06447, placed in the drop box outside of Town Hall or in person at 26

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

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

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

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

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: 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 Tai Chi: Tuesdays/Thursdays, noon-12:45-1:45 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Started Oct. 7 and runs through Nov. 13. 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.

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Election Day is Nov. 4

By Toriana Williams

Board of Selectmen -
Vote for up to Two
Susan R. McFarland (D)
Anthony M. Bratz (D)
Robert J. Fraulino, Sr. (R)
Board of Finance - *Vote for up to Two*
Ken A. Hjulstrom (R)
Michael Nastri (R)

Board of Finance Alternate -
Vote for up to Two
Travis Michaud (D)
Joseph E. Sheridan (D)
Michael J. Concodello (R)

Board of Assessment Appeals -
Vote for up to Two
Emily P. Collins (D)
David Morganson (R)
Susan M. Pedrick (R)

Planning Commission -
Vote for up to Three
Beth Lander Morris (D)
Peggy A. Golfin (D)
Subby S. Magro (R)

Planning Commission Alternates -
Vote for up to Two
Jason A. Cooper (D)
Zina D. Planeta (R)
Mark J. Paul (R)

Zoning Commission -
Vote for up to Three
Erik Stomberg (D)
Salvatore V. Sena, Jr (R)
Christopher Wherry (R)
Eric Colantonio (R)

Zoning Commission Alternates -
Vote for up to Two
Justin Bransfield (D)
John H. Grasso (D)
John F. Planeta (R)

Zoning Board of Appeals -
Vote for up to Three
Matthew E. Wilson (D)
Elizabeth Bransfield (D)
Zina D. Planeta (R)
Patrick A. Pabouet (R)

Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates -
Vote for up to Two
Robert J. Larson (D)
Donna M. Mosher (R)

RHAM Board of Education -
Vote for up to Two
Pamela A. Farrington (D)
Carey A. Fraulino (R)

In a comment to the *Rivereast* this week, Democratic Town Committee chair Jack Fidler said he feels good about the committee’s chances next week.

“First and foremost, we have an incredible slate of candidates,” he said. “The candidates have strong professional backgrounds and expertise that will be valuable on boards and commissions in Marlborough.”

Fidler emphasized the candidates offer a “blend of leadership and organizational knowledge with new, fresh ideas. With varying ages and backgrounds, we feel this slate is representative of the residents of our community.”

He said candidates “have talked and listened to residents in town to hear and meet their needs,” and that he hopes voters feel the Democrats are the better choice.

“We are hopeful that the voters in town see the Democratic slate of candidates as the best choice for responsible use of tax payer dollars, strong schools and sustainable economic and housing development in Marlborough,” he said.

Republican Town Committee chair Judy Kelly was unavailable to be reached as of press time.

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.

Country Line Dancing Fundraiser

There will be a Country Line Dancing Fundraiser Friday, Nov. 7, from 6-8 p.m., at the Marlborough American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd.

Aric Lemeiux of Sound Train Music will DJ and lead country line dancing. Cost is \$15, which includes a buffet and dancing. All are invited.

Election Day Bake Sale

The Marlborough PTO will hold an Election Day Bake Sale Tuesday, Nov. 4, from 6 a.m. until 10 a.m. or sold out. The PTO will sell baked goods and coffee in the school cafeteria.

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

★ *Hebron Library cont. from page 1*

over furniture and even bringing in live frogs and snakes into the library and throwing them at others.”

He confirmed that “the library staff has made efforts to address this behavior over the past several weeks,” including increased supervision, reviewing camera footage, contacting law enforcement when necessary and banning individuals identified as disruptive.

McNamara added in his note to parents that Tierney had warned “the library may have to be closed from 2:30 to 5 p.m., or require adult supervision for anyone under the age of 18 if these behaviors don’t stop.”

Carter confirmed that those options are still “on the table,” though she clarified that the library has not yet restricted hours.

“We actually were not going to close it,” she said. “That was a misunderstanding that someone else had. The idea was that we would limit it so that... between the hours of 2:30 and 5, it would be no one under 18 could be in without an adult.”

She emphasized that the library’s goal is not to punish teens but to maintain a safe and welcoming environment.

“It’s very hard on the staff here,” she explained. “Our staff here make minimum wage. I mean, these are people that could be earning more ... but they really want to serve the community. And then they’re confronted with ... kids [who] are very insulting and harass them.”

Some employees, Carter said, “have made some of the staff a little uncomfortable for their own safety,” prompting the library to ban certain individuals.

The incidents have also had a chilling effect on patrons. “Other patrons are uncomfortable

when they come in,” she said. “We notice that we have a lot of people just won’t come in.”

Since the “day of the flying frogs,” Carter said things have improved. A recent early-dismissal-from-school day was “quieter,” she noted.

While minor flare-ups still occur – or “little hot spots,” as Carter called them – they have been manageable. “So we’re hoping this is how it’s going to stay from here on,” she said.

The library has also received temporary help from the town.

“A couple of the Public Works guys came over... just to sort of act as security, since we don’t have a security guard,” Carter explained.

The possibility of hiring a dedicated guard has been discussed – something she added she “can’t believe we might need in Hebron.”

Despite the challenges, Carter remained optimistic.

“We really want the library to be a place for everyone in the community to come to,” she said. “Unfortunately, we are having to deal with this behavior, but we are trying our best to... make this a safe and welcoming place for everyone of all ages.”

In his letter, McNamara urged parents to do their part. He asked that “RHAM families speak with their child(ren) about these issues if they visit the library after school in an effort to curb this behavior.”

As the Douglas Library staff continues working to restore calm, Carter hopes the episode will serve as a reminder that the library belongs to everyone.

“We want to serve the community,” she said. “We’re just trying to make sure it’s a place where everyone feels safe – even the frogs.”



Special Delivery... The youth at Marlborough Congregational Church delivered fresh produce from their 17th Harvest Sunday Missions Project to the Marlborough Food Bank last month.

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.

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 stjohndfisher30@yahoo.com. The church website is www.stjfisherchurch.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.

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 to include the Thanksgiving Food Drive underway for November. Bags with specific shopping lists are available at the Masses. Sandwich-making and collection continues the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Knights of Columbus Coat Drive is happening now through Nov. 8 with a daylong collection on the town green. 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.stjfisherchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

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.



Playing at RHAM... Nine instrumental students from Marlborough Elementary were invited to play with the RHAM Wind Ensemble at the RHAM concert on Oct. 23. In the back row are Donna Arseneault, Damian Hernandez, Lila Yerukhimovich, Gemma Stachelek and Julia Tackett; in the front row are Megan Seipt, Julia Sabourin, Owen Kaminski, Nixon Gustafson, Joseph Kovac, Tiago Fernandez.



The Bulletin at 8,000 Feet!... East Hampton High School graduates (1979, 1982, 1983 & 2014) summit Dawson Pass in a reunion on six-day backpacking adventure in Glacier National Park, Mont. Pictured are David Duvall, Todd & Diane Duvall Warner, Rick Atwood and Kyle Atwood.

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!



Sunny Sifnos... Michael and Dawn Hardwick of East Hampton recently visited the lovely Greek island of Sifnos. The Monastery of Chrissopigi is in the background.



Awesome Athens... Ovy and Ruth Apintei of Colchester brought the *Rivereast* all the way to the famous Acropolis in Athens, Greece.



Seeing Notre Dame... John and Laurie Reddington of Hebron are shown in Strasbourg, France, at the Cathedral Notre-Dame this August. They climbed the 320 steps for a beautiful view. This stop was part of the Viking River Cruise from Switzerland to Amsterdam!

Where in the World?

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

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Running Men (and Women)... On Saturday, Oct. 25, the East Hampton boys and girls cross country teams raced in the CIAC Class “SS” Cross Country Championships at Wickham Park in Manchester. The boys placed second, with senior Dean Jump leading the way, placing 13th. The girls placed third, with senior captain Jocelyn Gustavson leading the way, placing 18th. In the boys photo are, from left, Brendan Kissane, Luke Garcia, Dean Jump, Lee Barron, Dolan Krasnitski, Owen LoPresti and Coach Bill Wilkie. Missing from photo: Brett Gustavson. In the girls photo are, from left, Aloma Johnson, Shannon Mahoney, Brianna Gustavson, Kaylan Sullivan, Emma Meleo, Sofia Johnson, Jocelyn Gustavson, Hadley Fazekas, Brooke Bellemere.



Wreaths Across America to Return

Fowler-Dix-Park Post & Auxiliary 5095 will be participating in its 18th Wreaths Across America annual wreath-laying event in December – and sponsorships are sought.

Wreaths Across America is a worldwide event honoring veterans with the laying of a wreath on their headstone or marker. East Hampton’s ceremony will take place at the Book of Names Memorial, located across the street from the VFW Post at 20 North Maple St., on Saturday, Dec. 13, at noon. Seventeen wreaths are placed

during the ceremony, one for each branch of the service, a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action, one in memory and honor of Governor William O’Neil, one for each of the Auxiliary’s ‘adopted’ eight forgotten soldiers who are buried in the Middletown State Veterans’ Cemetery.

The VFW Auxiliary is asking the public to sponsor additional wreaths to be placed at various soldiers’ gravesites in all 12 cemeteries in town. Sponsors are asked to donate \$17 per wreath to help provide as many wreaths as possible. As volunteers place a wreath on a soldier’s grave, they repeat the soldiers’ name aloud.

One can sponsor a wreath by sending a sponsorship form to VFW Auxiliary 5095, 20 N. Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424. Checks should be made out to “VFW Auxiliary 5095” with “WAA” on the memo line. Forms can be found at the Post and East Hampton Public Library. In lieu of a form, send name, address, phone, email, the number of sponsored wreaths at \$17 each with a check to the above address.

All forms should be returned by Nov. 11.

To learn more about Wreaths Across America, visit www.wreathsassamerica.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, located at 9 Markham Road, off Tartia Road from Route 16.

Sponsored by Westchester Congregational Church in Colchester, 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.

Home & Health Expo

The East Hampton Commission on Aging’s Home & Health Expo on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Town Hall.

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

In a survey done by the commission in 2021, 93% of 482 respondents wanted to remain in their homes as they got older.

“We are very excited that the Home and Health Expo targets both the caregivers and the older adults in town and provides them with the tools to thrive at home,” said Dr. Eric Rosenberg, who is chairman of the commission.

Cindy Craig, who is vice chair of the commission and a key organizer of the event, noted that November is National Caregivers Month. “We hope to help educate and support caregivers in their challenging, and demanding efforts,” Craig said, while also promoting “healthy futures” for all.

In addition, the expo will have experts in chiropractic and naturopathic medicine, geriatric psychiatry, massage, physical therapy, and exercise as well as options for housing when staying home as you age isn’t possible. Participants will also have the chance to learn about fraud against older adults and to hear from professionals who help with home safety improvements, downsizing, moving, and estate planning.

Attendees will have chance to learn from and talk with experts in multiple ways – from watching demonstrations, to listening to panels and talks, to one-on-one discussions.

The event will also include a chance to get a short chair massage and participate in short yoga and exercise classes.

“We will have representatives from over 30 organizations,” Rosenberg said. “When people take a look at the list of these topics, I’m sure they’ll find a few that interest them. And maybe a little interest in the refreshments, snacks, and freebie giveaways!”

The schedule of speakers includes:

- 10:15 a.m., Dr. Patrick Connolly of East Hampton Chiropractic, who will talk about how chiropractic treatment can assist people;
- 10: 15 a.m., Keith Arcari, practice director, Symmetry Physical Therapy, Portland, who will talk about exercise and how physical therapy can help;
- 10:30 a.m., Mairead Painter and Alison Dvorak: Housing, Smart Living;
- 11 a.m. Dr. Harry Morgan, a specialist in geriatric psychiatry, will discuss depression and dementia and how to tell the difference, as well as about other aging and mental health-related topics;
- 11:30 a.m. Home care, finances, and insurance
- 11:45 a.m., Yoga with Amie Meacham will talk about yoga and lead two short yoga classes: chair yoga and standing yoga;
- 12:30 p.m., First Responders: Representatives from East Hampton Police, Fire & Ambulance will discuss what caregivers and older adults need to know to assist these responders;
- 12:30 p.m. Roslyn Brault, Reiki, sound and hands-on-healing;
- 12:30 p.m. Mary Henderson, personal trainer, will talk about key exercises for mobility and independence and will lead a short exercise class.
- 12:45 p.m. Dr. Jeanne Fuqua, naturopath and acupuncturist, will talk about how naturopathic medicine can help.

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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.

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Macie and London Brazal are shown here on a previous trip to Africa with Zulu Nyala. The safari trip is being offered again, as a fundraiser to benefit the TANGO2 Research Foundation.

Journey for a Cause: TANGO2 Travel Adventure

All are invited to experience a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Africa with Zulu Nyala while fueling breakthroughs for families affected by TANGO2 Deficiency Disorder (TDD). Kasha and Mike Morris 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). Ryan is a 2020 graduate of East Hampton High School. The Morris family is hosting the fifth bien-nial TANGO2 Banquet and Auction at 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. The Zulu Nyala African Safari trip has been one of the most popular and successful event fundraisers for TANGO2, with more than 28 lo-cal individuals making this incredible journey for a cause. Stacey Gibson of East Hampton said, “The cheetah, lions, hippos, giraffes, and elephants are a once in a lifetime sight to see in their habi-

tat. It’s one of those places you never thought you would go and that you will want to go back to relive it again.” London Brazal, who is returning for a second time this month, said, “At Zulu Nyala, every moment feels cinematic. Sweeping landscapes, abundant wildlife, and warm hospitality come together for an experience that feels other-worldly.” Since 2018, more than \$21,000 has been raised through this experience funding life-sav-ing research and supporting programs related to TDD. This trip opportunity is now open to everyone in our community, not just attend-ees of the upcoming TANGO2 Banquet. Each \$3,500 package sends 50% of proceeds directly to the TANGO2 Research Foundation, turn-ing a bucket-list adventure into real impact for families. Set on a private reserve in Hluhluwe, Kwa-Zulu-Natal, Zulu Nyala features open-vehicle safaris with qualified guides and close-up view-ing of elephant, rhino, buffalo, hippo, the elusive leopard, and more than 40 animal species, with lodge accommodations. You can view the FAQs, trip brochure, and past travelers’ testimonials by visiting www.zulunyalaco.za or emailing kasha.morris@tango2research.org for details on how to purchase.



State Officials Stump for Local Dems... On Saturday, Sept. 27, East Hampton Democrats welcomed several national and state officials to town for a fund-raiser at the Rossi family home. Gov. Ned Lamont, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, Rep. Joe Courtney, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, Treasurer Erick Russell, and state Sen. Norm Needleman all attended, along with the slate of Democrats running for local office in November. In the photo at left, Lamont and Board of Education Chair Nancy Kohler discuss the local public school system, and in the photo at right, Bysiewicz shares a moment with Board of Finance candidate Dan Finn.



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. 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 Christ-mas 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.

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AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has an-nounced the following programs. Registration is required, at ahmyouth.recdesk.com. Pizza and Parenting Game Night: Thursday, Nov. 13, 6-7:30 p.m. Parents or caregivers can play a variety of games while connecting with their children. Participants can also engage with other families or challenge them to a friendly competition. Pizza will be served. Families can register for \$5/person. Open Arts & Crafts Studio: Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6 p.m. This workshop will include a variety of projects and supplies, including sea-sonal and holiday-themed crafts. Participants select DIY projects of their choice. All materials will be provided. All ages are welcome.

Kids Yoga “Thankful & You Know It”: Thursday, Nov. 20, at 5:15 p.m., for “fall yoga” centered around gratitude and love. Kids will practice maple breathing and then head out to the “forest” for a sweet Friendsgiving themed yoga adventure while learning a variety of an-imal-themed yoga poses. Class will end with a few mindful games and a relaxing savasana. This class is geared toward children 4-10. All levels are welcome.



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; au-dience members are welcome too. There will be free food, drinks and art supplies. Admission is \$10. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

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Bellringers Defend Home Court – State Tourney Next



East Hampton senior volleyball players Sophia Long, Kendall Jump, Sofia Aresco, Alivia Baier, Chelsea Ryan, and Lila Babcock are hoping to make as state tournament run as they close out their final season on the local courts.

By Josh Howard

The East Hampton High School girls volleyball team made quick work of Morgan in the opening round of the Shoreline Conference Tournament, ousting the visiting Huskies, from Clinton, in three sets (25-22, 25-17, 25-16) on Oct. 24.

Playing at EHHS, the Bellringers were sharp from the start and never trailed in either the first or third sets.

Senior Chelsea Ryan led the way with game-highs in both digs (20) and assists (19).

“We just talked about keeping our energy way up,” noted Ryan, an all-conference setter. “We wanted to play hard throughout every single set and every single point, and not get down on ourselves when we make mistakes.”

East Hampton head coach Molly Grabowski credited Ryan, the team’s lone team captain, for embracing the role and stabilized the team this fall.

“She’s done a nice job,” added Grabowski.

“She keeps the team together and is my voice to the girls.”

Ryan heads a strong senior class that is supported by a younger crop of players that includes standout juniors Dempsey Russell and Ava France, along with sophomore Jasmine Martin.

Russell, the team’s leader in kills, polished off the first set with a spike, registering one of her game-high 12 kills.

France, the team’s libero, has controlled the backline and leads the team in digs, while Martin served up a dozen of the team’s 26 aces in the tourney win.

After the Bellringers fell behind early in the second, the home team responded with an 11-2 scoring spurt, ignited by an ace from senior Lila Babcock. During the rally, Ryan made a miraculous diving save that caromed over the net for a point, putting the Bellringers up 17-12.

“Honestly, I had no clue it was going to happen. I just decided to go for it and hope for the



Bellringers volleyball celebrates a point during the team’s three set victory over Morgan in the Shoreline Conference Tournament last Friday.

best, and it worked out in my favor,” a smiling Ryan explained.

Babcock would ultimately end the second set with an ace, her third of the night.

Once East Hampton got Morgan down by two sets, Grabowski talked to her team about the importance of finishing the match, telling her squad, “We have one to go, we can’t let up.”

Grabowski’s team heeded the call by scoring six of the first seven points in the third set. Senior Sophia Long and Russell had consecutive kills to polish off the final set and send the Bellringers to the SLC semifinals.

“We wanted to shut it down in three and we went ahead and did that,” stated Ryan.

It’s been a season of runs this fall for East Hampton, who began the season with four straight wins. Following a three-game losing skid in mid-September, the Bellringers rebounded with eight consecutive wins before dropping their final three matches of the regular season.

Entering postseason play, Ryan said the team approached the challenge with a clean slate, adding, “We wanted to reset and play with energy every single point.”

Following a 12-win regular season, the Bell-

ringers entered the SLC tourney as the No. 4 seed before breezing by Morgan, the No. 5 seed, in the quarterfinals.

Three days following the tourney victory, the Bellringer fell to top-seed Valley Regional in the semifinals.

Next up is the Class S state tournament, set to begin next week.

The Bellringers have won at least one state tournament game in each of the last four seasons, including in 2022 when they won four games in the Class S tournament to capture the program’s first state championship.

Grabowski noted the 2025 club has developed that trust as the season has aged.

“They’ve continued to work as a team,” added Grabowski. “They are really outstanding, and I want them to see that in themselves.”

For Ryan and the team’s five other seniors (Babcock, Long, Sofia Aresco, Kendall Jump, and Alivia Baier), this year’s state tourney will be their final chance to compete together at Bellringers.

“It’s super sad that our season is ending, and we just want to go out and play our hearts out until the end,” stated Ryan.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

Adult Programs: 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.

Belltown Book Brunch: Friday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m. Meet to talk about what you’re reading while enjoying coffee, tea, and a breakfast treat. Perfect for avid readers or anyone seeking recommendations. Register or drop in.

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.

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.

The RTC will wave on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9-11 a.m., at 20 East High St., across from Stop & Shop.

Middle Grade Dungeons & Dragons One-Shot: Grades 5-7: Monday, Nov. 10, 5:30-7 p.m. No previous playing experience or past participation required. The library will provide basic fifth edition characters; all supplies included.

Children’s Programs: 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.

Animal Hybrids with the GIANT Room!: Saturday, Nov. 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The library will partner with the GIANT Room to combine STEM skills and creativity in this hands-on workshop where you’ll design your own animal hybrids and turn them into real, printed trading cards! Cards will be available for pickup a few weeks after the event. Registration is required, but families can drop in any time to participate. Please register just one member of your family; this program is for all ages and your registration covers the whole group. Sponsored by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and the Friends of the East Hampton Public Library.

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 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Parish Hall.

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Services at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1 East High St., are held Sundays at 10 a.m. There is Sunday school every week following the sermon.

The church sanctuary is handicapped-accessible by using the lift.

Upcoming Events: Tuesday, Nov. 18, Thanksgiving service, 6-7 p.m. Bring an item

for the Food Bank.

Jingle Bell Craft Fair and Stuff-A-Cruiser: Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Christmas Carols: Sunday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m.

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



Paying It Forward... Recently, a community member spoke about kindness and paid for the breakfasts of several boys soccer players from East Hampton High School. All that was asked in return was to pay it forward. As part of this kindness challenge, the boys soccer team chose to give back to the community by helping members of the East Hampton Senior Center with yard work. Over a recent weekend, the students spent several hours raking leaves, weeding, and mowing for those who needed an extra hand.

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TANGO2 Benefit Banquet Coming

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

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

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

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

Resident Joins Credit Union as Senior VP

East Hampton resi-dent Jim Kane recently took the post of senior vice president – opera-tions at Hartford Federal Credit Union. In this role, he will oversee branch operations, compliance, marketing, business de-velopment, and member services while helping guide the credit union’s continued growth.



Jim Kane

A Connecticut native with more than 15 years of banking experience, Kane holds an MBA in Management from the University of Hartford and has built a career focused on operational excellence and community impact.

“It’s a privilege to join Hartford Federal Credit Union and help shape operations that support our mission,” said Kane. “I’m excited to empower our team and elevate the member experience.”

Hartford Federal Credit Union serves mem-bers across Hartford, Middlesex and Tolland counties.

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 con-tinues as Liberty Bank, the Community Foun-dation of Middlesex County and 41 rotary clubs again team up to raise money for the cause. This year’s drive 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 on-line at www.middlesexcountycf.org, or by mail-

ing 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 on-line. The bank’s Foundation will provide match-ing 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.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

The Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Road, Middle Haddam has announced the following. To register or for more informa-tion 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.

Makers’ Market: Saturday, Nov. 8, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., on the library grounds, featuring fiber art, jewelry, artwork, leather, artwork, macrame, a White Elephant Table, a used book sale and more. Rain location will be the community hall at 2nd Congregational Church of Middle Had-dam, just down the street. Are you a creator? Contact the library to participate, at 860-267-9093 or middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com.

Knit So As to Turn Water: The History of New England’s Maritime Knitting: Saturday, Nov. 15, 5 p.m. Presented by the Dirty Blue Shirts, an experiential history collective of liv-ing historians, scholars, and artists from Eastern Connecticut. Call the library to register.

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: 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 ‘gentle yoga’ program is held Fridays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$15 per class. Register by emailing zenlotus860@yahoo.com or calling 860-638-9097.

Helping Hands

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 Sat-urdays 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 Cun-ningham at 860-365-1054.

Classifieds

Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & Rivereast News Bulletin

Call 860-633-4691 or email your line ad to admin@glcitizen.com

Scholarship Recipients Announced

The recipients of this year’s East Hampton Ambulance Association’s scholarships and the Jim Morris Scholarship have been announced. With the support of several local businesses, five scholarships were able to be awarded. The recipients and their area of study is as follows:

EHAA Scholarships: Maya Dobson, physi-cian assistant program at Quinnipiac Universi-ty; Jye Lynch, exercise science at UConn; Jordan Murphy, occupational therapy at University of Hartford; Saige Seigny, second bachelor’s de-gree in nursing at UConn.

Jim Morris Scholarship: Sierra LaRose, nursing at Salve Regina University.

Middle Haddam Library Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Middle Haddam Public Library will be held Thursday, Nov. 13, at 5:45 p.m., at the library, located at 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam.

All are invited. Bring your questions and comments, and learn how the year has gone and what is on the horizon.



The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission hosted its Autumn Colors Gallery Night on Oct. 2 at the Town Hall Community Room. From left are commission mem-bers Joni Maxwell, Rebecca Tinelle, Cat Mojo, Mindy Maynard Mills, and Elizabeth Sennett. Missing is Christine Cachuela, the commission’s Library liaison. Photo by Mary Milewski.

Arts & Culture Commission Hosts Successful Gallery Night

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commis-sion celebrated local talent and community spirit with a successful Gallery Night held on Thursday, Oct. 2, at Town Hall.

The event, which aims to bring local art di-rectly to the community, drew a strong crowd of residents and art enthusiasts. Eleven local ar-tists participated, showcasing a diverse range of artistic mediums and styles, from painting and photography to sculpture and mixed media. At-tendees had the unique opportunity to meet the artists and discuss their work directly.

“We were absolutely thrilled with the turnout and the incredible quality of the art on display,” said Cat Mojo, Chair of the Arts & Culture Commission. “This Gallery Night perfectly em-bodies our mission to foster a vibrant arts scene right here in East Hampton, and Town Hall provided a wonderful, accessible venue. It was a true celebration of all things local.”

Adding to the evening’s lively atmosphere were refreshments provided by two local busi-nesses. Cured & Crafted provided a curated

charcuterie board, while Wildcraft Herb Shop served mulled apple cider made with their own mulling spice blend.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response, the Arts & Culture Commission said it plans to make this Gallery Night a regular fixture on the town’s cultural calendar.

The Arts & Culture Commission is dedicated to promoting, supporting, and celebrating ar-tistic and cultural activities within the town of East Hampton.

Early Voting Dates

Early voting for the Nov. 4 election will be open through Sunday, Nov. 2, at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, in Room 117. Hours are daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

To check your voting status, go to ct.gov and type “voter registration lookup.”

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

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Residents to Vote for Council, School Board and More

By Anne Lilburn

In East Hampton, voters will head to the polls on Nov. 4 to vote for positions on the Town Council, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

For the **Zoning Board of Appeals**, two seats are up for election. One of those seat’s five-year term begins in 2025 and two candidates are running for it, **Cathy Ann Clark (R)** and **John Tuttle (D)**. Voters should choose one. Another seat’s five-year term begins in 2026, and two additional candidates are running for it: **Matthew D. Walton (D)** and **Julie Ciucias (R)**. Voters should choose one. This year’s ballot also includes two candidates running to fill alternate seats on the board, **Robert Hines** and **Bob Hein**.

For the **Board of Assessment Appeals**, there are three candidates, **Paul Wisniewski (D)**, **Carol Williams (D)** and **Diane Achenbach-Zatorski (R)**, each running for a four-year term. Voters should vote for up to two of them.

The **Board of Education** race has six candidates (three Democrats and three Republicans)

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,

Scholarships Available

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

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

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.

Stewardship Potluck Dinner: Saturday, Nov. 1, at 3 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Art on Display

Local artist Valerie Stockburger will display her oil paintings at the East Hampton Town Hall during October and November.

Stockburger is a member of the East Hampton Art Association, the Glastonbury Art Association, and Gallery 53 in Meriden.

All are invited to stop by for a viewing of her art display during Town Hall hours.

Congregational Church News & Notes

East Hampton Congregational Church is located at 59 Main St. Sunday services are at 10 a.m. The Rev. Robin Blundon is the interim minister. Sunday School is provided for children and coffee hour is directly after service for fellowship.

For more information about the church and its activities, visit cc-eh.org or call the church office at 860-267-4959. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

running for five available seats. The full board has nine seats, but four of them are not up for election until 2027. The candidates are **Sarah Strange (D)**, incumbent chair **Nancy Kohler (D)**, **Corinne Clark-Barney (D)**, **Nathan Jaycox (R)**, **Sal Nucifora (R)** and **Sarah LeBlanc (R)**. Voters should vote for up to five on their ballot.

The **Board of Finance** has six candidates on the ballot, with two Democrats and four Republicans each running for a four-year term. The board has seven seats, but only four of the seats are up for election this year. **Daniel Finn (D)**, **David Caterisano (D)**, **Joey Guest (R)**, **Bridget McLennan (R)**, **Alison Walck (R)** and **Jim Radavich (R)** are all running. Voters should vote for up to four candidates.

In the **Town Council** race, there are ten candidates, with five Democrats and five Republicans vying for seven positions, each with a two-year term. The candidates are as follows: **Joelyn Leon (D)**, **Karen Wanat (D)**, **Richard E. Knotek (D)**, **Dean P. Markham (D)**, **Jack Solomon (D)**, **Alannah Danaher Coshow (R)**, **Tim**

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.

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.

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

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, Dec. 11, from 1-3 p.m., at Mary’s.

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

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.

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:

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.

Feegel (R), **Eric Peterson (R)**, **Ted Hintz (R)**, and **Darin Hurne (R)**. Voters should vote for up to five.

In an emailed statement, East Hampton Democratic Town Committee Chair Kevin Reich wrote, “While national politics grows louder and more divided, the East Hampton Democratic party and its very dedicated candidates have chosen a different path – one grounded in respect, kindness and collaboration. I am confident the team we have running in this fall’s election will be successful and will continue to work in a nonpartisan way, collaborating with everyone to move the community of East Hampton forward and improve the life for

all of our residents.”

Republic Town Committee Chair Melissa Engel wrote, “The Republicans have a solid slate of experienced, smart and hardworking people who care about our community. We have been saying all along that we listen, and we do! Regardless of political affiliation, we respond to our taxpayers and always will. Providing necessary services, keeping taxes affordable for ALL and maintaining our rural character is our goal. We have a proven track record of achieving that. I will add that volunteering to serve is challenging for anybody. I applaud all those that give of their time and energy to make East Hampton the best it can be. Get out and vote!”

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 dinnr with all the fixings, and apple or pumpkin pie. Call 860-993-5311 or 860-267-9836 to place an order.

Afterschool Programs at Memorial School

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, American Sign Language classes, monthly men’s and women’s groups, 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.

Trailblazers Walking Group: Monday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m., at Air Line State Park, 69 Smith Street, East Hampton. All paces welcome.

Linefit: Monday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m. This is a low-impact line dancing class. Fee is \$3 monthly. Register in person.

Board Games with the East Hampton High School Interact Club: Tuesday, Nov. 4, 10:30 a.m. Donuts and coffee included.

Meditation with Eileen Higgins: Wednesday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m. This is a free group meditation session.

Design & Create: Thursday, Nov. 6, 1:30 p.m. Create cards for local veterans in this hands-on class.

Bike Rides for Seniors with Kim Clouser of AirLine Cycles: Friday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m., at Air Line Trail State Park, 69 Smith St. Bring your bike, helmet and water to the ride.

Trips: Holiday Shop in the “Hampton”: Thursday, Nov. 13, departing at 10 a.m. Check out the shops in the historic East Hampton Village Center for unique gifts, fresh bread, jewelry, coffee and more. Stop for lunch on your own at one of the available eateries. Walk to the village or drive yourself with a friend. Registration still required.

White Christmas the Musical at the Goodspeed Opera House: Thursday, Dec. 4, departing the Senior Center at 1 p.m. for a 2 p.m. matinee. Cost is \$70 for the ticket and bus donation. Register in person.

Volunteer Opportunity: Volunteers are needed to answer phones and grocery shop for senior center members. Stop by the center Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to fill out the volunteer form. Call 860-267-4426 for more information.



Ted & Ned... Gov. Ned Lamont recently signed the Connecticut Hero Act into law at Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Post 5095. The Hero Act combines Public Act 25-15 and Public Act 25-95 to acknowledge the sacrifices made by those who have served in the military, and honors them. The act also assists military and military families with a broad range of provisions to adjust to frequent relocations and the combat wounded. Lamont is pictured at left with Post Commander Edward Turner.

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Council Gets BOE Update, Considers Senior Center Changes

By Anne Lilburn

The East Hampton Town Council met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 28, its last before elections that will determine the makeup of the council for the next term.

One item on the agenda was the Board of Education's first quarter financial report for the 2026 fiscal year. Council members heard from Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tassel and also from Ray Engel, the interim business manager for the district, who briefed the council on various budgetary details.

One timely and relevant issue that Van Tassel discussed was the status of federal SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) funding, which has been frozen during the federal government shutdown. School districts, including East Hampton, rely on federal SNAP funding to offset costs for students who qualify for free or reduced cost lunches.

Van Tassel assured council members that, even though the school district was not currently receiving those funds, schools would continue to serve meals to students who qualified. He added that he believed the state was working on ways to support school districts that have been dealing with this challenge.

Another issue that came up from the Board of Education was an indoor air quality report covering Memorial School, Center School and East Hampton Middle School. Van Tassel said that the Board of Education would be discussing the report at its public meeting on Nov. 24.

The topic that generated the most discussion and engagement at this council meeting concerned the town's senior center. Council member Jordan Werme, a Democrat who is not running for reelection and therefore will not be serving another term, discussed serving on the senior center services task force and said he had been proud of the work that had been accomplished.

Werme said that the task force group came from "wildly different social and political groups," and still "worked really well together to get stuff done." He mentioned upgrades that had recently taken place, including those addressing disability access and compliance, bottle filling water fountains, computer center improvements, a coffee bar and wall and carpet renewal. He also thanked Rotary for its donation, which supported these improvements.

Next, Senior Center Coordinator Holly Marrero spoke to the council about proposed changes to the senior center, including tweaks to the official refund policy that would eliminate refunds for program fees under \$20 and replace them with a credit for future programs. Marrero also discussed the biggest issue of the night: her suggestion that the minimum age for senior center membership be lowered from 60 to 50. She cited emails from residents and mentioned that there were community members who had retired young, or who perhaps had been stay-at-home moms, who now were looking for community.

Republican council member Ted Hintz Jr., 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.

Republican council member Ted Hintz Jr.,

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.

Parks and Rec News & Notes

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

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

Thanksgiving Table Workshop – A DIY

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

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

Calling All Local Culinary Creators & Crafters!: At Town Hall Thursday, Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m. Cost is \$25. All local crafters, artisans, cottage food vendors and caterers are invited to showcase their goods at the Belltown Holiday Market.

help.

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

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

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

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.

who is seeking reelection, took issue in particular with the idea that senior citizenship started at 50, and also asked what a change in age eligibility requirements might mean for the center, particularly if some of those 50-something new members were still working and looking for more evening, as opposed to daytime, activities.

Marrero said that she had already had some success with programming that started later in the day, and said that she envisioned adding more nighttime offerings. As an example, she suggested potentially including a more moderately leveled evening yoga class in the future, as opposed to the current chair yoga offerings.

She also said that as it stands, the center does have some activities that have somewhat flexible age requirements, with decisions made on a case-by-case basis for lectures and classes, but she said she definitely drew the line at someone looking for a gym membership if they didn't meet age criteria. If official age requirements

changed, then more people would have those opportunities.

Council members asked about the age minimums at other towns, and Marrero said that Glastonbury, for one, allowed 50-year-olds, while Hebron, Portland and Colchester all started membership at age 55.

Council member Rich Knotek, a Democrat who is seeking reelection, voiced concerns that programming might change at the center with dropping the minimum age to 50. He said he was concerned that staff was already burdened and that he worried that the elderly who were "most in need" would be unable to get their fair share. Knotek also pointed out that the over 60 population was already growing as it was.

In the end, the council voted to decrease the minimum membership age to 55 and to change the refund policy as suggested.

The next regular Town Council meeting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 12, after the election.



Rotary Makes Donation... The East Hampton Rotary Club recently donated \$3,600 to the East Hampton Senior Center. The funds will be used to create new technology and coffee stations at the center. Pictured are senior center director Holly Marrero and David Quast, chair of the charitable giving committee of the East Hampton Rotary Club.

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Kenneth Barber, Esq.



John H. Porter, Esq.



Joseph Cassidy, Esq.

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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 Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 1 and 2, from 9-11 a.m. and from 4-5 p.m., at the intersection of Route 66 and Main Street.

EHMS Basketball and Cheerleading

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

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

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

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Richard Karl Foss was recently honored by Warren Lodge No. 51 for his years of service to Portland and its youth. Pictured from left are Sara Sterry Rutter, Warren Lodge No. 51 Seniopr Warden David L. Rutter, Richard Foss and Karen Foss.

‘Karl with a K’ Honored for Community Service

Richard Karl Foss, affectionately known throughout the community as “Karl with a K,” was recently honored by Warren Lodge No. 51 for his years of service to Portland and its youth. Always ready to lend a hand, Foss has consistently supported numerous local programs and initiatives, including the Portland High School Yearbook, Project Graduation, Little League, Youth Football, and many other community efforts. Foss has also served as a mentor to local youth, sharing his knowledge of car repair. Alongside Foss in all of his efforts is his wife, Karen, fondly known as “Turtle.” In a press release, Warren Lodge stated, “Her steadfast support and encouragement have made it possible for Karl to dedicate so much time and energy to serving others. Together, they are recognized as a true ‘power couple,’ inspiring others through their generosity, kindness, and unwavering commitment to the community.

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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, Nov. 2, worship will include an All Saints Remembrance. 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. **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 redcross-blood.org. For more information, call 860-342-3244.

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.

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.



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Upcoming Educational Events

- How VA and Tri-Care Works with Medicare at office**

Mon. Nov. 3rd 6-7pm

Tues. Nov. 10th 6:30-7:30pm

Mon. Nov. 17th 6:30-7:30pm
- Medicare Advantage Vs. Supplemental at Office**

Tues. Nov. 4th 6-7pm

Sat. Nov. 8th 6-7pm

Thurs. Nov. 27th 6-7pm
- Douglas Library – Hebron**

Nov. 12th 3-4pm & 6-7pm

Dec. 2nd 3-4pm & 6-7pm
- Cragin Library Colchester**

Nov. 6th 3-4pm & 6-7pm

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

Nov. 5th 3-4pm & 6-7pm

Dec. 4th 3-4pm & 6-7pm
- Columbia Library**

Dec. 3rd 1-2pm & 6-7pm
- Verterans Rally**

Nov. 19th 5-6pm
- East Hampton**

Nov. 19th 5-6pm

Enrollments at Office Drop in or RSVP

Fri. Nov. 7th 8am-5pm • Fri. Dec. 5th 8am-5pm

*We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently we represent [8] organizations which offer [25] products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all of your options. *Not affiliated with the U. S. government or federal Medicare program.

From the State Representative's Desk

Putting a Little Breathing Room Back in the Family Budget

Ask just about any homeowner in Cromwell or Portland what keeps them up at night, and you'll hear a familiar answer: the bills keep going up, but the paycheck sure doesn't. Groceries cost more, electricity and heating oil costs more, insurance costs more – and then the property tax bill shows up and really drives it home.

That's why the Connecticut House Republicans' proposal to raise the property-tax credit to \$1,000 is such welcome news. It's a simple, common-sense way to put a little money back in the pockets of the people who make our towns run – the nurses, law enforcement officers, tradesmen, teachers, small-business owners, and retirees who've spent their lives building up these communities.

The plan would increase the current credit from \$300 to \$1,000, raise the minimum to \$400, and increase eligibility to include more middle-income families. That might not sound like a big deal to folks sitting up at the Capitol, but down here in the real world, that extra money means a lot. It might cover a couple weeks of groceries, a car payment, or an unexpected medical bill.

What's refreshing about this proposal is it gives direct help to people who pay the bills and keep this state afloat without gimmicks. And it's funded responsibly – using a portion of the state's multi-million-dollar surplus, rather than hiking taxes somewhere else. That's a step in the right direction.

This plan possibly helps a young family in Cromwell keep their starter home while juggling daycare and student loans. Maybe it lets a retired couple in Portland stay in the house where they raised their kids instead of downsizing just to keep up with taxes. Either way, it's real relief that helps real people. Often affordability solutions are wrapped up in red tape. This plan is different. It's straightforward, it's fair, and it helps those who work hard to contribute to our communities.

At the end of the day, that's what government should do – make life a little easier for the folks who work hard, play by the rules, and give back to their communities.

Raising the property tax credit won't solve every problem, but it's a step toward restoring some balance and breathing room for Connecticut's working families. And around here, that's something worth fighting for.

Please feel free to contact my office at 1-800-842-1423 or email me at Christie.Carpino@house-gop.ct.gov if you have any questions.



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

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 Me-

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.

Adult Used Coat Collection

Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus, St. Mary Church, is sponsoring an "Adult Used Coat Collection." The Portland Food Bank has requested the local Knights to once again sponsor a town-wide Coat Drive this Fall appealing for "gently used coats for adults."

David Shovlin, Food Bank committee chair, has said Council 7 will "once again request winter coats, hats, gloves & scarves for adults. Portland is a town with a heart."

To donate an Adult Used Coat, a large receptacle is available in the Rosary Room at the Church of Saint Mary, 45 Freestone Ave.

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.

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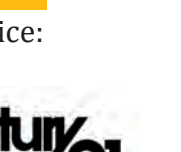
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Limited Election Enrollment Session

The Portland registrar of voters 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.

Lions Provide Vision Screenings for Local Youth

The Portland Lions Club recently again provided vision screening to Portland students.

Lions Club volunteers used KidSight SPOT cameras, a no-touch method to screen for five issues that would affect a child's ability to participate in learning and play activities. The Lions screened students at Valley View and Gildersleeve schools, as well as at Brownstone Intermediate School. The school nurses then followed up and gave the information to parents

to refer them to an eye care specialist; 44 students were referred out of 445 students.

The cameras are courtesy of the Lebanon Lions Club that received a grant to purchase the specialized cameras. The Lions Club thanked the school administrators, teachers and nurses for their support of this service. The Portland Lions Club meets one Wednesday evening each month at the Waverly Center.

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.portland-exchange.org.

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."



David Gilbert and “Riz” Rizzo of the Interfaith Golf Open Tournament committee recently presented a check for \$5,000 to the Portland Food Bank. From left are Gilbert, First Selectman Michael Pelton, Food Bank volunteer Kevin Bachman, and Rizzo.

Check Presented for Food Bank

David Gilbert and “Riz” Rizzo of the Interfaith Golf Open Tournament committee recently presented a check for \$5,000 to the Portland Food Bank. The proceeds were a result of the Aug. 5 charity golf tournament held at Portland Golf Course. Total contributions to the Portland Food Bank are \$7,000 for 2025 and over \$40,000 since 2012.

The Interfaith Golf Open Tournament is a partnership of the parishioners of the Church of St. Mary in Portland and Congregation Adath Israel in Middletown. The tournament supports St. Mary of Portland, Congregation Adath Israel of Middletown, The Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown, The Portland Food Bank, and many other local charities.

The 2026 tournament, held next August, will be the 30th anniversary of the charity fundraiser.

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The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords will perform its winter concert Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School.

Vocal Chords Holiday Concert

“Winter Musical Celebration” will be presented by the Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St. The concert will feature 90 voices, directed by Samuel Tucker, and a 10-piece orchestra, directed by Alan Dougherty.

The program will feature pieces that have a pop rock feel, bells ringing with spirit, fast swing, Venetian music by Vivaldi, and more.

The MHVC will perform “Light One Candle” recorded by Peter, Paul and Mary and arranged by local music educator Jack Zaino, honoring those who fought for freedom, along with a choral medley from *Polar Express* and many other holiday favorites.

MHVC members have donated 13,262 pounds of food items and \$23,000 to the Amazing Grace Food Pantry. They also give of their time to sing at Middlesex Health’s annual Hospice Memorial Program honoring those who have passed on in Hospice during the year. Over the years, the Vocal Chords group has awarded over \$93,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Middlesex County pursuing a career in nursing or music.

Tickets to the event are \$25 and can be purchased from any member or by calling Joyce at 860-342-3120 or Diane at 860-347-2787. For more information, go to vocalchords20.org or visit MHVC on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

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: In November, church mem-

bers 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.

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 Vasquezna and the Wins for Life staff.

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

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

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

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.

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PHS Class of
2015 Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 2015 is organizing a ten year reunion for Saturday, Nov. 29, at Terrazza in Portland. It will start at 7 p.m. and include dinner and a cash bar.
Contact Erica Backus at 860-719-7058 or join the Facebook page for additional details.

Coat Drive

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., will hold its second annual coat drive to support Amazing Grace Food Pantry on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Located in Middletown, Amazing Grace Food Pantry services 8 towns, including Portland.
Prior to Nov. 8, gently used or new coats, vests or heavy sweaters of all sizes may be dropped off at the church. Contact the church office at 860-342-2860 or Kathy Richards at 860-982-7624 to make arrangements for drop-offs.

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Warren Lodge No. 51 Brother John B. “Jack” Sterry Jr. (right) was recently awarded The Lewis Masonic Jewel, which is given to the son of a Master Mason who follows in his father’s Masonic footsteps. At Sterry’s left is his father, John B. Sterry Sr.

Lodge Presents Masonic Jewel

Warren Lodge No. 51 has announced Brother John B. “Jack” Sterry Jr. was recently awarded The Lewis Masonic Jewel, an honor bestowed upon the son of a Master Mason who follows in his father’s Masonic footsteps.

Sterry is the son of John B. Sterry Sr., who was also at the award presentation.

The jewel draws its symbolism from the operative stonemason’s “lewis” tool, an ancient device used to lift and secure heavy stones in construction. Just as the tool bore great weight in building enduring structures, the symbolic Lewis represents the son who supports his aging father while carrying on the family’s Masonic legacy.

The Lewis Jewel itself consists of two engraved bars joined by chains – one bearing the father’s name and initiation date, the other bearing the son’s. It serves as a visible emblem of the hereditary bond within Freemasonry. Eligibility and recognition are subject to the rules of each Grand Lodge jurisdiction.

Fittingly, and with a touch of irony, Sterry employs an actual lewis in his profession as a stone and memorial mason. His daily craft of lifting and setting monumental stone parallels the symbolic duty he now embodies: raising and supporting his father while continuing the Sterry family’s Masonic tradition.

“Warren Lodge No. 51 is honored to recognize Brother Sterry with this distinction,” said Jeffrey Blayman, Worshipful Master of the Lodge. “His dedication to the craft and to his community reflects the values of Freemasonry and strengthens the heritage that binds generations of Masons together.”



Pictured from left are Callum Moss, Liam Xiao and Sofia Rotaru at the Knights of Columbus CT State Soccer Challenge Championship.

Kids Win in Soccer Challenge

Three Portland kids are the state champions of the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge.

On Oct. 18, Portland youths, ages 9-14, competed in the Portland (Saint Mary) Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge at the Portland Recreational Sports Complex on Route 17.

Age group winners Callum Moss, age 10, and Liam Xiao, age 11, and Sofia Rotaru, age 12, all advanced to the state finals on Oct. 25 at Veterans Memorial Park in Wallingford – where they were the state champions!

Scores were based on 25 kicks from the penalty line distance. Callum scored 250 points, Liam scored 240 points, and Sofia scored 180 points.



On Sept. 17, First Selectman Michael Pelton, AARP Connecticut representative Kelli Lefler, and other various town officials and members of the public participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new parking area at the Air Line Trail.

Ribbon-Cutting for New Parking Area

On Sept. 17, the Air Line Trail Committee hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new parking area at the Air Line Trail – capping a project a year in the making.

The Portland Air Line Trail Committee (PATC) in 2024 submitted a grant request to AARP Connecticut for a \$4,000 Community Livability Grant. The purpose of the grant money was to improve the parking area at the intersection of the Portland Air Line Trail and Breezy Corners Road to assist senior residents with access. There were two muddy parking spots at that location for the past five years and they were difficult to use.

The PATC was awarded the grant to improve and expand the parking area to allow additional accessibility to the trail. Under the grant, volunteer Fran Dwyer, with guidance from the Portland Public Works Department, ordered and purchased the required gravel. Dwyer, with assistance from Robert Sequenzia, then scraped, leveled and compacted processed stone onto the parking area. The parking area will be covered in stone dust in the coming weeks and will be known as the Accessibility Parking Lot.

At the Sept. 17 ribbon-cutting, First Selectman Michael Pelton and Kelli Lefler, associate state director – community outreach, representing AARP Connecticut, did the honors of cutting the ribbon. Members of the Portland Air Line Trail committee, Portland Board of Selectmen, AARP volunteers, Portland seniors and members of the public participated in the ceremony. A “Golden Spike” was presented to Lefler by Lou Pear, PLTC co-chair, in recognition of the AARP Connecticut grant.

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.

Craft & Vendor Fair

PHS Class of 2026 Project Graduation will hold a Craft & Vendor Fair Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St. – and vendors are welcome.

There will be various local artisans and small businesses offering unique handmade gifts. If interested in being a vendor, email phsprojectgrad@yahoo.com.

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Pumpkin Recycling Program Feeds Local Livestock

By Toriana Williams

When Halloween decorations start to come down tomorrow, Colchester residents will have a unique way to give their pumpkins a second life – by feeding them to farm animals.

The town’s Agricultural Commission, led by chair Donna Rosenblatt, runs a pumpkin recycling initiative each year from Nov. 1 through Nov. 15.

“We take pumpkins that people have used for decorative purposes ... and then we give them to the livestock,” Rosenblatt said. “Because chickens and goats and sheep and cows, everybody likes a good pumpkin, even horses.”

Instead of letting food go to waste, the program redirects it to farms.

“Basically, what we do is instead of putting food into the waste stream, we put them to good use,” she said. “Pumpkins are very rich in zinc, and zinc gives [the animals] a little more resistance ... especially in the cold weather.”

The pumpkin collection effort began two years ago and is now in its third season. “Some people actually put [pumpkins] in their com-

post, but a lot of people don’t have compost. So this way we can do very positive things by feeding livestock.”

The Agricultural Commission also runs what Rosenblatt calls a “livestock food bank.” It accepts a range of items – “breakfast cereal, chips, crackers, canned goods, fruit, vegetables, beans, all of which are very good for the animals.”

Rosenblatt even offers her own flock special treats.

“I just gave a big can of chickpeas to my chickens,” she said. “Because it’s high in protein. It’s wonderful for them, and they eat it up.”

She said community participation has been strong.

“We’ve been very blessed,” he said. “People have been very good about continuing.”

However, not all donations can be used as pumpkin quality varies each year.

“Every year it’s different,” Rosenblatt said. “Last year, it rained a lot, so most of the jack-o’-lanterns were moldy.”

Whole pumpkins, though, usually last lon-

ger. “Whole pumpkins were fine. We had them in December and then farmers came and they took as much as they wanted.”

Farmers can pick up pumpkins directly.

“They can come and take truckloads if they want,” she said. “They usually don’t – they’re hesitant to do that. They’re modest. But they can take two or three truck loads during the time that we’re running this.”

Donations can be dropped off through mid-November at several sites including the Colchester Senior Center, Town Hall and local schools. After Nov. 15, pumpkins can be brought to Rosenblatt’s own farm at 348 Westchester Rd., where the livestock food bank is based.

Not all pumpkins are suitable for donation.

“No mold, no decorations,” Rosenblatt emphasized. “They can be lumpy or bumpy or broken; I don’t care. Just no mold, no decorations.”

The Agricultural Commission doesn’t run fundraisers and operates purely on community donations.

“We’re not making any profit on this and we don’t need to,” she said. The group may also collect Christmas trees for recycling, although Rosenblatt noted that this year’s plan depends on volunteer availability.

Despite the challenges, she remains upbeat about the community’s role in reducing waste and supporting local agriculture. “We can actually do very positive things by feeding livestock,” she said.

Parks & Rec News & Notes

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

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

tion: runsignup.com/ghostrun.

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

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.

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.

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.

Hike The Babcock Wildlife Management Area: Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-noon. As a wildlife management area, Babcock provides 1,500 acres of forest, swamps and ponds. It contains miles of unmarked hiking trails. The hike is approximately four miles long, mostly on a logging road and open paths. Adults, children and leashed dogs are welcome.

Directions: From Route 16/Middletown Road in Colchester, turn on Bulkeley Hill Road, follow approximately two 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 Road, Colchester.

From Route 2 eastbound, take Exit 16 and turn right onto Route 149 South. Go approximately one mile and take left onto Cato Corner

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Mike Flatley (middle) poses with support crew members Ray Essig (left) and Steve Mlynick (right) after his swim around Lake Pocotopaug on Sept. 13. Photo by Austin Ondas.

★ *Swimming for a Cause, cont. from page 24*

For the swim around Friends Lake, Flatley had a special companion in the kayak: his 26-year-old son Sean, himself a Navy reservist.

“It’s always inspiring, really,” said Sean Flatley adding that he was “always proud of him for doing amazing things [and] chasing those goals.”

Flatley’s coworker at Pratt & Whitney, Steve Mlynick, helped as the support kayaker on Flatley’s second lake swim around Lake Pocotopaug.

“It was very inspirational to help Mike with his goal. Not everyone can go out and do what he did,” he wrote in an email, adding that Flatley’s cause of raising money for cancer was one that was close to his heart, having had friends who had battled the disease.

“While he was doing the swim I was reminded of a quote from David Goggins: ‘I don’t stop when I’m tired, I stop when I’m done,’” wrote Mlynick. “I owe Mike a thank you for letting me be a part of such a great cause.”

Flatley said he himself has supporters to thank, among them his wife, Emily, who he said

has always been there for him through his Navy and civilian careers and his annual fitness challenges.

“If behind any good husband is the mother who raised him and the wife who’s stood by him,” he said, “that would apply to me. Not only has Emily given me the three best gifts I’ll ever receive, our children, but she’s led me to be a better person through the character standards she models for our family.”

Flatley said he knows he will have more challenges in the future. He’s already talking about a bike ride up Mount Washington next year. He hopes these challenges can help him serve as a role model to others.

“If at age 55, I can swim around two lakes and swim 55 miles, you know, other people can do it too,” he said. “And so whether you’ve exercised a lot in your life to date or only a little bit, or maybe even none at all, start now and you can reap the benefits for years to come.”

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Local Man Airlifted After Ladder Fall

By Toriana Williams

A 68-year-old Colchester man was airlifted to Hartford Hospital on Saturday, Oct. 25, after falling about 20 feet from a ladder while working outside his home, according to Colchester Fire Chief Steven Hoffmann.

Hoffmann said he believed the man was painting his house when he fell, and he said the man was initially reported to be unconscious. Emergency responders arrived on the scene to find that he had regained consciousness. The Colchester Fire Department transported the man by ambulance to the Colchester Town Green, where a LifeStar medical helicopter landed to take him to Hartford Hospital. Hoffmann said the man was in stable condition at the hospital.

The unidentified man sustained a head injury, Hoffmann said.

“Tthe fact he had lost consciousness and then regained consciousness” was part of what prompted the LifeStar transport, he said.

LifeStar is a medical helicopter service operated by Hartford Hospital, designed to pro-

vide advanced life support (ALS) and rapid transportation for patients with serious injuries or medical emergencies.

“There’s usually a respiratory therapist, nurse and other higher-level medical care on a helicopter,” Hoffman said. “And obviously can move a lot faster because they don’t have to worry about congestion and traffic.”

He said Colchester has designated landing zones for LifeStar but that the department can also “utilize an open field or the end of a cul-de-sac if we had to ...depending on where the incident is.”

When asked for ladder safety advice, Hoffmann said, “Always maintain three points of contact with the ladder, even when you’re working off it. Make sure the ladder is secured so it doesn’t slip out or fall.”

He added, “Just make sure you have all the appropriate safety equipment in place, depending on what work you’re doing – gloves, safety glasses, helmet, whatever you may be doing as far as work goes.”

Boy Scouts Recycling Project

All Boy Scout troops in Colchester (troops 72, 13 and 109) are participating in recycling plastic bottles, cans and glass bottles.

Residents of Colchester can bring their recyclable containers to the Town of Colchester transfer station so that the scouts can collect them. The scout collection shed is outside the gate so you can drop recycling off at any time.

Project Graduation Election Day Fundraiser

The Bacon Academy Class of 2026 will raise funds for its end-of-year graduation celebrations by selling Munson’s chocolate bars at the Bacon Academy and Town Hall polling locations on Election Day, Nov. 4.

All proceeds will benefit Bacon Academy Project Graduation whose mission is to enhance

drug and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy.

Direct donations to Project Graduation are always welcome. Please visit baconacademyprojectgrad.org for more information.

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.

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.



Pumpkin Pals... Colchester Garden Club members recently crafted pumpkin joy at the Colchester Senior Center. This has become one of the favorite traditions led by the garden club.

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Prue Law Group Celebrates 45 Years

The Prue Law Group, P.C. marked a significant milestone this year, celebrating 45 years of providing legal guidance to individuals, families and businesses throughout eastern and central Connecticut.

Also this year, the firm opened an office in Colchester.

Since its founding in 1980, the firm has grown from a small local practice into a top law firm for estate and business law services in the region.

The firm’s 45th anniversary year has been marked by strategic initiatives designed to strengthen its position as the region’s premier law firm while expanding accessibility to its specialized services. In May 2025, the firm launched a refreshed brand identity and new website that reflects both its established reputation and its forward-looking vision, including updated mission, vision, and values statements, along with enhanced visual elements and messaging that speak to both long-standing clients and next-generation Connecticut residents and businesses.

This was followed in August 2025 by the opening of the firm’s fourth location at 167 Lebanon Ave Suite B in Colchester, strategically positioned at the heart of the firm’s eastern and central Connecticut service area and joining existing locations in Willimantic, Brooklyn, and Coventry to create a comprehensive network that makes the firm’s services more accessible throughout the region.

“Reaching 45 years is a testament to the trust our clients have placed in us and the dedication of our exceptional team,” said attorney Patrick Prue, founder of The Prue Law Group. “When I started this practice in 1980, my goal was to provide sophisticated legal expertise with genuine personal attention. That commitment hasn’t

changed, but we’ve evolved to meet the changing needs of our community and expanded our reach to serve more families and businesses across eastern and central Connecticut.”

Prue’s more than 20 years of experience as a probate judge has helped position the firm as a leader in estate planning, probate and estate settlement, and elder law services. Over the years, the firm has expanded its practice areas to include business law, real estate law, family law, personal injury law, and litigation, creating a comprehensive legal services platform that serves clients throughout their personal and professional lives.

“Many of our clients have been with us for decades, and now we’re serving their children and grandchildren,” said attorney Evelina Ruszkowski, who leads the firm’s estate planning practice and was recently named to Super Lawyers’ 2025 Connecticut Rising Stars list. “That generational trust is something we take seriously. Our recent brand refresh and expansion efforts reflect our commitment to continuing to serve eastern Connecticut families and businesses for the next 45 years and beyond.”

“The Colchester area presents significant opportunities for growth, particularly given the region’s demographics that align with our core practice areas,” Prue noted. “This location allows us to better serve existing clients while making our specialized expertise accessible to new families and businesses who value sophisticated legal guidance with personal attention.”

As The Prue Law Group celebrates 45 years of service, it continues its mission of improving lives.

“Our mission is to improve the lives of our clients and community by providing exceptional legal expertise with personalized service,” Prue said. “After 45 years, that mission is stron-



The Prue Law Group – which just in August opened an office in Colchester – is celebrating 45 years this year. Since its founding in 1980, the firm has grown from a small local practice into a top law firm for estate and business law services in the region.

ger than ever. We’re honored by the trust our community has placed in us, and we’re committed to continuing that tradition of excellence as we look toward the future.”

Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church is located at 60 Main St., and pastor is the Rev. Lauren Os- trout. The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and can be reached at 860-537-5189 or cfc06415@gmail.com.

Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m. The service is also broadcast via Facebook Live. Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship tab. Updated information is on the church’s Facebook page.

Westchester Church News

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

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

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

Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knitting Group meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. Many

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual.

For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

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.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

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, Nov. 3: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 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, Nov. 4: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Movie Time; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1 p.m., Cornhole, AARP Meeting; 1:15 p.m., Bingo; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

Wednesday, Nov. 5: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology by Appointment; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Life Review, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Stroke Presentation; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming.

Thursday, Nov. 6: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Bereavement Group; 11 a.m.; Yoga; 11:30 a.m., TVCCA Egg Presentation; noon, Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Ornament Class; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

Friday, Nov. 7: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Open Enrollment by Appointment; 9 a.m., Open Art Studio, Seasonal Crafting; no Social Service Hours today; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

Rides to the Polls: Tuesday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m.-

Frosty Firehouse Craft Fair

The Colchester Hayward Fire Company Auxiliary will hold the annual Frosty Firehouse Craft Fair Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Fire Headquarters, 52 Old Hartford Rd.

In addition to Frosty’s Kitchen Menu, home-baked goodies will be in abundance. Area artisans and crafters will fill the firehouse bays with their wares. Come get a candy cane from Santa starting at 11 a.m., and check out Frosty’s Prize Table! (Drawings at 2:30 p.m.)

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.

DTC Election Day Food Drive

The Colchester Democrats will hold a food drive on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4, at all three polling places.

All donations will be brought to the Colchester Food Bank to support residents affected by the cuts to SNAP benefits that go into effect on Nov. 1. Suggested items include, but are not limited to, soups, peanut butter and jelly, canned proteins like tuna and chicken, canned beans, pasta, personal hygiene items, and pet food.

All items will be collected at the Democratic Town Committee tents set up outside the polls. If possible, bring items in bags or boxes for easy transport.

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

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

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.

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.

Air Line Trail Toastmasters

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

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

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

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Election Day is Next Week

By Toriana Williams

When Election Day rolls along on Tuesday, Nov. 4, Colchester voters have a number of competitive and choice-heavy ballot lines – led by the first selectman race.

For first selectmen, incumbent **Bernie Dennler**, a Democrat, is being challenged by Republican **John Thomas**. On the Board of Selectmen ticket, Democrats **Rosemary Coyle** and **Denise Turner** are seeking reelection, as are Republicans **Cliff O'Donal** and **Art Shilosky**. Republican **Tim Vaillancourt**, a member of the Board of Finance, is also looking to join the selectmen board.

On the Board of Finance, Democrats **Sean Gillespie**, **Jillian T. Vinci** and **Krista Kardys** are all running, as are Republicans **Michael Dubreuil** and **Amber Webster**.

For the Board of Education, the Democratic candidates are **Gussie Gilberti** and **Nancy Nelson**, while **Corrine Loyola**, **Olivia Duksa**, **Cari Duigou** and **Cody McNeely** are all running on the Republican side. There are also two petitioning candidates this year, running on Row C: **Donna Antonacci** and **Marguerite Gignac**. Antonacci and Gignac are incumbent Republican members of the board, but neither was endorsed by the local Republicans at their caucus this past summer.

For town treasurer, Democrat **David Koji** is squaring off against Republican **John Ringo**.

Lastly, for the Board of Assessment Appeals, the Democrats running are **Andrew J. Courn-**

Troop 13 Holds Court of Honor

Colchester Scout Troop 13 recently held its fall Court of Honor to recognize scouts who earned rank advancement, merit badges, and other awards. The Troop also reflected on its June five-day year-end Camping trip to Cape Cod, a week of July Summer Camp fun, and recognized one parent's recent completion of the Appalachian Trail thru-hike.

Rank Advancement: Ben Adams earned Second Class and First Class; Cody Blanda earned Star; Terry Boaz earned Second Class; Joseph Chechile earned Life; Logan Cleary earned Second Class, Jordan Darvas earned Second Class and First Class; Neil Drylie earned Tenderfoot, Zack Ginand earned Second Class, Brody Hochholzer earned Second Class and First Class; Zack Jodoin earned Second Class; Nick Peck earned Tenderfoot, Brandon Verruso earned Second Class and First Class, Cody Zajac earned Scout, and Garrett Schutz earned Eagle Scout.

Merit Badges: Over the past 12 months scouts earned over 75 merit badges. Since June the following merit badges were earned: Ben Adams earned Citizenship in the Nation, Environmental Science, Fish and Wildlife; Cody Blanda earned Camping, Mammal Study; Jacob Blanda earned Citizenship in the Nation; Terry Borz earned Art, Astronomy, Environmental Science, Plumbing and Wood Carving; Joseph Chechile earned Citizenship in Society, Geology, Shotgun, Soil and Water Conservation, Weather; Logan Cleary earned Archery, Astronomy, Life-saving, Model Design, Orienteering; TJ Crowell earned Mammal Study, Personal Management, Reptile and Amphibian, Shotgun, and Weather; Jordan Darvas earned Citizenship in Society, Citizenship in Nation, and Environmental Science; Anthony DePaola earned Archery and Wood Carving; Jacob Gauthier earned Lifesaving and Ice Skating; Zack Ginand earned Model Design, Nature, and Weather; Brody Hochholzer earned Citizenship in Society, Citizenship in Nation, Digital Technology, Shotgun, Wilderness Survival; Zack Jodoin earned Camping, First Aid, Shotgun, and Wilderness Survival; Nick Peck earned Citizenship in Nation, Cooking, Electricity, First Aid, and Mammal Study; Aiden Raulukaitis earned Climbing; Brandon Verruso earned Environmental Science.

Other Awards: Recently, Brandon Verruso and Brody Hochholzer completed the Mile Swim award while at summer camp. This is the second consecutive year that scouts earned the Mile Swim award. Life Scout Miller Brown earned the award in 2024.

Scout Leadership: Troop 13 is a scout led troop and senior leadership roles were recog-

Ahavath Achim Schedule

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

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

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

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

oyer and **Eric Arthur Jackson**, while the Republicans are **Michael Begun** and **Glenn Shilosky**.

In an interview Wednesday with the *Rivereast*, Thomas – who is also chair of the Colchester Republican Town Committee – was optimistic.

“I believe we will all do well as we have been well-received in town,” he said. “We are a very strong, well prepared, knowledgeable, dedicated, focused and transparent team.”

Thomas continued, “We are committed to moving Colchester forward as a town people can count on for the best education, services, variety of merchants and affordability. Vote row B on Nov. 4th.”

Colchester Democratic Town Committee chair, Monica Swyden, shared her thoughts on her party's chances for the upcoming local election.

“The Democratic team is confident that our candidates are the best choice to keep Colchester moving forward in the right direction,” she said. “Our candidates are experienced in their fields and will bring expertise to the boards they’re running for.”

Swyden explained that she and other committee members “aren’t taking anything for granted ... because voters tend to become less engaged when things are going well. This is why it’s important for everyone to exercise their civic right to vote either early this weekend or on Election Day.”

nized for the upcoming six months. Joseph Chechile is senior patrol leader, and assistant senior patrol leaders are Cody Blanda and Jordan Darvas, and patrol leaders are Brandon Verruso, Ben Adams and Brody Hochholzer.

Cape Cod Camping Trip: The highlight of the troop's summer outdoor program is an annual five-day camping trip and this year scouts voted to visit Cape Cod. The adventure started with a personalized interactive tour of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Woods Hole, Mass. Scouts were able to touch and interact with live ocean wildlife in the wet lab, observe zebra fish research aimed at understanding the impacts to wildlife and humans from various types of environmental pollution. Scout also received a personal tour of ROV Jason by one of the current engineers/operators. Jason is one of two remotely operated vehicle (ROV) system designed and built by WHOI's Deep Submergence Laboratory and funded by the National Science Foundation to allow scientists to have access to the seafloor without leaving the deck of a ship. Other highlights of the trip included three days of beach fun at Mayflower, Marconi, and Nauset Light Beaches. An evening campfire on Nauset Light Beach with peach and blueberry cobbler over the beach campfire. Several scouts completed bike rides and cross county running practice on the Cape Cod bike trail, and exploration of several local towns.

Appalachian Trail (A.T.): The troop also congratulated Rodman Capiello for recently completing a five month thru-hike from Georgia to Maine (2,190 miles). Capiello shared his experiences, challenges, stories, and lesson learned with scouts.

If you like the outdoors and enjoy camping, Troop 13 may be for you. The Troop meets most Mondays at 7 p.m. at the St. Andrew Church Hall, in Colchester. Boys ages 11 through 17 are welcome to join. For more information, stop by at any meeting or contact Scoutmaster Brian Marburger at brian.marburger@comscast.net or 860-917-5896.

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.



Colchester Cares recently contributed \$1,600 to provide bagged lunches for the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company's annual Golf Tournament. Pictured from left are Debi Marvin, president of the CHVFC and Colchester Cares member; Lori and Jack Faski, Colchester Cares members; and Brian Talarczyk, co-founder of Colchester Cares.

Colchester Cares Supports the Fire Company

Colchester Cares, as part of its third-quarter collective donation, recently contributed \$1,600 to provide bagged lunches for the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company's annual Golf Tournament.

The tournament supports the Fire Company's efforts in recruiting, retention, schol-

arships, and maintenance of the Schuler Park training and event facility. Colchester Cares will meet at the Cragin Memorial Library on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m.

For more information on the group, visit www.colchestercares.org or follow the group on Facebook.

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Digging tool

6 Detail, for short

10 Cheese nibblers

14 Scoped out

15 Canned fish

16 Soon, in poems

17 Job seekers

19 UCLA part: Abbr.

20 Co-star of Betty and Bea

21 Delicately

23 Continuous form, e.g.

25 Rising star

26 Vaccines

28 Word with dog or dollar

31 Jimmy Kimmel, for one

34 Prefix with propyl

35 Overcharge, big time

37 Easy to swap out

41 Vice ____

42 "Annabel Lee" writer

43 Peachy follower

44 WNW's reverse

45 Like some airport purchases

49 Unaccompanied

51 Marathon participants

55 Tyrannical

58 Floral garland

59 "Excuse me..."

60 Like some fires or looks

62 Bring on board

63 San Quentin quarters

64 Burdened

65 Casualty

66 Tribute poems

67 Seethes

3 Skier's mecca

4 Ctrl-Alt-____

5 Prolific inventor

6 Plymouth Colony leader

7 Bits of wordplay

8 Bait the hook

9 Type of oil

10 Pale purple

11 River float, at times

12 Mattress spring

13 Covet

18 Boston cager

22 Word with mental or mirror

24 Sisters of Greek myth

27 Lathered up

29 Flirtatious stare

30 Hammerhead part

31 Queen's place

32 Singles

33 Party decorations

36 Like some furniture

38 Hazardous gas

39 Bare-bones

40 Verb acting as a noun

46 World Heritage Site org.

47 Swarmed

48 Marx collaborator

50 Bar fruits

52 Skip a syllable

53 Avoid cancellation

54 Indications

55 "Matilda" author

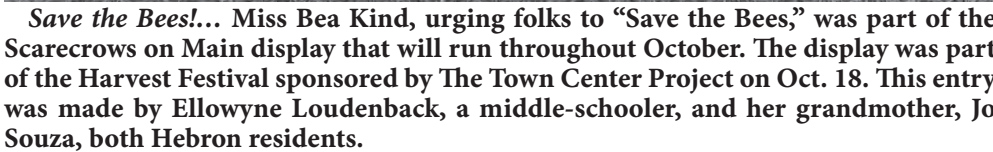
56 Buckeye state

57 SAG member's gig

61 Stool pigeon

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

[illegible]

If you are interested in attending services, becoming a member or would like to learn more about the synagogue, please visit our website at www.ubofhebron.org or email us at ubofhebron@gmail.com. Also, check out the Facebook page for information about upcoming events and services.

Grocery Store Gift Cards: Gift cards are also most welcome. Parishioners are directed to put gift cards in an envelope marked “K of C Food Drive” and place them in the collection baskets. Contact Karl (860-781-0293) with questions.

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Board Seats, Town Charter on Election Ballot

By Toriana Williams

On Election Day. Nov. 4, voters will choose among candidates for multiple boards and commissions – and will also have two charter-related questions to vote on.

The top-of-ballot contest is for Board of Selectmen. Democrats **Jan Lawrence** and **Tiffany V. Thiele** are running, as is Republican **Rob McLaughlin**. On Board of Finance, Democrats **Adam Ockman** and **Ryan Herrick**, and Republicans **Brian O'Reilly** and **Michael H. Beaulieu** are running.

The candidates for the local Board of Education are Democrats **Nicole Matthews** and **Heather R. Petit**, and Republican **Toni Livernois**. For the RHAM Board of Education, the candidates are Democrats **Rudy A. Dellafiore Jr.** and **Jessica Hall** and Republicans **Brandie O'Reilly** and **Lisa Taute**.

For the Planning and Zoning Commission, the candidates are Democrat **David V. Sousa** and Republicans **Brenda Nicolo**, **Chad Livernois** and **Chris Cyr**. On Zoning Board of Appeals, candidates are Democrat **Catherina Mc-**

Sweeney and Republicans **Martin Halloran**, **Jason Guidone** and **Brian Tyler**.

Francesca Villani is running unopposed for town clerk, on both the Democratic and Republican tickets.

Cris Lawrence, chair of the Hebron Democratic Town Committee said, “We feel really good about our chances this year. There’s been so much enthusiasm and support from the community.”

She continued, “Our team has been out knocking on doors, attending events and really engaging with residents. The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive and encouraging. We’ve had great conversations with voters, and it truly feels like we’re in a strong position to flip several boards.”

Hebron Republican Town Committee chair Jason Guidone said the GOP candidates “are working really hard on getting their name out there and engaging with the community.” He said that gives him confidence that they will “prevail for the most part in the upcoming elec-

tions.”

Charter Questions

Also on the ballot this year are two separate questions related to the town charter. One asks whether the town clerk position should be an appointed position, or remain an elected one. The other is on whether to approve various other amendments to the charter.

While the most eye-catching of the various other amendments is changing the name of the Board of Selectmen to the Town Council, other proposed changes include shifting the town meeting quorum from 25 voters to “at least one half of one percent (.005)” of registered voters; having higher thresholds in order for budget items to trigger special town meetings; a larger limit on emergency appropriations; mandating that the town attorney must be a law firm; allowing up to two non-residents serve on the Economic Development Commission; a longer budget calendar; and installing gender-neutral language throughout the charter.

In a statement to the *Rivereast* Jason Gui-

done cautioned against making the town clerk an appointed role, saying it “presents a potential future risk of partisanship in appointment, and possible politicization of the position.” He added that some community members feel the move “strips voters of a crucial right to choose who manages one of the most important offices in local government.”

Guidone also expressed skepticism about the second charter question on the ballot, suggesting it might be better to separate out the proposed changes rather than lumping them all together.

“Perhaps the itemization of the changes on a future ballot would be appropriate,” he said.

He said reducing the number of people required for a town meeting quorum “is a convenient adjustment since civic engagement has fallen to some sadly low levels.” However, he added, “This change would put the direction and decisions of our town in fewer hands. I would rather more people show up and participate.”

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.clec-chebron.org.

Caring Shepherds Social Ministry Group: Open food pantry days held 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 the church at 860-228-1152.

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, 11/1: Yoga, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Sunday, 11/2: Worship Service with Communion and Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off at 10 a.m. (in-person in the sanctuary, as well as online and livestreamed); Coffee Hour at 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Monday, 11/3: Bible study at 9:30 a.m., online via Zoom; Tuesday, 11/4: AA Meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, 11/5: Yoga at 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Wednesday, 11/5: Choir Practice at 7 p.m., sanctuary; Friday, 11/7: Faith and Film Potluck at 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

‘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 tinyurl.com/2hcm3xsw.

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



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Colebrook Village Hosts Food Drive

Colebrook Village at Hebron is holding a community-wide nonperishable food drive through Monday, Nov. 24, to benefit the Hebron Interfaith Human Services Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off in the lobby of Colebrook Village at Hebron, located at 55 John E. Horton Blvd.

The food drive aims to help local families in need during the holiday season by collecting a variety of shelf-stable food items and house-

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 November, 6 p.m. Celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month (which was in October) by learning about art and artists with these films.

Friday Film: Friday, Nov. 7, 1 p.m. *Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning*, rated PG-13, will be shown.

Online Database Resource Workshop: Saturday, Nov. 8, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. In this workshop, Roman Ghirlanda will assist you with your own historical research. Bring your own laptop. Registration is required as space is limited.

Quiet Reading Club: Saturday, Nov. 8, 2:45-4 p.m. Settle in with a good book (bring your own or read one of the library’s) for an hour of quiet reading time after the library closes. The library

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Obituaries

Colchester

Scott Matthew Ezold

Heaven has gained another angel. It is with deep sadness that we share with you the unexpected passing of our beloved Scott Matthew Ezold of Colchester. He was a loving son, brother and father. Scott passed away suddenly Thursday, Oct. 16, at the age of 31 years old.



Scott is lovingly remembered by his mother Lisa DiLoreto (Ezold) and stepfather Donato DiLoreto of Rocky Hill, his beautiful and loving children Michael and Jackson Ezold and their mother Hayley Green and son Thomas Green of Colchester. He is forever remembered by his brothers Peter Ezold Jr and son Andrew of Old Wethersfield; Christopher and Kelly Ezold of East Hampton; Evan Ezold and his two children Cole and Layla Ezold of Lebanon; his stepbrothers Robert and Brittany DiLoreto of Jupiter, Fla., Nicholas and Nicole DiLoreto and their daughter Olivia of Glastonbury. He is also remembered by his grandmother Mary Ezold of Branford, Donna Foster and Dennis Harrington of Surry, Maine, and Cousin Jody and Robert Carlson of Middletown.

Scott is predeceased by his father, Peter Ezold Sr., and grandfather, Andrew Ezold; Robert and Barbara Hall, maternal grandparents, and John Vieira, Kenneth Viera, Raymond Therrien and Gerald Labb.

Scott was born Dec. 10, 1993, in New Britain. He was the son of Peter Ezold Sr. and Lisa Jane Ezold (Vieira-Hall). He grew up in Colchester, where he lived until his passing. Scott played many sports in his youth and developed many lifelong friendships. Scott continued with his passion for sports and gravitated towards basketball throughout his high school years. Scott attended Norwich Technical High School and graduated in 2012 learning all the skills of heating ventilation and air conditioning. He then pursued his career in HVAC as an apprentice. As he built his skills he was employed by numerous commercial HVAC services.

Scott excelled in his field and was committed to his career and decided to venture into his own business which he named EZ-Air. Scott continued his hard work and dedication to his business until his passing.

During the beginning of his career, his two beautiful children were born. This was now the most important part of his life. Scott was not only a father but was considered a super dad. Any moment that was spent not working you would find him right by their side doing all the new and exciting things he could come up with such as playing sports, cooking, gardening, learning or just snuggling in for movie nights. He was a devoted father, and his children were his life.

Scott lived life to the fullest and was a practical joker with a generous heart full of love he never hesitated to let people know he loved them. Everyone who knew him loved him for his selfless soul and giving nature. His smile and personality would light up the room. Whatever Scott put his mind to do was determined to be completed.

In his downtime he loved nature, cooking, gardening, swimming, hiking, fishing, or riding through the woods. Listening to music and always working on house projects as well. He was a huge Giants and Mets fan, and the list goes on and on to a life well lived. As the day ends you would find him sitting by a warm fire always

watching the many sunsets; he loved sunsets.

Family time was especially important to Scott, he loved spending time with his brothers' pondering projects, riding, cooking or just sitting around and laughing. Family traditions and devotion were the most important things to him.

Scott leaves so many more loving friends and family behind. A huge part of his life includes his uncles, aunts, cousins and many close friends both old and new who were all like family to him. We also must include those so near and dear to Scott's heart. Thank you for the years of love and friendship. You were such a huge part of Scott's life, Ryan and Tina Longo, and their family, as well as the Morrin family. He genuinely loved you with all his heart and soul. Remember the laughter, long talks, and love.

Another large part of Scott's life was his love for animals. He leaves behind his three dogs Miss Millie, Coco, Amme and cat Garfield of which he loved so much.

May Scott's memory and laughter bring comfort and peace to everyone who he touched. Scott will forever be missed.

Family and friends are invited to join us for a Celebration of Life and Memorial Service to honor him from 10 a.m.-noon on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, located at 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

To share a memory or condolence with the family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

In each sunset we will see your light
In each light breeze we will feel your calm
In each star we will see your twinkle
In each new sunrise we will feel your warm heart

Rest in peace, son, father, brother, and friend. Until we meet again.

Portland

Gary S. Kvietkauskas

Gary S. "Kevo" Kvietkauskas, 67, of Portland, reached the end of his journey with sarcoma peacefully Friday, Oct. 24, in his home, with his family by his side. He was born in Middletown, son of the late Adolph and Anne (Guckian) Kvietkauskas. He was employed with the Local Union #91 and later with the State of Connecticut Dept of Corrections HVAC.

He was an avid NASCAR fan and member of the Meriden Motor Boat Club. He found immeasurable joy in being a grandfather to his cherished grandchildren. His happiest moments were spent on his boat with his family and friends. Gary was always willing to help people, instantly likeable and made friends easily.

Gary is survived by his wife, Francine; son, Scott Yorker of East Hampton; daughter, Cally Yorker of Portland; brothers, Robert Kvietkauskas and his wife Teresa of Carlisle, Mass., Dennis Kvietkauskas and his wife Laura of Hebron; sister, Julie Ahearn and her husband Brian of Killingworth; grandchildren, Jacquelyn, Madison, Samantha, Jaiden and Lexi Yorker.

The family offers their most sincere appreciation for all the staff at the Middlesex Health Hospice Care at Home program for their compassion and kindness.

Visitation will be held Monday, Nov. 3, from 5-6:30 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 6:30 p.m. at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial will be on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m., at Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to the Portland Food Pantry, 7 Waverly Ave. Portland, CT 06480.

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

Hebron

Doris Taylor

Doris (Daigle) Taylor, beloved wife of Bruce Taylor passed away Tuesday, Oct. 21, at home. She was born March 14, 1940, in Fort Kent, Maine, to the late Emile Daigle and Leona (Marquis) Daigle. She was a graduate of Glastonbury High School, Class of 1958.



Doris was employed as the secretary to the principal at Gilead Hill School. She later worked at Aetna Insurance and Cornerstone Reality as an Executive Assistant until her retirement.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her daughter, Lori T. Piascik and her husband Richard; and her grandsons, Scott T. Taylor and Tyler Piascik. She was predeceased by her son, Scott A. Taylor. She also is survived by her siblings Richard (Barbara) Daigle and Ann (Robert) Wicks. She was predeceased by her siblings Hermel, Pauline, Roland, Jean Paul, Raoul, Evon and Fernande.

The family wants to send a special thank you to Kim Jabbes, extended family, for all her love and assistance during her hospice care.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 28, at The Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Hebron. Burial is at the convenience of the family. Friends called Monday, Oct. 27, at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011 or The American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

Middle Haddam

Elsie Woike Becker

Elsie Woike Becker, 97, of Middle Haddam, widow of Joseph Becker Jr., passed away peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 22, with Bonnie, her daughter and caretaker of many years, by her side. Born April 10, 1928, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Amil and Anne (Appel) Woike of Cromwell.



Elsie worked as a bookkeeper for Johnson Subaru before her retirement. She was a member of VFW Post 5095 Auxiliary, served as East Hampton Democratic Registrar of Voters and was a member of the Democratic Town Committee. Elsie was a Girl Scout and Boy Scout Leader, and taught Sunday School at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Middletown.

She leaves behind her quizzical dog Franklin, her love of flowers and polka dancing, her embroidery, quilting and passion for watching Chris Cuomo, and any opportunity to laugh. Elsie had a kind and generous heart, and having lived through the Great Depression, was always concerned about those in need.

She is survived by her loving children, Bonnie Becker and Brian Becker of Middle Haddam and Jolene McCann and her husband Denis of Indiana; and four grandchildren whom Elsie adored: Joseph, Alicia, Denis and Katie.

She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Becker Jr.; her siblings Esther Woike, Ruth Johnson, Reynolds Woike, Gertrude Wyer, her twin Evelyn Barr, and Earl Woike.

Services were held Monday, Oct. 27. Friends called that morning at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, followed by a funeral Service at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

1 East High St., East Hampton, and burial in Union Hill Cemetery in Middle Haddam.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.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 Roccapiore (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.

Colchester

Irene Cranick

Irene Semczyszyn Cranick was born to Wasył and Wilhelmine Semczyszyn on Aug. 20, 1950, in Salzburg, Austria. She immigrated to the US with her parents as an infant and later became a naturalized citizen.



She leaves her husband, the love of her life, her soulmate, Clifford Cranick Jr. They were married Aug. 25, 1973. They celebrated their 52nd anniversary this past summer.

Irene lovingly leaves her devoted sons: Paul and Bo, Paul's wife Julie, and Bo's partner Penny. She will be greatly missed by her granddaughter Mikayla and Penny's son Justus. She leaves her sister Helen Semczyszyn, niece Michelle Webb, sister-in-law Donna Koenig and niece Janis McLaughlin, as well as two great nephews and a great niece. Irene was predeceased by her nephew, Michael Henneforth.

Irene worked for USDA Farmers Home Administration for 30 years. She assisted people with homeownership, loan and grant programs to municipalities and her favorite, the Senior Rental Housing Program where she got to meet and help elderly renters.

After retiring from USDA, she worked at TVCCA with the Meals-on-Wheels program for 10 years. This allowed her to continue with her joy of working with and for her "seniors." She counted many of them as friends.

Most important in her life was family and friends. She encouraged her children in all their interests, supporting their sports faithfully for many years. Irene continued this practice with her adored granddaughter Mikayla. She had many fun times with Mikayla and absolutely loved being her Nonnie.

She enjoyed special friends, often combining family vacations for many years with the Burns family. The families have wonderful memories of camping trips, Florida vacations and spending New Year's Eves together growing up.

She was a wonderful, loving person who will be greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched. A celebration of life will be held at the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old

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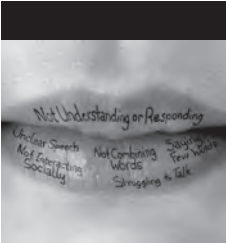
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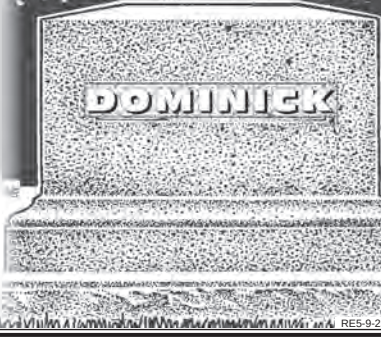
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EMPLOYMENT

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.

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

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@4youras-sets.com.

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RESIDENTIAL DRYWALL CONTRACTOR LOOKING: for a reliable person with experience. Must have a car, clean record, speak English. For more info, please call 959-888-1442.

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Email: mceppaglia@portlandct.org

Referees for Grades 3-4 Youth Recreational Basketball Leagues (January to March). Mostly Saturdays, flexible hours, hourly rate DOQ. Reports to Director of Parks & Recreation. Referees will be responsible for officiating games at Grades 3-4 Level, must uphold a positive environment while maintaining control of game. All qualified applicants will be considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Subject to criminal history background check.

Qualifications: Familiarity with basketball, enthusiasm for sports & working with youth. Prior experience, First Aid & CPR certificate preferred.

• Junior staff must be age 15 upon employment;
• Adult staff must possess high school diploma or GED equivalent.

1TB 10/31

TOWN OF HEBRON FINANCIAL ANALYST

The Town of Hebron is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Financial Analyst. Under the direction of the Finance Director, the Financial Analyst performs research and analysis concerning the general operating, capital projects and special revenue budgets of the Town and maintenance of the general ledgers associated with all Town funds. Provides assistance with cash management, financial reporting and assists with the preparation of the general fund budget. The successful candidate should have proficiency with the use of financial accounting software and Office 365. A bachelor's degree in accounting and experience with the principles and practices of municipal accounting is preferred. Starting salary of \$70,000 depending on experience. Resume, cover letter and a Town of Hebron employment application should be sent to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. Application deadline is Friday, November 14, 2025. Town of Hebron is an EOE.

1TB 10/31

Part Time Constable

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications from POSTC certified police officers for the position of Part-Time Constable, 20 to 30 hours per week. Candidates will be required to successfully complete a written exam, physical agility test, verbal interview, thorough background investigation, polygraph, psychological evaluation, and physical exam. A copy of current POST certification must accompany application. An employment application www.marbo.info/employmentapp, and job description is available online or from the Town Clerk's office. An application (including POST Certification), current resume, and cover letter must be submitted in person or by mail to the Marlborough Town Clerk, 26 North Main Street, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. The deadline is November 21, 2025 or until filled. Competitive starting salary commensurate with experience for POSTC certified police officers. Equal Opportunity Employer

1TB 10/31

REVENUE COLLECTOR TOWN OF HEBRON

The Town of Hebron is seeking a candidate to fill the position of Revenue Collector. This full-time appointed position reports to the Finance Director and is responsible for the billing and collection of current and delinquent taxes including real estate, motor vehicle and personal property taxes as well as sewer use and assessment, and revenues from all other departments. The successful candidate should be very familiar with the operation of a Tax Collector's Office, have strong knowledge of office management procedures, strong computer skills and must be able to work with the public. Preference will be given to those individuals who have had experience in the position and are CCMC certified. Familiarity with Quality Data software is also preferred. Salary range is \$75,000 to \$85,000 plus an excellent benefit package. This is a union position. There is no residency requirement. Applicant must be bondable. Please send cover letter, resume and Town of Hebron employment application to Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248. Position open until filled. For more details visit <https://hebronct.com/contact-us/employment/>. The Town of Hebron is an equal opportunity employer.

1TB 10/31

Westside Manor is searching for an Attendant to fill our 2nd and 3rd shift.

3PM-11PM and 11PM-7AM

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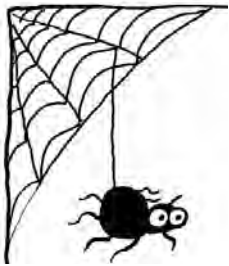
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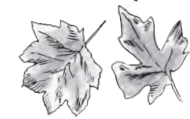
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ITEMS FOR SALE: Ethan Allen desk, Barrister bookcase, & open-shelf unit - Perfect for home office! Also Ethan Allen Sofa & Upholstered Chair. All must go - Best Offer. Text 860-989-0945 for photos.
SPACIOUS CURIO: For sale 98in x 62in x 21in. Wood & glass 3 sections inner lights excellent condition \$300. Sue 860-402-8884.
VINTAGE PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE: Young Traditions 7 foot wedgewood blue sofa with matching Queen Anne high back chair. mint condition \$675.00. 860-633-5888.
TAG SALES
ANNUAL FALL TAG SALE & THRIFT SHOP: Sat, Nov 1st, 9am-1pm, Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St. Household, seasonal, clothing, collectibles, linens, furniture, toys, games, antiques, vintage, electronics, and much more!
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH FAIR: Saturday November 22nd. 9am-2pm, 371 Wolcott Hill, Wethersfield. Bakery, Country Store, Cafe, Holiday/ Handmade Items, Grandma's Attic, Inspiration Garden, Cookie Walk. All proceeds help our Food Pantry & ELCA World Hunger. More info: 860-529-5397.
ESTATE SALE: Fri-Sun, 10/31-11/1. Fri & Sat 8am-4pm, Sun 9am-2pm. 1062 Main Street, South Glastonbury. Cash/Venmo & Carry. Furniture, crystal, china, tables, hutches, household, décor and more! Please No Children.
GARAGE SALE: Saturday, 11/1, 9am-1pm, 59 Old Maids Lane, Glastonbury. A little bit of everything. Some estate/ moving sale items.
TAG SALE: Sat, Nov 1st, 10am-4pm, 58 Chestnut Hill Rd, Colchester. Household/ kitchen items, 1960s toys, bunk beds, hanger plant pots, baskets/bushel/half/ pint, lamps, wall hangings, firewood/kindling, table saws and more.

The logo for Absolute Air Services LLC features the company name in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font with a white outline. The text is slanted upwards and set against a red swoosh that curves under the letters. The background of the entire page is a light blue sky with bare tree branches.

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News Bulletin

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SPECIAL POLITICAL SECTION

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Voting for Vergean

To the Editor:

My name is Anne Whalen, and I'd like to share my support for Bethanne Vergean in the upcoming Board of Education election. I've had the pleasure of coaching alongside Bethanne for many years and serving on various boards together. I can honestly say that her dedication to childhood development is remarkable. She goes above and beyond her professional responsibilities, dedicating much of her free time to initiatives that truly benefit our kids and our community. I believe she will be a fantastic advocate for our students and their families.

Thank you,
Anne Whalen – Portland

Seeking Reelection to PZC

To the Editor:

My name is Leigh Ann Hutchinson. I am the incumbent member on the Andover Planning and Zoning Commission; running for re-election. I am a lifelong resident of Andover. Having chosen to stay here, I am vitally interested in ensuring the town's future progress through substantial planning for effective land use, how that relates to the demographics and needs of the Town's residents, and, local business needs. Appropriate planning for these items includes the study of housing, aging in place, climate, and economic development.

I am a former eight-year member of the Board of Selectmen. During that time, BOS members had liaison assignments to other boards and commissions. I was the liaison to all of the other land use commissions; the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, the Conservation Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. This background provided additional beneficial municipal and land use experience. I have completed relevant training provided to Planning and Zoning members by the Connecticut Bar Association. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing and a graduate certificate in gerontology from UConn.

I would appreciate the support of all of you to continue this work on behalf of the Town. Thank you.

Leigh Ann Hutchinson – Andover

Keep Colchester Moving Forward

To the Editor:

As DTC chair, I'm so proud of our candidates on the Democratic ticket this year and am confident that they're the right people to keep Colchester moving in the right direction.

Andrew Cournoyer, incumbent, and newcomer Eric Jackson, a U.S. Navy veteran and scientific data analyst, offer good judgment and fairness to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

As Treasurer, Sean Gillespie, who specializes in computerized financial systems, has learned our town systems. He is running for the Board of Finance joined by Jillian Vinci, an incumbent and insurance expert, and Krista Kardys, a skilled nurse and current BAA member. Dave Koji, a small business owner with a degree in business, and previous chair of the ARPA Committee, seeks to be Treasurer.

Two amazing former teachers with 70+ years of experience between them are running for the Board of Education as newcomers. Gussie Gilberti, retired special education teacher, and Nancy Nelson, former math teacher, will work hard to identify the best ways to spend our tax dollars so that kids in the classroom benefit the most.

Rosemary Coyle, with her historical knowledge and dedication to Colchester, is a true leader on the Board of Selectmen. Denise Turner, a lifelong Colchester resident, has been a strong voice of reason and insight on BOS. They are both up for re-election.

Our First Selectman Bernie Dennler has changed the way things run in town hall since his election in 2023. We are back on the right track and making progress. Over \$5M in grants have been secured under Bernie's leadership and he's proactively planned to maintain our buildings, roads, and facilities. Learn more about Bernie's

plans to keep us moving forward at bernieforcolchester.com.

This is the team with a proven record of successes and deliverables. They plan to bring up-grades at Bacon Academy, the RecPlex, Norton Park, the Youth Center, and the former Senior Center (future home of the Police Department) to fruition. But first, they need your support.

These candidates have worked hard for your vote and I have no doubt that they will bring the perfect mix of experience and new ideas to town government. Please vote to keep moving forward this weekend from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Town Hall or on Election Day from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. at your regular polling place.

With gratitude,
Monica Swyden, Chair
Colchester Democratic Town Committee

Good Governance Starts With Good People

To the Editor:

As a community, we are fortunate to have four outstanding candidates running for the Portland Board of Education: Kim Nagy Marushock, Jody Grosso, Erin Livensparger, and Bethanne Vergean. Each brings integrity, experience, and a deep commitment to our students and schools. Any one of them — and all of them together — would be wonderful additions to our Board.

Kim Nagy Marushock brings a proven record of success as a current Board of Education member — thoughtful, experienced, and focused on what's best for Portland's students. The other Democratic candidates may be new to board service, but their desire to serve grows from years of volunteer work, community involvement, and a shared belief that our children's success strengthens our town.

Good governance isn't about politics — it's about leadership, collaboration, and care for the community we all call home. These candidates embody those values, and they will bring steady, student-centered leadership to our schools. Vote Row A: early voting is underway.

Meg Scata – Portland

Note: Scata is secretary to the Portland Board of Education and vice president of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education.

Supports Lavoy

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support for Tim Lavoy as a candidate for the Portland Board of Selectmen. I have known Tim for well over a decade and have witnessed firsthand the qualities that make him an exceptional choice to serve our community.

Tim is a person of integrity, dedication, and common sense. Whether it is volunteering at local events, serving on our town committees, supporting local schools, or helping neighbors in need, he consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to the well-being and success of our town.

Professionally and personally, Tim brings decades of fiscal, staff, and client managerial experience. One of the most impressive traits of this worthy candidate is the dedication of his personal time to researching long documents often overlooked, but always pertinent, to making savvy decisions for our community.

Tim considers all perspectives, and makes decisions guided by both facts and compassion. He is a wordsmith with a gift for succinct communication, collaboration with opposing viewpoints, and transparency. In every sense of the word, Tim Lavoy is a great leader in our community and integral to our future success. I believe it is time to focus on what is important for Portland in a fiscally responsible manner. I urge my fellow residents to join me in supporting Tim Lavoy for the Board of Selectmen. I thank all those who dedicate their time for our community, and wish all candidates the best!

Sincerely,
Janet Colonghi – Portland
Resident Since 1989
Local Business Owner Since 2012

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 business owner 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

Andover Board of Finance

Hello My Fellow Andover Citizens Friends and Taxpayers:

I'm Don Denley, longtime resident, Army veteran, small business owner. Today I'm respectfully asking for your vote and support in our upcoming Nov. 4th election. If elected the town will get my dedication, expertise and experience. We will share a vested interest.

I will spend our tax dollars wisely and will focus on conservation, spending keeping our taxes in check for seniors, working-class families and long-time Ando residents while supporting our highly regarded schools, and essential town services. We live in Andover because it's a peaceful safe place to live, raise families and to be able to participate in the town budget process. I have always supported the town meeting type of government where we the taxpayers and citizens have a voice on the budget and how our tax dollars are spent. That process was put at risk at the last charter revision but it was rejected as it should have been

We've seen our taxes rise considerably over the last several years and that will have my attention and I will work closely with our superintendent of schools with their projects and increase enrollment. I will be a steady, reliable member of the Board of Finance at a time when our Leadership is going through some significant changes. We will be getting a new town clerk, a new town administrator, and a new chairman on the Board of Finance. These are important positions. Carol Lee, Eric Anderson and Marc Brinker have given us great service and they will not be easy to replace.

These are important issues that we as a town will have to address. I will take this job very seriously, do my research, make informed decisions and I will represent all the people of Andover and you will always have my ear as I ask for your vote on Nov. 4th. Thank you.

Don Denley – Andover

McFarland Seeks Your Vote

Dear Neighbors:

My name is Susan McFarland and I'm running for Marlborough Board of Selectmen. I previously served on the Zoning Commission for 12 years, including as vice chair. Having recently retired from a career in environment, health and safety (EHS), I decided now was the perfect time to serve my town again. Someone asked me how my experience qualifies me for the BOS, so here is some insight into my background.

Working in EHS compliance for publicly-traded companies was both challenging and rewarding. We were dedicated to providing strong returns to our shareholders, and we had to achieve compliance. iLnce those two things can sometimes be at odds, we were constantly thinking outside the box and looking for compromise. We built cross-functional teams to find solutions that would protect the employees and natural resources, and bring us into compliance with the law for the lowest cost all while minimizing the impact on operations. Depending on the issue or regulatory requirement, I worked with manufacturing supervisors, process engineers, employee safety committees and management to find creative solutions that worked for the various stakeholders.

I see the BOS in a similar role. As the legislative

body for our town, the BOS represents taxpayers and therefore should be soliciting input from all parties – seniors, families, local businesses – and then working to identify policies or programs that meet the residents' needs while respecting their wallets and keeping our taxes down. Fortunately, every BOS meeting has two items built into the agenda to allow for public comments – a great opportunity for residents to make their voices heard on the topics being addressed by the board.

I'm asking for your vote in this election, and then I hope to hear from you at future BOS meetings.

Sincerely,
Susan McFarland – Marlborough

Will Hold Admin Accountable

To the Editor:

I have watched a few BOE meetings and noticed how Salvatore Nucifora was much more engaged than the rest on the BOE. I trust his opinions and his judgment as I have heard him state he has been a resident of East Hampton for 50 years.

I believe he will continue to support the children's education and hold the administration accountable.

Sincerely,
David Cole – East Hampton

Vote for Lawrence and Ockman

To the Editor:

Jan Lawrence is running for the Hebron Board of Selectmen. The town can do no better than Jan! He is dedicated, smart, engaging, and thoughtful. He is an amazing listener and problem-solver. He loves this town and will always do right by it.

Adam Ockman is running for the Hebron Board of Finance. He is perfect for this job! First, he likes numbers! He is an actuary and has a degree in mathematics. Second, he regularly attends Board of Finance meetings and already understands the financial situation of Hebron and the challenges it faces. Third, he cares deeply about helping and contributing to Hebron. As stated above, he is perfect for the job!

Please vote for Jan Lawrence for the Hebron Board of Selectmen and Adam Ockman for the Board of Finance.

Denise Rodosevich – Hebron

Proud Father Supports His Son

To the Editor:

Please support my son Bernie Dennler for your first selectman! As residents of this beautiful community, I am sure you have kept yourselves on top of all the positive accomplishments Bernie and his team have achieved by reading his weekly newsletter. This report shows his commitment to his transparency as to how the town functions each week and how your tax dollars are being utilized to keep a balanced town budget.

When my son took office, he quickly put in place a budget freeze so he could restructure the finance department because of various budgetary flaws. He was able to complete, in 18 months, three overdue audits to secure an AA+ bond rating, saving the taxpayers thousands of dollars. Bernie also restructured other services in town to best serve the community and save tax dollars. Some of Bernie's accomplishments, to name a few of many, replacing the self-contained breathing equipment our firefighters needed, the replacement of needed aged fleet of fire apparatus that Bernie pushed for when on the Board of Finance and being part of the Apparatus Replacement Subcommittee. As first selectman he secured over \$5 million in various grants to deliver needs to strengthen public safety, protecting Colchester's environment and history, promoting economic development, supporting our roads, parks and the towns infrastructure, and savings that protect our community taxpayers with a balanced budget. Please go to Bernieforcolchester.com and see for yourself the accomplishments his team provided to you over the past two years.

In two years, Bernie has kept his promise to

See Letters, page 3



Your Republican Team!



Town Council



From left: Eric Peterson, Ted Hintz, Alannah Coshow, Tim Feegel & Darin Hurne

Board of Finance



From left: Jim Radavich, Bridget McLennan, Joey Guest & Alison Walck

We Know it's...

*Your Family * Your Community*

Your Money

Board of Education



Nathan Jaycox



Sarah LeBlanc



Sal Nucifora

Zoning Board of Appeals



Julie Ciucias



Cathy Ann Clark

***Vote Republican
Tuesday, Nov. 4***

Board of
Assessment Appeals



Diane Achenbach-Zatorski

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

★ *Letters cont. from page 1*

bring Colchester together and fulfill his commitment to thousands of residents across the community that shared their concerns and where they thought Colchester needed to be going. My son is a great listener and never passes judgement! (Always looking at the positive side of any conversation). In the last two years Bernie has proven he respects everyone with integrity regardless of politics. “That’s who Bernie is.” He comes from a family of farmers, firefighters, educators, and small business owners. He respects family values and traditions. In closing, Bernie has proved his ability to bring local boards together, communicate across party lines, be open minded and build solutions based on community collaboration.

Please vote for my son, First Selectman Bernie Dennler, Nov. 4th.

**Thank you! A proud father,
Bernard W. Dennler Jr. – Colchester**

In Support of Ted Hintz

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Ted Hintz Jr. for Town Council. I have worked with Ted on multiple personal situations and on the budget for the East Hampton Ambulance Association. He has integrity and a willingness to help those in need. I have grown in my respect and confidence in his abilities and his honesty. I am a registered Independent and endeavor to make my decisions on who would be the best for the job at hand. I believe Ted would bring a perspective that will bring positive changes to East Hampton. I know he has lived here his whole life and wants nothing but to see it prosper and be a safe place for us to live and raise our families.

Debra Mayer – East Hampton

A Solid Choice

To the Editor:

Election season is in full swing and I offer my enthusiastic support to Brian O’Reilly, candidate for Board of Finance. Brian is my husband, my best friend, and my most trusted advisor, so I cannot help but be biased in my position. With that disclosure out of the way, let me sing his praises....

As a longtime Hebron resident, Brian has served the community in different ways over the years. From coaching baseball, to serving on the Hebron Board of Education, hosting neighborhood block parties and supporting local contractors and small business owners, Brian enjoys the connections and friendships he has formed in this town. People know that they can count on him to show up, build up, level up and crack up! He has a great sense of humor to match his many attributes that make him a strong candidate for the Board of Finance.

He’s a real person. The OG Self-Made Success Story. With grit and tactical application of learned strategies and a well-developed gut sense for tackling challenges, he became a successful small business owner for more than 20 years, a proud dad of four amazing grown children and a person who is respected and well-known in the New England area by people of all different backgrounds and interests.

One of Brian’s greatest assets is his uncanny ability to decode problematic situations and offer fresh solutions. I think that a big part of his “secret sauce” is his respect for all stakeholders and his eagerness to listen to all parties involved. His approach to collaboration and his leadership style fosters healthy discourse and brings forward ideas and strategies that are balanced, creative and straightforward.

Brian O’Reilly is a solid choice to represent your financial interests in town government. He’s also an all-around fun guy to be around, so don’t be shy about reaching out to him with any questions or concerns.

Brandie O’Reilly – Amston

I Ain’t Dead Yet

To the Editor:

Hello, I am Ken Hjulstrom and I am a candidate for Marlborough’s Board of Finance.

I’ve been reading various statements made by candidates running for office in Marlborough. One of the issues raised is the older average age of members on our various Boards. In last week’s *Rivereast*, Anthony Bratz repeated that criticism.

Well Anthony, I am 70 years old and I ain’t dead yet. I consider myself mature and experienced. True, I might take the occasional mid-afternoon nap. And I might not be up to doing some of the things I did 20, or 30, or 40 years ago. But, I still think I have the ability to serve my Town well and that I can make a difference as a member of the Board of Finance.

I don’t think that being decades older than some of my constituents automatically creates a “gap in perspective for younger residents,” as Mr. Bratz professes. Does Mr. Bratz feel that his youth might make it difficult for him to represent those who are decades older than him?

When you go to the polls, I would suggest you evaluate the candidates based on their professed policies, experience and qualifications.

So, on Nov. 4th, I would ask that you vote for me, the “old guy.” I promise I won’t die for a while..... at least not during my four-year term on the Board of Finance. I promise!

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

Vote Row A

To the Editor:

I am voting for Row A and you should too if you want to keep Colchester moving forward. Bernie has proven his leadership these past two years. I know firsthand what it takes and Bernie has it all. Make sure we keep the gains!

**Sincerely,
Mary Bylone – Colchester**

**Rob McLaughlin
for Selectman**

To the Editor:

As Election Day approaches, I encourage Hebron residents to support Rob McLaughlin for one of the two open seats on the Hebron Board of Selectmen.

Though this is Rob’s first campaign for public office, he has been deeply involved in our community for more than 20 years. He has volunteered countless hours as a youth sports coach and currently serves as president of the Friends of RHAM Football. His long record of service shows his commitment to Hebron and his belief in giving back.

Rob has made it clear that his goal is to continue Hebron’s tradition of collaboration between both parties and to always put the community first. As he said himself, “When I was given the opportunity to serve the town I love, I couldn’t turn it down.”

Rob, his wife Julie, and their sons Ryan and Jake have been proud to call Hebron home for many years. His dedication to our town, combined with his professional experience and common-sense approach, make him an outstanding choice for Selectman.

I urge my fellow residents to join me in voting for Rob McLaughlin — a candidate who truly represents the best of Hebron.

**Sincerely,
Angela Corentin – Amston**

Vote Row A

To the Editor:

This November, East Hampton voters have a great opportunity to support a team of Democratic candidates who truly care about our town’s future. Joelyn Leon and Karen Wanat stand out as thoughtful, community-minded leaders who bring both experience and heart to the table.

Joelyn Leon offers a fresh perspective grounded in decades of advocacy for working families across Connecticut. As political director of the Connecticut AFL-CIO and a longtime East Hampton resident, she knows how to balance smart budgeting with strong support for public education and seniors. She’s ready to make sure our town’s resources are used wisely – because the Democrats know it’s your money.

Karen Wanat, our current vice chair of the Town Council, has spent years giving back to East Hampton. Whether it’s leading PTO efforts or helping revive the Center School drama program, Karen understands that schools are the soul of our community. She’s also a strong voice for protecting our natural resources and keeping East Hampton’s small-town charm safe from unchecked development.

Together with Dean Markham, Jack Solomon, and Richard Knotek, Joelyn and Karen are part of a team that values transparency, accountability, and smart investment in our future.

On Nov. 4th, vote Row A to keep East Hampton a place where families thrive, nature is protected, and growth is guided—not dictated.

Kyle Dostaler – East Hampton

Voting Matters So Much

To the Editor:

This November 4th isn’t one of those flashy elections, but please vote anyway.

Turnout for elections like this is usually expected to be embarrassingly small, and yet the positions on the ballot will have huge impact on all of us. Town clerks, school boards, finance boards, planning and zoning. The decisions these people make will affect our lives every day; the taxes we pay, the quality of our children’s education, the local businesses we visit. Across the county, 52,000 positions are up for grabs. Please vote.

When you do, I hope you choose people with integrity over party or campaign promises. Select people with empathy and who care about the same things that are important to you. People who know what they are FOR, not just what they are AGAINST. People who offer ideas rather than mud to sling. Most of all, please vote for people who value the truth.

Democracy is so fragile... that’s never been clearer. We need to want it. Things we all take for granted, like our vote, are not guaranteed. Please vote.

I hope you will join me on November 4th, exhausted after our long days, and do one more thing: Drag yourself down to the town hall, fill in the ovals beside your candidates, collect your “I voted” sticker from the kind volunteer standing by the ballot box, and help ensure we put some decent people in these very important positions.

Please vote. It matters so much. Please. Vote.

Jay Kamins – Andover

***Note:** Kamins is running as a Democrat for Andover Planning and Zoning Alternate for the town of Andover, but said he is writing this letter as an individual.*

Vote for the Best

Andover Residents:

Nov. 4th is Election Day. Your vote is very important in getting the right people elected. Please help get these Republican candidates elected:

Roberta Dougherty for Town Clerk;
Don Denley, Ronald Langlois and Anna Dziadosz for Board of Finance;
Marcie Miner and Sharon St. Rock for Board of Education;
Leigh Ann Hutchinson and Stephen King for Planning and Zoning;
Beata Gadomski for Planning and Zoning – Alternate;
Andreas Halidis and Adrian Mandeville for Zoning Board of Appeals;
Suzanne Langlois for Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate;
Shawn Covell for Fire Commissioner.

These are the residents of Andover who stepped up to help make our Town government the best. Your vote is very important – so please vote on Nov. 4th, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If you can’t make it on Nov. 4th, you can still do early voting on Saturday, Nov. 1, and Sunday, Nov. 2, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Town Hall Community Room.

Vote for the best – vote Republican. Thank you in advance.

**Carol Barton
Chair, Andover Republican
Town Committee**

Walck – Not Talk

To the Editor:

I am just one of the candidates running for the Board of Finance. Just one. Any board or commission takes a collaborative effort, statesmanship, compromise yet independent thinking. Ultimately it is a team effort-not one individual who makes the decision for the town. Not one member gets all the credit for the ultimate outcome either.

I am asking you to consider voting for me this election cycle. I will do as I stated in the opening paragraph and serve the town to the best of my ability and make the decisions I feel are in the Town’s best interests, and not necessarily mine. My last name says it all. Walck – not talk.

Alison Walck

Support the Democrats

To the Editor:

As an East Hampton resident, I am proud to support the full slate of Democratic candidates in our local elections. These candidates are qualified, thoughtful, and committed to the town of East Hampton. They are deeply invested in our town’s success – its financial health, its educational excellence, its character, its history, and its future.

Our incumbent Democrats have demonstrated a commitment to civility and process that is refreshing in our modern political climate, and the new candidates all bring relevant experience and new perspectives to the positions they hope to fill. I firmly believe these candidates will work hard to balance the complex, sometimes-competing needs of all East Hampton’s residents.

I hope you will join me in voting Row A for East Hampton.

Margaret Malley – East Hampton

**Democrats Have
Families’ Backs**

To the Editor:

There is nothing more critical on Election Day than the future of education in East Hampton. That doesn’t just mean the school board – whoever wins majorities on the Town Council and Board of Finance will dictate the town’s educational future for years to come.

That’s why it is so important that East Hampton vote Row A for Democrats on Tuesday.

The last budget season was amongst the most contentious in years. Regardless of reasons why the referendum failed, the Board of Education was forced to make some tough choices. Many educators lost their jobs. Programs like athletics and music faced significant reductions. If not for an upswell of support at the second referendum, things would have been starkly worse.

As Election Day comes, the national financial picture is bleak. As of writing this letter, the federal government is still shut down, and the Department of Education has been gutted. Safety nets for families such as SNAP benefits have been compromised. The state continues to short towns on funding, especially for special education.

We are in a storm, yet our priorities need to be crystal clear.

Good schools are the heart of a good community. That should not be a partisan issue. Families move to East Hampton for the quality of life, including the reputation of public education. As the school district succeeds, we see the benefits throughout town.

I know the counterarguments. You’ve seen it stated that the Board of Education budget should be itemized (it is). We’ve been accused of leveraging sports, arts, and class sizes to our advantage (we don’t, we state the truth). Others correlate enrollment with expense (ignoring the growing need for special education and skyrocketing cost to provide quality services).

The fact is that Democrats have proven many

times over to be the party seeking to preserve our schools and improve upon shortcomings. We are not throwing away the paddles during the storm. In fact, we are going to row harder.

On Election Day, vote for Markham, Solomon, Knotek, Wanat, and Leon. Vote for Finn and Carterisano. Vote for Kohler, Strange, and Clark-Barney. Vote for Democrats on the ballot from top to bottom.

Democrats have the backs of East Hampton families. Please join me in voting Row A on Tuesday.

**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.*

**Strong, Transparent,
Accountable**

To the Editor:

As early voting has started, and Election Day approaches on Tuesday, Nov. 4th, I want to encourage my fellow Colchester residents to make your voices heard and support the Democratic slate of candidates who are dedicated to keeping our town strong, transparent, and accountable.

As someone running for town treasurer, I’m proud to stand alongside a team that believes in open communication, thoughtful planning, and ensuring that every dollar spent is clearly justified and aligned with community priorities. Together, we’re committed to maintaining the services that make Colchester such a great place to live – while making sure town spending always reflects both need and value.

Local elections matter. Every vote makes a difference in shaping the direction of our town. I hope you’ll join me in supporting the Democratic candidates who will continue to lead Colchester with integrity, transparency, and a clear sense of purpose.

**David Koji – Colchester
Candidate for Town Treasurer**

**Duksa for Colchester
Board of Education**

To the Editor:

I came to Colchester in the late ‘70s to teach biology and chemistry at Bacon Academy and have enjoyed our great town these many years! However, the rising tax burden has sent many of my friends out of town and out of state! Please consider the newly-endorsed Republican candidates that are intent on curbing unnecessary spending, supporting our students, and listening to parents.

As a parent, Olivia Duksa shares a passion and concern for our Colchester schools. Olivia is a gifted teacher for both horse and rider and I have benefited from her instruction for almost 10 years. Although her classroom is an indoor arena, I see the similarities of my own profession. Olivia discerns problems and creates solutions! She gives attention to detail and makes constant adjustments.

Too many school systems embrace the “fluff” of new technologies and the digital age without acknowledging the decreasing cognition of students in their schools or admitting to the drain on funds from media overload. Please vote for Olivia Duksa, Cari Duijou, and Corrinne Loyola, the team that prioritizes overall student performance and student health.

**Sincerely,
Colleen Bjorbekk – Colchester
Retired Science Teacher**

Vote for Susan McFarland

To the Editor:

The upcoming municipal elections are extremely important, and I urge you to take the time to get out and vote. Each vote is important as some elections are decided by just a handful.

When you vote in Marlborough you have two open seats on the Board of Selectmen to fill. I urge you to vote for Susan McFarland, a strong candidate who has so much to offer, for one of those open seats!

Susan has a strong background in leadership as well as a record of volunteerism. That combined with her leadership roles and work with diverse teams in the community will serve her well in this new role. Being vice chair for most of her 12 years on the Zoning Commission shows that she knows how to listen, how to weigh the facts, and how to work as a team member to get the job done.

The Marlborough community will be well-served with Susan on the BOS. Please lend her your support – you won’t be sorry!

Finally, I would like to point out a comment made by the editor of the *Rivereast* in the Oct. 17 edition of the newspaper. He reminded letter writers of this rule: “After this week there are only two *Rivereasts* until Election Day. That means that next week’s issue, the Oct. 24 *Rivereast*, will be the LAST CHANCE for any writers to send in letters critical of candidates or attacking them in any way.” I’m so glad to read this statement, one that is made each election cycle, but wouldn’t it be wonderful if this rule was in place for EVERY week during campaign season! Candidates would tell us what they offer if elected, their qualifications, and

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★ *Letters cont. from page 3*

friends and neighbors and colleagues would give positive reasons why the candidate of their choice should get your vote. How refreshing that would be!

Please make every effort to get out and vote on Election Day or any of the early voting days. In Marlborough, cast your vote for Susan McFarland for Board of Selectmen. Her presence on the BOS will be a positive one, and we can count on her to represent everyone in our town equally and fairly. Thank you!

**Respectfully submitted,
Deb Bourbeau – Marlborough**

***Note:** Bourbeau is currently a member of the Board of Selectmen but is writing as an individual.*

Hebron: A New Way on Row A

To the Editor:
This has been one of the best campaigns I've been part of, and that's largely due to the Hebron Democratic Town Committee's new chairwoman, Cris Lawrence, and her visionary leadership. Cris believes in the power of community, consensus, and service, and these qualities are exemplified in the exceptional candidates she helped select to run for local office this year. We're moving in an exciting new direction, and the town of Hebron benefits!

This campaign is all about YOU – the residents of Hebron. It's the most important year to vote! The people you elect will set a path forward for the town and should reflect your values. Your schools, your taxes, your town services, and active and passive recreational options – all are impacted by your vote on Nov. 4.

If you have already voted, thank you! Early voting has been a wonderful addition for Connecticut. It allows more voices to be heard at times that work for all busy schedules. If you haven't, I'd like to encourage you to visit hebrondems.com and learn more about our impressive slate. We have candidates with a wide variety of work and life experiences. We've run a positive, locally based campaign that's focused on you. Our team has knocked many doors to listen and answer your questions.

It's an honor to run as a part of the Hebron Democratic slate. On Nov. 4, I hope you will consider giving us your trust to serve Hebron well and set a new way forward.

**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.*

DPWAC Update

To the Editor:
On Monday, 10/20, we had our regular 3rd Monday of the month meeting. At our meeting we had a presentation of the most up-to-date plans for the Old Colchester Road site. We voted unanimously to have the Architects move straight on to design development from the schematic design. Once the schematic design is done, we will be able to get pricing for the complete project. This pricing is expected to be completed in four to five weeks.

We discussed some recent letters to the Board of Selectman and the Rivereast regarding the additional costs associated with the closure of the transfer station and the implementation of town-wide trash pick-up. Several other costs affiliated with the Old Colchester Road site were also discussed. The disposal of waste water, fire suppression tanks, septic systems, well drilling, and available electric to the site. These were just a few. We also discussed the cost of delaying the project further and that there are costs to run electric, gas, water and sewer to a site, such as the Horton property. Unrelated to cost, we are addressing resident letters regarding the dog kennel orientation, the swap shack and potential future composting operations.

On 10/22, the test pits for the septic system leeching field were dug. This is a critical factor, as these will determine the placement of the well for the site. And with two septic systems and a 75' minimum separation from the well this leaves a very finite area for the well placement.

We have passed the second phase of environmental testing within acceptable limits and no further testing is required!

At this past meeting there were two residents that participated in the public comment portion of our meeting. They provided concerns regarding the lack of a Plan "B," should this not be approved at referendum in the spring. Richard Steiner reiterated that we have been tasked by the BOS to be "laser focused" on the Old Colchester Road site. Please, as always email me at: thabicht@hebronct.gov and visit the Town of Hebron's website at: www.hebronct.gov for the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). There was some discussion of our communications team adding some question and answers voiced by several residents of late.

Please stay tuned, come to our meetings, come to the Board of Selectmen meetings and share your thoughts and concerns during the public comments portion of the meetings.

**Sincerely,
Todd Habicht, Vice Chairman
Hebron DPWAC**

A Little About Me

To the Editor:
A little about me. I attended MIT studying chemistry and had a National Merit Scholarship. My family had little money, my father was a postman and my mother was a seamstress. I then went to Columbia University and earned a PhD in physical chemistry with a NASA Traineeship and working. I worked for 38 years for Praxair doing research and development and technology planning. My wife, Jan, was a high school chemistry teacher. When I retired, Jan and I bought an Island here in East Hampton and downsized from one house to seven houses. We're not very good at numbers.

In East Hampton I have been very involved with community service including Rotary, the Lake Commission, the Clean Energy Task Force, the Library Board and others. Jan and I have three daughters, two teachers and a school counselor. When Jan passed, we created a scholarship to benefit women who want to pursue a career in science.

On the Town Council I hope to continue to use my knowledge and analytical skills to help East Hampton go in a direction that will benefit the current and future residents.

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

Ready to Serve

To the Editor:
As Election Day approaches, I'd want to take this last opportunity to tell you why I am the best candidate for the four-year Board of Finance term. I have been a registered nurse for over 30 years. I have worked in an Assisted Living community as the Resident Care Director overseeing the daily operations of the medical staff. I was the school nurse at CES overseeing the daily operation of the health office including the budget. I worked in insurance making clinical determinations based on the insurance payer criteria. Working in home health care, I visited people who were struggling both physically and financially.

As a nurse I have honed my critical thinking skills. I assess and ask questions to gain enough information to make sound decisions. I seek out constructive dialogue and value colleagues' input. Nurses must be good with numbers and calculations because we administer all types of medications. I know I have the qualifications to be a good steward of the taxpayers money. I will be a collaborative board member maintaining good communication and decorum.

Please vote row A and support me and all the Democratic candidates!

**Krista Kardys – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Finance**

***Note:** Kardys is a current member of the Colchester Board of Assessment Appeals, but said she is speaking as a citizen.*

Neighbors Who Care Deeply

To the Editor:
As a longtime resident of Hebron, I am asking for your support in the upcoming election for the Hebron Board of Selectmen. I bring with me decades of business experience and leadership in state government, and I am honored to be running alongside my colleague and incumbent Selectman Tiffany Thiele, whose dedication and leadership have served our community well. Together, we are committed to keeping Hebron a place where families can thrive and residents feel heard.

We also encourage voters to support the entire Democratic slate of candidates, who together bring decades of shared residency, community service, and leadership to Hebron. Our team includes neighbors who have volunteered on town boards and commissions, coached youth sports, and worked tirelessly in local organizations – all united by a shared goal to make Hebron stronger while preserving the character and spirit that make our town special.

In addition to Tiffany Thiele and myself for the Board of Selectmen, please support:

Adam Ockman and Ryan Herrick for Board of Finance;

Heather Petit (incumbent) and Nicole Matthews (incumbent) for Hebron Board of Education;

Jessica Hall and Rudy Dellafiore for RHAM Board of Education;

David Sousa (incumbent) for Planning & Zoning Commission;

Davis Howell (incumbent) for Planning & Zoning Alternate;

Cathy McSweeney for Zoning Board of Appeals; Adam Thiele for Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate;

Maura Baker for Board of Assessment Appeals; Francesca Villani (incumbent) for Town Clerk.

Together, this dedicated group of candidates represents a wide range of experience and a deep commitment to Hebron. We are focused on supporting working families, promoting thoughtful growth, maintaining fiscal responsibility, and ensuring transparent, responsive local government.

On Election Day — Tuesday, Nov. 4 — please vote Row A and support Jan Lawrence, Tiffany Thiele, and the full Democratic team — neighbors who care deeply about Hebron's future and have the experience and dedication to guide it forward.

**Sincerely,
Jan Lawrence
Candidate, Hebron Board of Selectmen**

Vote for Eric

To the Editor:
Why vote for Eric Peterson for Town Council? Eric cares deeply about East Hampton. As a lifelong resident, he always puts our community first. He's smart, practical, hardworking, genuinely kind, and a devoted husband and dad. Most importantly, Eric, has true integrity and does what's right, even when it isn't easy. Eric will serve East Hampton well on the council. Please vote for Eric Peterson.

**Thank you,
Laura Engel-Peterson – East Hampton**

Vote Row A in Colchester

To the Editor:
I am a Democratic candidate for the Board of Education. My team and I are asking for your vote on Election Day. There are so many reasons why our slate is the best choice for Colchester.

Bernie Dennler, along with Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner as selectmen, have been working to move our town forward in the last two years. They have cleaned up town finances, balanced the budget and secured AA+ credit rating. They have brought in over \$5 million in grants, cut waste and improved employee morale to end constant turnover at Town Hall.

On the Board of Finance, Sean Gillespie, present town treasurer, Jillian Vinci, incumbent, and Krista Kardys, a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, will make affordability and responsible planning their top priorities. They will bring forward balanced budgets that are fair and make sure that important projects like the Bacon Academy fields/HVAC/RecPlex upgrades, Youth Center repairs, get done affordably.

Dave Koji, Colchester business owner, who chaired the ARPA committee will help keep Colchester affordable by aggressively seeking efficiencies, is running for town treasurer.

Andrew Cornoyer, incumbent, and Eric Jackson, professional R & D scientist and veteran US Navy, are running for Board of Assessment Appeals. They will bring a wealth of knowledge to their positions and maintain professionalism in our town government

Gussie Gilberti and myself, Nancy Nelson, presently member of Youth First Coalition and CORE commission, retired professional educators with over 70 years in public education are running for the Board of Education. We know what it takes for schools to be effective.

Please vote Row A for the Democratic slate on Nov. 4 – or with early voting until Nov. 2.

**Sincerely,
Nancy Nelson
Colchester Democratic Candidate
For Board of Education**

Colchester Promises Kept

Dear Colchester Neighbors:
With Election Day next week, I am reflecting on the campaign of two years ago when I was elected first selectman.

Two years ago, I promised that my number one priority would be cleaning up town finances. Within weeks of taking office, I put in place a budget freeze and launched a restructuring of our finance department. I made sure we stopped burning through cash on interest-only debt payments and saved taxpayers almost \$2 million in the process.

Two years ago, I said we needed to stop gutting the road paving and buildings/grounds maintenance budgets. Since then, we restarted our road improvement program and made significant investments in our buildings, town parks, and athletic fields.

Two years ago, I said I would put a stop to efforts to sell off Colchester's public drinking water infrastructure to an Eversource-type private entity. Since then, I helped secure significant state funding for repairs to our public water infrastructure. We kept water rates flat and finally made the necessary investments to keep our water safe and protect capacity for future economic growth.

Two years ago, I said we would take a more aggressive approach to seeking grants to fund local opportunities. Since then, we have secured over \$5 million in grants to fund more walkable streets, outdoor recreation opportunities, fire and police initiatives, and infrastructure improvements.

Two years ago, I promised to stop the chaos, get toxic politics out of Town Hall, and most importantly to bring Colchester together. Since then, I have chaired a highly productive and bipartisan Board of Selectmen. Our board has not had a partisan vote in two years. Even the budget process has been calmer. I focused on putting forward balanced and transparent town budgets that have passed on the first referendum. This year, the town budget was unanimously supported by both Democrats and Republicans on the Board of Finance – something that would have been unthinkable two years ago.

Two years ago, I was honored to be elected as first selectman of Colchester. You placed your trust in me. I believe my record shows that I delivered on the promises made in that campaign, and I hope you will continue to place your trust in me by re-electing me on Tuesday, Nov. 4th.

**Sincerely,
Bernie Dennler
Colchester First Selectman**

No Politics on ZBA

To the Editor:
As we get closer to the vote, I've been thinking about why I'd like to, once again, sit on the Zoning Board of Appeals. In a nutshell, there are no politics involved in the decision-making process for the ZBA. The board reviews the requested hardship, and the subsequent decision is based on the zoned function of the land (as opposed to only a landowner's preferences) – all according to State and town-specific regulations.

Politics never came into play during my first term on the ZBA. All variance discussions focused on regulatory considerations like adjacent landowners' property and the effects on East Hampton.

As I stated in my previous two letters to the editor regarding my qualifications, if elected, I plan on staying true to these values and principles by respecting the rights and concerns of the property owner while adhering to regulations.

I'm able to hit the ground running, as they say, with no learning curve since I previously served as chairman of the ZBA and have sat on many other boards and committees over the years. I'm always happy to chat and answer questions, and I would appreciate your vote when you head to the polls.

**Matthew Walton (Mattie) – East Hampton
Candidate for Zoning Board of Appeals**

Local Democracy

To the Editor:
Local government is the bedrock of American democracy. Each town and city in the country is a building block underpinning the whole of our nation. Ensuring democracy requires that individual citizens participate in the process. Of course, in our complex society, this is often easier said than done. But there is no excuse for shirking one's duty as a citizen to vote, even when it seems inconvenient or fruitless.

For Colchester, I urge every voter to consider voting for the Democratic slate of candidates: vote Row A. Bernie Dennler and his team may not satisfy your every want and need, but they will work to keep Colchester on track to be the wonderful place we have to live in. We elect fellow citizens to represent our best interests, but not all of us have the exact same interests. Democracy requires co-operation and compromise, and Democrats have a good track record for serving the public on these dimensions.

I heartily endorse Jillian Vinci, Sean Gillespie, Krista Kardys, Denise Turner, Eric Jackson, Dave Koji, Gussie Gilberti, Nancy Nelson, Rosemary Coyle, Bernie Dennler, and Andrew Cournoyer. Please vote for them.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Why I Serve Colchester

To the Editor:
I recently had the pleasure of attending the Young Dems meeting at Bacon Academy with First Selectman Bernie Dennler. The room was filled with an incredible group of young people, our future leaders. They asked us excellent, thoughtful questions.

Their first question to me was why do you do this job if you are an unpaid volunteer. I did not have to pause long to give them my answer – giving back to my community and advocacy came immediately to my mind.

I have always considered myself a strong advocate both in my professional and volunteer careers. As a teacher I advocated for my students, ensuring that they had the tools and support they needed to succeed and learn. As the president of the Connecticut Education Association, I advocated for public education to increase ECS funding to our towns, for more availability of preschool education, and for the qualifications and standards of educators that would provide the best teachers for our students. As a Colchester selectman I have advocated for building projects that impacted our town like the William J. Johnston Middle School and the Colchester Senior Center, for our schools, for specific needs of our Town like the replacement of the fire apparatus, the sewer and water infrastructure project and our athletic fields, and for an individual or group that requests help on how to do something or who to speak with to solve a problem. I always listen to and research whatever I advocate to make the best decisions I can for the people I represent.

It would be my honor to continue to represent the people of Colchester on the Board of Selectmen and to continue to work to move our town forward. There are so many important projects on the horizon – Bacon athletic complex, Youth Center, Police Department, Veterans Hall and Food Bank to name a few, and I would like to bring my experience and knowledge to the decision-making process for our town.

I once again ask for your vote on Nov. 4th or during early voting through Nov. 2nd. You'll find me on Row A along with an incredible team led by First Selectman Bernie Dennler, and I ask for your support for them as well. The people you elect at the local level impact all our daily lives. Let's continue our positive impact going forward.

**Sincerely,
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester**

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

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Support for Dougherty

To the Editor:

I am submitting this letter to voice my support for Roberta Dougherty for town clerk. She has spent many years in the town office building as the assistant assessor, and she already has an excellent working knowledge of the day-to-day operations of the town. I feel very confident that she will work tirelessly for our town as the town clerk, just as she has in her previous position. I even put my name behind her as I nominated her for endorsement by the Republican Town Committee.

Though she wasn’t cross-endorsed by the Democratic Town Committee, I do know quite a few Democrats that will be voting for her. Proof of her drive and ambition can be seen in the handling of her campaign. I don’t believe that there has been a function in town that she hasn’t attended since her campaign began. I am confident that she will do a great job and look forward to her being elected for this position.

Steve Willard – Andover

A Vision for Hebron’s Future

Dear Fellow Hebron Residents:

I’d love to hear your thoughts on a few things that could help shape the future of our town:

- What do you think about making it easier for businesses to set up shop in our town center through more streamlined zoning regulations?
- How about adding some variety to our housing options, like 1- and 2-bedroom condos or apartments, in a village-style setting in the heart of town?
- And what about keeping up the good work we’ve been doing to protect the beautiful landscapes that make Hebron so special?

If these ideas sound like a step in the right direction for Hebron, I’d be honored to have your support as I run for reelection to the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission.

I am committed to working together to make Hebron an even better place to live for all of us.

Sincerely,
David Sousa – Hebron

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

Supports Wanat for Reelection

To the Editor:

East Hampton is finally heading in the right direction. The work done by the Democrats on the Town Council has produced real, measurable progress, and I urge everyone to continue that momentum by supporting them – especially Karen Wanat.

The amount of time Karen dedicates to this town and its residents is truly extraordinary. Her commitment goes far beyond the regular Town Council meetings – she also serves as liaison to multiple boards and commissions, including Inland Wetlands, Planning & Zoning, the Plan of Conservation & Development Steering Committee, and Field Use (school and town sports coordination), while meeting weekly with the Town Manager to stay on top of ongoing issues.

Karen is a proven leader who does not back down from tough challenges. She faces every issue head-on, with integrity, preparation, and the courage to stand up for what’s right.

On Election Day, I urge everyone to support Karen Wanat and the entire Democratic slate. Vote Row A all the way, and let’s keep East Hampton the small, vibrant town we all love.

Rick Wanat – East Hampton

Consider Who’s Running

To the Editor:

As you head to the polls next week, take a moment to consider who is running, not their party. These are town municipal elections. The candidates running are your neighbors, relatives and community members.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mike Beaulieu, a member of the RHAM Board of Education, for the past two years. We didn’t know each other and we are from different political parties. I think we both thought, how will this work out? What I saw in Mike was a community volunteer that considered what his role was on the board, and made decisions and recommendations accordingly. He carefully thought through the issues. He asked questions to garner as much information as possible. He is professional, considers opposing opinions and openly shares his thoughts and ideas. Political parties were never an issue. It was always about the schools and the towns represented in the schools.

This year, Mike is running for Board of Finance. Personally, I will be sorry to lose Mike on the RHAM Board of Ed, but the Board of Finance will be lucky to have him. He is a candidate that prioritizes the town and what he feels is in the town’s best interest.

In our town election, please consider the people running. Who walks the walk? Who has shown they behave in the best interests of the town? Who has shown they care about this town by contributing to making it better? Mike will be my vote.

Heather Summerer – Hebron

***Note:** Summerer is chair of the RHAM Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.*

Pitruzzello: Truly Humbled

To the Editor:

As Election Day approaches, I encourage everyone to complete their research and vote for the candidates they believe are best qualified to serve our Portland community. The next few years will be critical as we work together to find creative, efficient, and effective solutions to the challenges that lay ahead.

No matter who you support, I urge you to make your voice heard by casting your vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to earn your trust and support, it has truly been a humbling experience.

Vin Pitruzzello – Portland
Republican Candidate for
Board of Selectmen

Strong Women

To the Editor:

East Hampton Democrats are running some of the strongest women for office that we’ve seen in years. Karen Wanat has stood up for working families in town since joining the Town Council like nobody else. Joelyn Leon has been a force in the labor movement and in the halls of Hartford for years now, and I’m so excited to see her running for Town Council, and use that force on the local level. Nancy Kohler has chaired the Board of Education through the most tumultuous times there’s probably ever been for that board in East Hampton, and they’re still a cohesive and bipartisan unit, working for the best for the kids and the town.

The guys running for Town Council have been pretty good too. Dean Markham has brought civility and transparency back to the Town Council, Rich Knotek is the voice of reason and Jack Solomon owns an island!

Vote on Nov. 4th (or sooner), and vote Row A to keep East Hampton moving forward!

Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton

Team for Town Council

To the Editor

Someday, I will probably be considered like the headline East Hampton Past, used by me over 200 times in articles I’ve written about our town. But not today! Today I stand before you, in the present, as I have a dozen times previously either as a candidate for state representative or now, with your support, to be returned to the Town Council. I am a dedicated worker true to the values of our community, having gained your trust and support. I am running for reelection because there is much left undone and much left to maintain the quality of life we enjoy, for our children, grandchildren and theirs for years to come.

No candidate can accomplish this alone, although a few would like to think they could, believing themselves indispensable. I know better, which is why I surround myself with four highly qualified, equally hard-working Democratic Town Council candidates – Jack Solomon, Karen Wanat, Richard Knotek and Joelyn Leon. Together, with the residents and taxpayers, we will work to safeguard our natural resources, especially Lake Pocotopaug, write and enforce a solid Plan of Conservation and Development that protects our small-town character, maintain a quality educational opportunity for all our children, and being mindful of our financial ability to provide necessary services. I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy. Thank you.

Dean Markham – East Hampton
Chair and Candidate, East Hampton
Town Council

Thank You, Hebron, for Support

To the Editor:

As Election Day approaches, I want to take a moment to thank our wonderful Hebron community for your encouragement, thoughtful conversations, and trust over the years. I’ve truly loved working alongside parents, teachers, and town leaders to support our children and strengthen our schools – always keeping students, staff, and families at the heart of every decision. I’d be honored to have your support to continue this work and to keep our schools moving forward with thoughtful planning, fiscal responsibility, and a commitment to educational excellence.

I encourage you to support my fellow Democratic candidates, who share a vision of partnership, accountability, and progress for Hebron. Democratic candidates who share the same commitment to collaboration, fairness, and putting our community first: Tiffany Thiele and Jan Lawrence for Board of Selectmen; Adam Ockman and Ryan Herrick for Board of Finance; Jessica Hall and Rudy Dellafore for the RHAM Board of Education; fellow Hebron Board of Education member Nicole Matthews; and the rest of our amazing slate for Planning and Zoning, ZBA, and Board of Assessment Appeals.

Together, we can maintain strong schools, expand opportunities for all students, and ensure Hebron remains a community we’re proud to call home. Thank you for your continued support.

I hope you’ll come out and vote on Tuesday, November 4th, at Hebron Elementary School. Your voice and your vote truly make a difference.

Heather Petit – Amston
***Note:** Petit is chair of the Hebron Board of Education but said she is speaking as an individual.*

Thank You for Your Support

Dear Hebron Residents:

As Election Day approaches, I want to sincerely thank you for the support, encouragement, and conversations over the past several weeks. It has been a privilege to meet so many neighbors who care deeply about Hebron’s future.

When I first announced my candidacy for the Hebron Board of Finance, I pledged to bring fiscal responsibility, transparency, and long-term planning to every decision. Those commitments remain at the heart of my campaign. I believe that strong financial stewardship, honest communication, and careful planning are essential to keeping Hebron the vibrant, affordable community we all value.

Serving on the Board of Finance would be an honor, and I respectfully ask for your support at the polls. Your vote will help ensure that our town’s finances remain strong and that every tax dollar is managed with accountability and common sense.

Thank you again for the trust you’ve shown and for the opportunity to earn your vote. Together, we can continue building a stable and thriving future for Hebron.

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

Heart, Integrity, Service

To the Editor:

My name is Cris Lawrence, and I am writing in support of my husband, Jan Lawrence, who is running for Hebron’s Board of Selectmen. Jan and I have been married for 36 years, and in that time, he has been my best friend, my partner and a wonderful father to our son, whom we raised right here in Hebron.

Jan is genuinely the nicest person you will meet. He is compassionate, steady, and deeply committed to helping others. As the president of his union, he advocates every day for the well-being of his co-workers, listening, problem-solving, and standing up for what’s fair. Those same qualities, empathy, patience, integrity and leadership are what he will bring to the Board of Selectmen.

We have lived in Hebron for more than 26 years. From youth sports to community events, he has always believed in supporting the people who make this town special. Professionally, Jan has spent 13 years as an IT Developer and now as an IT Supervisor, where he modernizes and improves state services. He knows how to solve complex problems, manage projects, and work collaboratively with different viewpoints, skills that are incredibly valuable in local government.

Jan cares about Hebron’s future. He believes we can support our excellent schools, create more affordable housing options for retirees and young families, and work to attract new businesses that strengthen our tax base while maintaining the character of our town. With his past experience as a small business owner, he understands firsthand what it takes for a business to thrive and how Hebron can be a place where that happens.

I know Jan’s heart. I know his integrity. I know how deeply he believes in service. Hebron would be fortunate to have him on the Board of Selectman.

I am proud to support Jan Lawrence for Board of Selectmen on Nov. 4th. Early voting began Oct. 20th.

Thank you,
Cris Lawrence, Chair
Hebron Democratic Town Committee

Asking For Your Support

Dear Portland Neighbors:

With a few days until the municipal election in Portland, I am asking for your support one last time. Thank you to those who have already voted. Local elections matter, so please exercise your right to vote either through early voting until 11/2, or on Election Day, Tuesday 11/4, at Portland Middle School.

For the past several weeks, I have been out and about in Portland with my fellow Democratic candidates knocking on doors and speaking with residents as I seek support of my candidacy for the Portland Board of Selectmen. I appreciate the positive response we have received.

Information about my background and experience has been available on social media, in letters to the editor, and on the Portland Democratic Town Committee website at www.portlandctdtc.com. Additionally, I would like Portland voters to be aware of the issues that are important to me as a candidate. I believe in fiscal responsibility, strategic economic development, retaining an excellent public school system with a focus on a long-term solution for our school facilities, ongoing infrastructure improvements, continued riverfront access and development, and maintaining the great quality of life we have come to know in Portland.

I am ready to serve the Portland community as a member of the Board of Selectmen. I believe my proven leadership skills, public service background, and prior experience as a nine-year member of the Portland Board of Education make me uniquely qualified and demonstrates my commitment to serving the Portland community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Andrea Alfano
Candidate for the Portland Board of Selectmen

Marcie Miner for Andover BOE

To the Editor:

Marcie Miner has been a vocal and engaged participant in the town’s budget process for many years. She has consistently raised thoughtful concerns, particularly about the AES budget, which is a large portion of the total Town budget. As a resident, small business owner, and parent of two AES graduates, Marcie is deeply invested in how our tax dollars are spent – and she’s never afraid to ask the tough questions.

Our boards and commissions thrive when they include diverse voices and perspectives, not just individuals who follow the status quo. We need members who are willing to challenge assumptions, offer constructive pushback, and advocate for transparency and accountability.

Marcie Miner embodies these qualities. I believe she is the right choice for the Board of Education.

Dianne Grenier – Andover

Supports Duksa

To the Editor:

I have known Olivia Duksa for five years, not only as a friend but also as my riding instructor and trainer. Olivia is incredibly driven and dedicated – always seeking what works best for both myself and my horse so that we can be successful together. She has a unique ability to assess, adapt, and pivot mid-stride when something isn’t working, always aiming to bring balance and harmony.

These same qualities will make her a stellar addition to the Colchester Board of Education. Olivia approaches every challenge with curiosity, creativity, and determination. She’s constantly looking for new and innovative ways to improve, and she does so while remaining mindful of fiscal responsibility and long-term success.

You will not find anyone more committed to putting students first and pushing beyond the status quo. Olivia is a force – one who will bring energy, innovation, and heart to everything she does for Colchester’s schools.

Robin Marrotte – Colchester

The Right Plan for Your Future

To the Editor:

My husband and I moved to our home near the lake in 1972. He was a music teacher in East Haddam and we loved the area. We were already living near the high school, but wanted something larger and began planning for our future. This idea seemed very important to us then and it still is important to me now!. That is why I am supporting the Democratic candidates.

Dean Markham has deep roots in East Hampton and has dedicated many years to public service. When making decisions for East Hampton, his thought process is relevant to the problem at hand, while considering the taxpayers’ concerns.

Karen Wanat has served East Hampton for many years, always with consideration of how to best help our residents. She is always available to listen and discuss residents’ ideas and thoughts.

Jack Solomon is passionate about our town, our lake and about giving our residents access to drinking water through federal and state funding. He is very active in our community serving as chair of the Capital Budget Committee.

Richard Knotek is a longtime resident of town and has served as Chair of our former Board of Selectmen and Board of Education. It is very important to him that East Hampton safeguards Lake Pocotopaug and improves student achievement through innovative programs.

Joelyn Leon currently serves as political director of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, collaborating with local unions to strengthen small businesses in our community. She will continue to strive to keep East Hampton an affordable place to live, work and raise a family.

Our candidates for Board of Education and Board of Finance join them to serve East Hampton and will take the time to listen to the concerns and needs of our voters.

Early voting has already begun and voting in person is Nov. 4!

Respectfully,
Barbara Moore – East Hampton

Elections Are Here!

To the Citizens of Colchester:

Municipal elections are here! Our town government and schools impact your life and finances daily. Please exercise your right as an American citizen and vote.

I am part of the Democratic slate and proud to be on the ticket with such hard-working people with integrity. Bernie Dennler, our first selectman, and Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner, our Board of Selectmen incumbents, have done an amazing job bringing “Colchester together“ and have accomplished financial balance alongside bipartisan governing that works for Colchester. I encourage you to read their accomplishments on Bernie’s website at bernieforcolchester.com.

Sean Gillispie, Jillian Vinci and Krista Kardys, candidates for the Board of Finance, have impressed me with their knowledge, skill and work ethic. Between them they possess incredible financial skills, health insurance knowledge and experience and are currently serving our town. They are a team who will oversee our town’s financial profile

See Letters, page 8

CLAIMING SUCCESS IS EASY DELIVERING TAKES DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

WE ARE THRILLED TO SEE THE ADS, EDITORIALS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS MADE BY THE REPUBLICAN MINORITY THAT CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS MADE UNDER DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY LEADERSHIP AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THIS WORK COLLABORATING WITH EVERYONE.

WE HAVE YOUR BACK. **VOTE** DEMOCRAT!

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS

The Town Council has worked closely with the Town Manager, Public Works Department, WPCA, and Water Committee to move long-stalled projects forward — from long-overdue road paving to advancing plans for a modern, reliable water system — all with fiscal oversight and open communication.

EMERGENCY SERVICES YOU CAN COUNT ON

We partnered with the East Hampton Ambulance Association to maintain a well-staffed, community-based emergency service, ensuring residents continue to receive prompt, local care when it matters most.

PROTECTING LAKE POCOTOPAUG

We supported Lake Pocotopaug restoration and watershed protection, securing partnerships and grants to reduce runoff, improve water quality, and protect one of East Hampton’s most valuable natural resources.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC SAFETY

We’ve collaborated with the Police Department and Town Manager to identify creative, sustainable ways to attract and retain new officers, modernize equipment, and strengthen community policing.

FIREHOUSE PROJECT TRANSPARENCY

We trust our Firehouse Building Committee to continue working transparently toward a modern, safe facility that meets departmental needs while protecting taxpayer investment.

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

We’ve supported our Board of Education, teachers, and staff in maintaining strong academic performance while navigating rising costs and state mandates responsibly — and we’ve encouraged greater collaboration between the schools and the Town Council.

RESPONSIBLE GROWTH PLANNING

Town staff and volunteers are revising the Plan of Conservation and Development to promote smart growth, protect open space, and preserve East Hampton’s small-town character.

COMMITMENT TO TAX RELIEF

Our Council candidates will continue to seek meaningful tax relief for residents who need it most and ensure every financial decision strengthens the town’s long-term stability.

PROGRESS YOU CAN TRUST: REAL RESULTS FROM DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP



VOTE DEMOCRATIC – ROW A – ALL THE WAY!
EARLY VOTING: THROUGH NOVEMBER 2 AT TOWN HALL
ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 4 AT EAST HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM

THIS IS IT – YOUR VOTE DECIDES
WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT.
On Nov 4th, Come Out And Make It Count!
Vote Democratic – VOTE ROW A

TOWN COUNCIL



Dean Markham
Incumbent



Karen Wanat
Incumbent



Jack Solomon
Incumbent



Richard Knotek
Incumbent



Joelyn Leon

BOARD OF FINANCE



David Caterisano



Daniel Finn

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Nancy Kohler
Incumbent



Corinne Clark-Barney



Sarah Strange

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS



John Tuttle
Incumbent



Matthew Walton



Robert Hines
Alternate Incumbent



Bob Hein
Alternate

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS



Carol Williams
Incumbent



Paul Wisniewski
Incumbent



Working for **EVERY** resident
of East Hampton.
We **CARE** about
what **YOU** care about.

Scan the
QR code
here to learn
more about
your candidates.



November 4th – E.H. High School • 15 N. Maple Street • 6:00am-8:00pm
Paid for by the East Hampton Democratic Town Committee. Terry Concannon, Treasurer

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

★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

and spending. Colchester needs them.

On the Board of Assessment Appeals, Eric Jackson and Andy Cournoyer bring intelligence, integrity and experience. Andrew is currently serving as the chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals. Eric has shown great work ethic during the campaign. He is always ready to help. They are open to community dialogue and will work together to assist residents with issues.

Dave Koji is the candidate for treasurer. His skills as a successful businessman makes him a great choice to oversee our expenditures. His experience on Colchester's ARPA committee over-seeing 4.6 dollars in stimulus money and commitment to Colchester through board membership on Colchester Youth Coalition and Youth baseball and softball demonstrate his commitment to improving our town.

Nancy Nelson and I, as retired educators, will bring a much-needed perspective as former teachers to the Board of Education. We bring experience as parents and seniors. We have seen how Board of Education decisions affect students and programs. We will ask the tough questions and work hard to increase communication and transparency in programming and decisions for the community. We will make sure that all our tax dollars are benefiting our students. We ask humbly for your support.

You can vote early this weekend from 10am-6pm both Saturday and Sunday at Town Hall. Or vote on Election Day at your polling place from 6am-8pm.

**Gussie Gilberti – Colchester
Candidate for Board of Education**

Honoring Exemplary Leadership

To the Editor:

As Election Day approaches, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for two outstanding individuals who have shaped both our community and my personal journey. Mike Egan and Mike Hayes have dedicated many years to serving Colchester in various roles, consistently demonstrating compassion, integrity, and true leadership. Their guidance and example have set a high standard for public service. When I joined the Board of Finance last December, I was fortunate to learn from their experience and wisdom. Their encouragement inspired me to become more involved, and I am deeply grateful for the respect and support they have shown me.

I hope to continue their good work, serving the Town of Colchester.

**Respectfully,
Jillian Vinci
Colchester Board of Finance Candidate**

Protecting Special Education in Portland

Dear Portland Neighbors:

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Education laid off nearly everyone in the Office of Special Education Programs — the federal office that helps make sure schools follow the law protecting students with disabilities.

The effects of these layoffs will reach classrooms right here in Portland. With fewer federal staff to oversee compliance and support states, local schools and parents will be left to shoulder more responsibility on their own.

Here's what that could mean for Portland:

Less oversight and help when families need it: With fewer federal staff, there will be less accountability and fewer people available to guide parents through concerns about their child's rights or services.

Delays in funding and approvals: Federal grants that help fund special education programs could take longer to move through the system.

More pressure on local schools: Portland's special education team may need to take on issues that used to be supported at the federal or state level, stretching resources thin.

Uneven standards and uncertainty: With less federal guidance, states and districts may interpret rules differently, leaving families unsure where to turn for consistent answers or support.

The good news is that the laws protecting students with disabilities haven't changed — and neither has our commitment to those students.

As your Democratic candidates for the Portland Board of Education, we want to be clear: no matter what happens at the federal level, Portland must continue to stand up for our students with disabilities. Every child who is entitled to services must receive them, and every family must have our support.

Now more than ever, local leadership matters. Our community deserves school board members who are transparent about where they stand and who are ready to protect students' rights. We are committed to advancing educational excellence for every single Portland student — and that means protecting the special education services that make inclusion and success possible for all.

When Washington steps back, it's up to communities like ours to step forward. Portland families can count on us to do just that.

Democrats Have Our Kids' Backs

To the Editor:

As an educator for my entire professional career, I have seen firsthand the profound impact that good teachers have on their students. Children need support to grow as learners and as successful members of the community. Our kids deserve access to programs, services, and educators who will help them reach full potential.

Up and down the ballot, East Hampton Democrats understand the needs of our schools and families. They are committed to providing every child with the curriculum and instruction necessary to nurturing achievement and personal development.

The candidates for the Board of Education, Town Council, and Board of Finance also realize that there are many ways to measure success. Our students are bouncing back from the critical learning loss that occurred during the pandemic. Assessment scores are improving on every level, from SBA in elementary and middle schools to high school students taking their PSATs and SATs. The high school offers excellent opportunities through advanced placement and Early College Experience programs to earn valuable credits and develop the skills they will need at the next level. Democrats have demonstrated they are unwilling to sacrifice such courses, and our schools are better for their commitment.

Test scores only tell part of the story and students have different kinds of intelligence and talents. East Hampton Democrats want all kids to have the chance to explore the arts, athletics, and other extracurricular activities. Public schools need to offer those programs and help level the playing field for families who can't afford private lessons or club sports.

Education is one of the most important issues we will be voting for on Election Day. I encourage East Hampton voters to back the candidates who have our kids' backs. Vote Row A for Democrats on Nov. 4.

**Sincerely,
Ryan Colwell – East Hampton**

I'm Voting for Nathan

To the Editor:

Nathan Jaycox's statement in the *Rivereast*, "I believe in being excellent rather than being average," says all you need to know about Nathan. He will work to create opportunities so every child can achieve his goals. So that every child can be excellent.

Nathan is also a common-sense kind of guy. He's just the kind of volunteer we need on the Board of Education.

Please vote for Nathan Jaycox.

**Alannah Danaher Coshow – East Hampton
Vice Chair of Board of Finance
Candidate for Town Council**

Thank You for Your Service

To the Editor:

Thank you for your service. I've always had a problem answering this. I came home, physically and mentally (for the most part in tact). I've met families of those that did not make it home. I see veterans that have lost too much.

My wife's son likes to watch sports, two or three times a year I take him along with my dad to a game. On 4 Oct, the Boston Bruins played their last preseason home game. After the game was over we were riding the elevator down with a man about my age and his daughter, 10 maybe 12 years old. My dad likes to talk. The brief conversation turned to older moments in Boston sports history. After we exited the elevator their conversation continued going on behind us, my wife's son and I were a little bit ahead of them. At some point my dad mentions that he was in the Navy and that that's my Marine Corps son. I hear the gentleman say, "Thank you for your service."

They catch up to us and he asks me a few questions about my time in the Marine Corps, again thanking me for my service. After a few minutes of conversation we go our separate ways. As the three of us got to the door it occurred to me how to answer the statement. I've heard two ways to answer it, "Welcome Home" and, "You're Worth It." I looked around to see if they were still around, went over to them and told them, "You're Worth It."

I made a choice to join the Marine Corps. To me that choice puts the worth of the lives of others as greater than my own. To sacrifice so that you can have a choice, to sacrifice so that man's daughter can find her worth on her own and not have it forced on her. No one should have their worth told to or forced on them.

To the Vietnam veterans that were treated poorly upon their return, I'm sorry for the treatment you received. To my fellow Marine veterans, Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful.

The last Sunday in September was designated "National Gold Star Mother's Day." It was amended in 2011 to include families and designated as "Gold Star Mother's and Family Day." Please think of these Gold Star families this Veterans Day.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Manning – Andover**

Keep Hebron Strong

To the Editor:

Good day. We, in Hebron, are able to celebrate our wonderful community because of our fantastic town staff and because you, in past years, have put your faith in the Republican candidates who have run for office. While there are both familiar and new faces, the commitment to sound, responsible leadership remains the core goal of these people and your local Republican Party. While it is difficult to balance the needs and desires of the town against the backdrop of the never-ending mandates coming out of the state, these people are ready and willing to meet these challenges head on.

I am hoping that you, the voters, will continue to show support for these leaders and vote row B. Keep Hebron strong.

Daniel Larson – Amston

***Note:** Larson is current vice chair of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but is speaking as an individual.*

Steady Leadership, Calm Focus

To the Editor:

As a Portland resident and parent in our school district, I'm writing to express my support for Kim Nagy-Maruschock in her bid for another term on the Portland Board of Education.

During her time on the board, Kim has shown steady leadership, a calm focus on students' needs, and a measured approach to budgeting that prioritizes classrooms. She has worked to improve transparency by communicating regularly with families about curriculum decisions, school safety plans, and district finances. Kim's support for teachers and investments in programs that expand access to rigorous coursework demonstrates her commitment to preparing every student for success in college, career, and life.

In challenging times, she has been a constructive voice for collaboration among parents, educators, and administrators. Her data-driven approach and emphasis on accountability help ensure that scarce resources are used wisely while maintaining a safe and welcoming learning environment.

I encourage fellow voters to consider Kim Nagy-Maruschock on Election Day and support her continued leadership on the Board of Education.

April Graves – Portland

Running for Finance Board

To the Editor:

Hi. My name is John Ringo, a 48-year Colchester taxpayer. I have served as Treasurer for four years, and served on the Board of Finance for 16 years. Over my 20-year political career I successfully worked with seven first selectmen. In 2002, I became the founder/music director/conductor for the Colchester Choir and Orchestra, which is still thriving and performing. I have volunteered/coached Youth Soccer, Basketball, Baseball and Softball for 12 years. I worked in the financial services industry for 33 years. I owned and operated J. Ringo Financial Services for 13 years. I was adjunct faculty at Franklin Academy for 12 years. As treasurer, I was instrumental in moving and selecting lenders and accounts yielding close to \$2 million in revenue for our town.

Financial experiences have allowed me to appropriately manage town funds that will benefit our bond rating. I'll make sure every investment decision is made with the best interest of our town in mind, and that our town's finances remain strong and stable. I would appreciate your support for me and the rest of the wonderful Republican candidates.

John Ringo – Colchester

A Heart for Colchester

To the Editor:

As parents, we seek to raise our children to be wise, discerning adults, to find their passion & pursue it with heart. We, along with so many of you have witnessed our son, Bernie Dennler, doing just that; fully embracing his role as first selectman, eagerly doing the job that you, the people of Colchester, overwhelmingly elected him to do. In so doing, Bernie made a conscious decision to push back against divisive partisan politics and put heartfelt effort into living out his campaign slogan from 2023: "Let's Bring Colchester Together." Over these past two years he's proven this was more than a slogan. It has been his passion and ignites the fire at the heart of his service to Colchester. He's never attached labels to his constituents, instead seeing them as individuals he was elected to serve.

It's refreshing to have a first selectman who's proud of all Colchester has to offer. He enthusiastically supports our local parks, businesses and organizations; and thoroughly enjoys attending our numerous town events. Whether he's being pied in the face, shopping the farmers market, running the Salmon River Run, or costumed and handing out candy at Trunk or Treat, the smile you're bound to see is genuine.

It's evident how deeply Bernie cares about Colchester. Now, it's your turn to demonstrate that you care; that you want to continue the progress that Colchester has made. Bernie has shown up for you and fought hard to unite this town, to bring back respectability and fiscal responsibility. Now he needs you to show up for him. With this election cycle devoid of the past controversies and conten-

tious interactions, it can be easy to let life's distractions minimize what's at stake and create a lack of urgency to vote. Please do not let complacency stand in the way of Bernie's re-election. On Nov. 4th, I urge you to reserve time in your schedule. Set an alarm or reminder if you need to, but don't let this opportunity slip by. Colchester does need Bernie. But on Nov. 4th, Bernie needs you!

Please come out and vote for Bernie Dennler so he can continue "Bringing Colchester Together" & we can keep in office a first selectman who truly has a heart for Colchester.

**Sincerely, from the heart of this mom,
MaryGrace Dennler – Colchester**

Guidone for Hebron ZBA

Dear Hebron Residents:

I am always impressed and inspired when people respond to the call for community involvement and volunteerism. Jason Guidone promotes positive change in our town and state through active engagement. When the Hebron Republican Town Committee was in need of a chairperson, Jason eagerly raised his hand. When the party struggled to find someone to run for State Senate in the 19th District, Jason answered the call.

Now Jason is seeking to expand his involvement by running for the Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals. Jason wants to make sure that Hebron remains a welcoming environment for hardworking families. He also wants to make sure that our zoning policies are balanced between preserving our forests, farms, and wide-open spaces on the one hand and promoting commercial development that allows for financial stability on the other.

We need people like Jason to ensure that Hebron stays the kind of small, rural town we all know and love. On Nov. 4th, please vote for Jason Guidone for Hebron Zoning Board of Appeals.

**Sincerely,
James DeDonato – Hebron**

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

Book Sale a Success!

To the Editor:

The Friends of the Portland Library 2025 Fall Book Sale was a great success! It is a huge undertaking that needs many helpful hands, and we owe many thanks. A big thank you to the Town of Portland Public Works crews for their efficient and timely set up, materials delivery and clean-up and the Portland Fire Department for the use of their tables. Many thanks to the director and staff of the Portland Library who shared their spaces with us and graciously accepted the disruption to normal library operations that the busy sale inevitably brings. This year we were greatly helped by wonderful volunteers from Portland High School and the Lions Club – and we hope they will come back next year! Thank you to the community volunteers who gave their time to help with setting up and taking down the sale.

Our biggest thank you goes to everyone who came to the sale. We hope you found some great bargains, had fun meeting up with friends, and enjoyed being a part of this wonderful community event. Your support means that the Friends will be able to continue funding educational and fun programming for adults, kids and families, maintain and update the media collection, and offer Museum Passes. We invite everyone to join the Friends of the Portland Library to extend your support for the coming year.

The 2025 newsletter and 2026 membership form will be in the *Rivereast* Nov. 14 edition. Thank you!

**Monica Jensen
for the Friends of the Portland Library**

Look at the Changes

Dear Andover Citizens:

Local elections are as important as our state and national ones, yet turnout is typically low. Our town is in crisis, and I strongly encourage you to vote, early or day of, in our Nov. 4 municipal election.

The Oct. 24 *Rivereast News Bulletin* chronicled two significant issues that happened in Andover since April 2025: 1. the firing (and rehiring) of Tess Grous as Community/Senior Center Director, and 2. the resignation of our town administrator, Eric Anderson. A similar happening in June of this year also merits attention, specifically the resignation of the town's public works director, Jay Tuttle. In a June 9, 2025 BOS meeting, Jay noted that due to the "...increasingly clear shifting of the political climate along with the indecisiveness of the boards, I have found it no longer aligns with my values that originally drew me to town of Andover." Three of the four selectpersons thanked Jay for his work at the town.

The Nov. 4 and the next BOS election are very important in determining the direction our town moves: do we remain in chaos and allow our roads and facilities to degrade again, OR do we take care of things, plan for the future, and continue to make positive changes to the town?

Look at all these sudden changes that have occurred in Andover the last few months, and vote!!

Bill Penn – Andover



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BOS Needs This Woman
To the Editor:
In four years on the Portland Democratic Town Committee, it has been my pleasure to observe and work with Andrea Alfano; first as a peer and more recently in her role as DTC chair. Based on decades working on and leading committees of professionals, I can confidently commend Andrea's work ethic as well as her interpersonal and leadership skills.
I have observed Andrea patiently teach new members about Connecticut politics, committee rules and history and various matters affecting Portland. She is not only a thoughtful teacher but an articulate speaker who invites the opinions of others, manages conflict with equanimity and spends more time listening than speaking. It has also been my pleasure to spend time with Andrea at community and volunteer events where she is generous with her time and consistently works to promote inclusivity and welcome diversity – including diversity of ideas and opinions.
In sum, Democratic candidate Andrea Alfano offers Portland a smart, sensitive, thoughtful listener who will assure the representation of all Portland voices on the Board of Selectmen.
She's earned your vote and Portland needs her.
Cynthia Tyler – Portland

Honoring Exemplary Leadership
To the Editor:
As Election Day approaches, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for two outstanding individuals who have shaped both our community and my personal journey. Mike Egan and Mike Hayes have dedicated many years to serving Colchester in various roles, consistently demonstrating compassion, integrity, and true leadership. Their guidance and example have set a high standard for public service. When I joined the Board of Finance last December, I was fortunate to learn from their experience and wisdom. Their encouragement inspired me to become more involved, and I am deeply grateful for the respect and support they have shown me.
I hope to continue their good work, serving the Town of Colchester.
**Respectfully,
Jillian Vinci**
Candidate, Colchester Board of Finance

Belltown Democrats a Strong Team
To the Editor:
No one board, commission, or council can make towns succeed. It takes a network of cooperation and individuals putting aside personal and political differences for the sake of the community.
Over the last two years, East Hampton Democrats have been a successful team. Under Democratic leadership, the Town Council has gone to important lengths to fill vacancies on boards and commissions that had been vacant. The Board of Education has been a beacon of bipartisan cooperation. The town is on the verge of a Plan of Conservation and Development that will balance community growth with the needs of taxpayers.
It has been a united effort from the top of the Democratic ticket to the bottom. Our leaders have treated town residents with civility and respect. We have seen an upswing in care and outreach, from our senior citizens to the young families that have chosen to make East Hampton their new home.
I am proud to be an East Hampton Democrat and to be a part of a team that puts the needs of the community first.
Join me in voting Row A on Election Day on or before this coming Tuesday,
**Sincerely,
Terry Concannon – East Hampton**
Note: Concannon is treasurer of the East Hampton Democratic Town Committee, but is speaking as an individual.

Thoughtful, Hardworking
To the Editor:
I'm proud to support Jan Lawrence of Hebron for Board of Selectmen. Jan is a thoughtful, hard-working leader who listens, will do the research, and will make decisions based on what's best for our community.
We need steady leadership, responsible budgeting, and a commitment to transparency and respect in town government. Jan has shown the character, work ethic, and dedication to deliver on those priorities.
He has served as president of P4 union and has been endorsed by the CSEA and SEIU 1199 labor union. Jan and his wife Cris have made Hebron their home for 26 years.
Please join me in voting for Jan Lawrence for Board of Selectmen, Row A.
Kim Goldberg – Hebron

Supports Nucifora
To the Editor:
I support Sal Nucifora for Board of Education. He is direct, articulate, and wants transparency.
He also has been on the Board of Education for four years. Because of his engineering background, he is not afraid to bring up subjects others simply rubber stamp.
Anyone running for the BOE position needs to be serious about working. It's our money and the position should require discussion and action, not just attendance.
**Sincerely,
Maria Peplau – East Hampton**

Make Hebron Stronger!
To the Editor:
I'm asking all Hebron residents to make your voices heard: Go vote right now!
Early voting for the municipal elections is happening right now in Town Hall, from 10AM to 6PM through Sunday, and Election Day voting is Tuesday at Hebron Elementary School, 6AM to 8PM.
I strongly encourage you to support the Hebron Democrats on Row A, a team with a proven record of commitment and service to our community.
For the Board of Selectmen, I support both Tiffany Thiele and Jan Lawrence. Tiffany has served on the board since 2021, and has been instrumental in keeping Hebron vibrant as we emerged from the pandemic. After the election, she will be the board's longest-serving member, bringing valuable experience and continuity to our town's leadership. And Jan brings tremendous experience and passion for our community, as a coach, as a father, and as an owner of multiple successful small businesses.
For the Planning and Zoning Commission, I support the re-election of David Sousa. David brings an impressive 46 years of experience in urban planning and community development. His expertise is an incredible asset to our town, and we are very fortunate to have him serve as vice-chair.
I also support Cathy McSweeney for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Cathy is a long-time Hebron resident who has served in multiple volunteer leadership roles in town after a successful career in IT.
And finally, I support Ryan Herrick for the Board of Finance. Ryan is a father, a veteran, a

youth sports coach, and a financial director for local retail stores. His experience will be an excellent addition to the finance board.
If you would like to learn more about these great candidates, please visit the Hebron Dems website or reach out with your questions to dems@hebron-dems.com. We'd love to hear from you!
Go out and Vote Row A.
Make Hebron Stronger!
**Sincerely,
Adam Ockman – Hebron**

A Vote Well-Spent!
To the Editor:
Calling all voters looking for a superior candidate!!
Cast your vote for Andrea Alfano, an energetic, truly dedicated individual who has served Portland in various capacities for many years. Andrea will bring a new energy to the Board of Selectman/woman.
A vote for Andrea is a vote for dedication, service and action to the Portland community.
**Most sincerely,
Lynne Henriquez – Portland**

Ready to Serve
To the Editor:
I'm ready to serve as Town Clerk from day one. After 13 years working in Andover Town Hall and nearly 20 years living here, I've come to deeply appreciate how our local government works and how every record connects to the story of our community.
My experience has given me a front row seat to Andover's growth and change. I've worked closely with every department, from the Town Clerk's Office to the Building Department and the Tax Collector, helping ensure records stay accurate and residents are well served.
For the past decade in the Assessor's Office, I've helped process every land transfer, subdivision, property split, name change, probate document, map change, and building permit. Each document tells a small part of Andover's history, and every detail protects property rights and keeps our town running smoothly.
As the current longest serving full time employee in Town Hall, I've seen how important consistency and historical knowledge are. They ensure residents get clear answers, accurate information,
See Letters, page 10

COMMUNITY FIRST

Proven Leadership. Integrity. Commitment to Portland.

OUR COMMITMENT

- **Uphold Strong, Trusted Leadership**
— Listening, responding, and governing with professionalism and civility.
- **Support Award Winning Schools**
— Investing in students, teachers, and modern facilities for future generations.
- **Ensure Fairness & Equity**
— From taxes to zoning, decisions rooted in fairness for all Portland residents.
- **Promote Smart Growth**
— Preserving Portland's small-town character and history while planning responsibly for the future.
- **Strengthen Community Services**
— Prioritizing resources for seniors, families, and vital town programs.



Board of Selectmen: Andrea Alfano, John Dillon, Dave Kuzminski, Jim Tripp
Board of Education: Jody Grosso, Erin Livensparger, Kim Maruschock, Bethanne Vergean
Zoning Board of Appeals: Christopher Darby, Lauren DeCaprio
Board of Assessment Appeals: Kathy Richards, Cynthia Tyler

PORTLAND DEMOCRATS

RE10-31-25

Moving Forward Together



VOTE ROW A

NOV. 4TH

 PortlandCTDTC.com

 PortlandDemocraticCommittee

 PortlandCTDTC@gmail.com

Paid for by the Portland Democratic Town Committee. Cynthia Roman, Treasurer.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 9*

and excellent service, values I’ll continue to uphold as your next Town Clerk.

Experience matters, and history helps shape the future. My years of municipal and legal experience have prepared me well for this role, and I’m eager to keep learning and serving Andover in new ways.

Historically, municipal only elections in Andover have had low turnout, just 422 voters in 2023 and 157 in 2017. Let’s change that this year. In low turnout elections, every vote truly matters. When more of us vote, Andover’s future better reflects all our voices.

Let’s come together and make this a high turnout year that shows our pride, care, and love for our town.

I’m honored to call Andover home and ready to keep serving with dedication, organization, and heart. With your support, we can make it happen.

For more information, please visit my Facebook page: Roberta Dougherty Candidate for Andover Town Clerk

**Thank you for your support,
Roberta Dougherty – Andover**

Your Vote Matters!

To the Editor:

Your vote matters. We saw what East Hampton can accomplish at the polls when the Republicans listened to the taxpayers, and then rallied the largest voter turnout out in recent history to vote down a massive budget increase. We need to see that same positive energy at the polls again on Nov. 4th!

Many registered Democrats and Independent voters crossed the aisle and voted with the Republicans, and it paid off for everyone. Every property tax payer in town saved hundreds of dollars thanks to the solidarity amongst the voters and the Republican majority on the Board of Finance. And our schools maintained the quality of education East Hampton families are accustomed to. Everyone won!

Remember: it’s your money, you earned it, so vote in folks who will rein in overspending throughout the town government from the start. Vote for Republicans, all across row B on Election Day, Nov 4th, at the East Hampton High School, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Bryon Turner – East Hampton

Why I’m Asking for Your Vote

To the Editor:

Having been an East Hampton resident for the last 13 years, I have loved every day I’ve lived in this town.

While I have been a resident of East Hampton, I have experienced so many things that make me grateful to be part of such an amazing community; things like Old Homes Day, various parades, Thanksgiving food drive, to name a few. Aside from the feeling of community in East Hampton, one of the things that drew me to this town was the school system. From the time my child entered kindergarten, I have always felt the schools engage in a collaborative partnership with parents to provide the best educational options for that child.

As part of the Board of Education, I will support our schools and work to ensure the children of East Hampton are provided with the experiences and knowledge to be successful in their educational journey.

Sarah Strange – East Hampton

Be a Bellringer

To the Editor:

As election season winds down, I wanted to offer the hopes I have for the leaders East Hampton will choose to serve us going forward.

I hope that our boards try to serve from the “middle,” not from the extremes. We should preserve and protect what’s good in town, while always keeping our eye out for the chance to make things better. We all have invested so much of our lives and our livelihoods into making East Hampton home that only careful, thoughtful, stable and dedicated leadership will do. Remember that East Hampton is everyone’s town, and you only sit at the fancy table in council chambers at the will of the people.

I hope that our boards remember that it is easy to break things apart, but hard to build things up. Opt to lead by building up. Support and stand behind our terrific town staff who lead all of our town services with distinction and enthusiasm. Due to their efforts, so much of what we do in East Hampton is the envy of many surrounding towns.

I hope that our boards always stand behind our volunteers, and be their #1 cheerleaders. In the area of public safety with our unselfish volunteer firemen and EMTs, take care of what they need in their call to help all of us. In town government, always push to welcome more of our neighbors onto appointed boards and commissions. Those who serve are the unsung heroes in Town Hall, and work quietly and without fanfare to get things done.

And, lastly, I hope that our boards continue to serve with openness, honesty, dignity and respect for all who will be heard. Continue to listen, and don’t be afraid to pull the plug on initiatives when it appears that, just maybe, townspeople have a point.

Be a Bellringer; first, last and always.

**Rich Knotek – East Hampton
Town Council Member and Candidate**

Your Vote Counts

To the Editor:

While national politics grows louder and more divided, we’ve chosen a different path – one grounded in respect, kindness and collaboration. Regardless of your voter affiliation, we believe your voice matters. Your ideas matter. Your community matters. Join the Democrats in continuing to build a town defined by kindness, compassion and respect.

On Election Day, Nov. 4th, you do have a choice. I hope your choice is to vote Row A to continue the progress we have seen in our great community – East Hampton.

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

Asking for Your Vote

To the Editor:

I have lived in East Hampton most of my life and am very proud of our town. Working together, while keeping our residents in mind, has been a priority for me. My passion is helping those in need through endless projects at our local VFW. I have also set a goal for myself...serve on the Board of Finance to help the taxpayers of East Hampton. It is important for members serving on the BOF to consider the needs of our community. It is also important to consider taxpayers’ ability to contribute to these needs. As an elected official, I have always used common sense when making my decisions. Thank you for your support!

I am asking for your vote on Nov. 4.

**Sincerely,
Ted Turner – East Hampton**

Independent Authority

To the Editor:

Here’s one great reason to elect Andover’s Democratic candidates: they will represent independent authority.

Jayne Jurovaty is an independent-minded Town Clerk candidate; she is capable, organized, knowledgeable about our community, always discreet, and an ever-friendly face. But most of all, she would be a source of independent authority in Town Hall. For decades, Carol Lee served that role, scrupulously maintaining her office’s independence from political control. Jayne would continue that tradition.

Nick Clark, Robert England, and Heather Var Cara will bring a similar independence to the Board of Finance. For years, Robert England has consistently promoted reason on the BOF; we badly need his strength. He is fair-minded, thorough, and collegial. Heather Van Cara, with decades of experience in finance and a gentle manner but steely resolve, would bring crucial skills to the Board. Nick Clark is experienced with project and financial management, working as the lead scheduler for Navy programs. He would bring his data science degree: a focus that we’re sadly losing since the Republicans declined to re-endorse Joanne Hebert. Nick, Heather and Robert will help keep our BOF on an even keel.

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.*

Support for Roberta Dougherty

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support for Roberta Dougherty in her candidacy for Andover town clerk. I first met Roberta three years ago when I was hired as assistant town clerk, and during that time, I have had the privilege of getting to know her both professionally and personally.

Roberta is an exceptionally conscientious and dedicated public servant. In her current roles as Assistant Assessor and Municipal Agent for Social Services, she demonstrates a deep commitment to serving the residents of Andover with professionalism, compassion, and integrity. She is always willing to go above and beyond to help anyone who walks into the office, treating each person with patience, kindness, and respect.

Roberta is also highly skilled with technology and municipal software systems. She has a remarkable ability to streamline processes and make operations more efficient. These skills are invaluable in the town clerk’s office. She is always eager to share her knowledge, teaching and supporting her colleagues so that the entire team can succeed together. Not only does she support her colleagues so that everyone can share success, but she also uses the same patience and kindness to help customers and residents find what they need.

What stands out most about Roberta is her strong ethical compass. She carefully considers her actions and consistently strives to do what is right for the town and its residents. Beyond her professional responsibilities, Roberta’s dedication as a citizen of Andover is evident in her genuine care for the community and her desire to make it a better place for everyone.

Roberta Dougherty embodies the qualities we should all want in a town clerk: competence, compassion, and integrity. I wholeheartedly encourage my fellow residents to support her in the upcoming election.

**Sincerely,
Lauren Person – Andover**

Leadership Our Town Needs

To the Editor:

As the Nov. 4th election approaches, I’ve been thinking about what kind of leadership our town truly needs. For me, it isn’t more people who simply nod along, avoid conflict, and call that “getting along.”

We deserve candidates who will disagree. We deserve people who will debate ideas passionately, listen honestly, and still respect one another when the conversation is over. Real progress only happens when different viewpoints are heard and weighed. Disagreement, when done with respect, is not division but democracy in action.

We deserve leaders who mean it when they say “move forward together.” That means considering everyone’s views, not just those of a political circle or social group. It means recognizing that empathy for the underprivileged is not just a talking point, but something that is reflected in our policies and our budgets. True empathy looks like helping people climb back on their feet, not making life more expensive for them while claiming to help.

We deserve leaders who will look at things like \$2,000 trash bins and ask, “Is this really the best we can do?” We deserve leaders who will bring community members, organizations, and businesses together to find creative solutions that both serve residents and reduce the financial strain on everyone.

What we deserve is not perfection, but honesty. Not politeness for the sake of image, but courage for the sake of our town. We need people who understand that “working together” doesn’t mean pretending to agree. It means being willing to listen, compromise, and act in good faith.

That is why I will be proudly casting my votes for Tim Vaillancourt for the Board of Selectmen, Michael Dubreuil for the Board of Finance, and Cari Duigou for the Board of Education. They have shown the willingness to listen, debate, and lead with integrity. Their love for our town and our community, and their desire to see everyone here flourish, is undeniable.

Please join me in supporting them on Nov. 4th.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

Steady, Capable Leadership

Dear Portland Neighbors:

As a parent of three kids in Portland Public Schools, I care a lot about the direction our town is headed. Local leadership matters — maybe more now than ever. With so much uncertainty and division in national politics, it’s reassuring to know that here in Portland, we can choose leaders who actually listen, work together, and focus on getting things done.

That’s why I’m supporting the full Democratic slate for Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Assessment Appeals. This team brings the experience, balance, and good judgment that Portland needs.

These Democratic candidates come from all walks of life — education, public health, business, engineering, and more — and they share a real commitment to serving our community. They do their homework, make thoughtful decisions, and treat people with respect, even when they disagree. They’ve shown steady leadership through tough issues, and they’ve kept their eyes on what matters most: our schools, our families, and the future of our town.

At a time when politics can feel overwhelming, it’s refreshing to see a group of people who lead quietly and effectively — who care more about progress than headlines. I trust this team to keep Portland moving forward with honesty, transparency, and collaboration.

I hope you’ll join me in voting for Portland’s Democratic candidates on Nov. 4. They’ve earned our confidence and our support.

**Sincerely,
Chris Chenier – Portland**

Supports O’Reilly

To the Editor:

Brandie O’Reilly is a longtime resident of Hebron and parent of four children who graduated from the RHAM district. She believes every student deserves access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success, and is committed to ensuring that RHAM remains a place where students thrive both academically and personally.

Brandie had the privilege of serving as a process coach for the School Governance Council in the Hartford Public School District, where she worked to support collaboration, accountability, and continuous improvement within our schools.

If elected, she will work to support our teachers, listen to the voices of parents and students, and advocate for thoughtful decisions that balance educational excellence with fiscal responsibility. Her goal is to help RHAM remain a strong, vibrant district that serves the needs of today’s students while preparing for the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow. She will work to continue building a future where every student is given the opportunity to succeed.

Please join me in supporting Brandie O’Reilly to serve on the RHAM Board of Education.

Kim Hills – Hebron

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

Soaked Shoes and Dedication

To the Editor:

When I first got involved with local politics, I was totally new to it.

My first time out door-knocking was with Bernie Dennler. The weather was awful. It was wet, windy, and the aftermath of a hurricane. I asked if we were really still going, and without hesitation, he said yes.

What impressed me was how much Bernie knew. He could talk through every town issue, who was involved, and how to move things forward. I remember thinking, “Who is this complete public service nerd who actually wants to walk in the rain for local politics?” Our shoes were instantly soaked.

That summer, we went out a few more times, thankfully in better weather. We talked to everyone, even people who argued with us or said they would never vote for a Democrat. Bernie made every conversation respectful and positive. People walked away better informed about the challenges and opportunities the town faced, and that’s all you can hope for.

I support Bernie Dennler for his track record and because he’s a dedicated public servant. He knows what’s going on and has the character to work with everyone to get things done. The town has made tremendous progress in the past two years, and I want more of that.

John Farrell – Colchester

Vote Notes

To the Editor:

I’m writing in support of Jim Motes, who is running as an independent candidate for the Portland Board of Education.

I first met Jim years ago at Camp Tadma, where he was the Camp Director, while my son was attending Cub Scout camp. I’ll never forget the day he found out his offer to purchase a house in Portland had been accepted – he was so genuinely excited to become part of our community.

Since then, I’ve come to know Jim and his family even better. My daughter babysat for his older daughter, and all three of his children have danced with me over the years. Through those connections, I’ve seen firsthand Jim’s kindness, calm leadership, and dedication to kids and families.

With his background as a teacher, administrator, and now a family law attorney, Jim brings a well-rounded perspective that would make him a great asset to our Board of Education.

I’m proud to support him and encourage others to consider voting for Jim Motes.

**Sincerely,
Alicia Currier – Portland**

Pay It Forward with Kindness

To the Editor:

Recently, a generous community member spoke about kindness and paid for the breakfasts of several boys soccer players from East Hampton High School. All that was asked in return was to pay it forward. As part of this “Pay It Forward” kindness challenge, the boys soccer team chose to give back to the community by helping members of the East Hampton Senior Center with yard work. Over the weekend, the students spent several hours raking leaves, weeding, and mowing for those who needed an extra hand.

Their efforts not only brightened up the neighborhood but also brought smiles and heartfelt thanks from the seniors they helped. The project reminded everyone that small acts of kindness can make a big difference – and that giving back feels just as good as receiving.

Julie Johnson – Colchester

A Doer for Colchester’s Future!

To the Editor:

As Election Day approaches, I want to take a moment to thank the many residents I’ve met while knocking on doors across Colchester. The conversations, the encouragement, and even the concerns have meant the world to me. Every interaction has reinforced why I chose to run for the Board of Education — because I truly care about this community, our schools, and our kids.

Throughout this campaign, I’ve been proud to share my belief in transparency, accountability, and excellence. Those aren’t just words — they’re a promise. I’m not someone who sits back; I’m a doer. I’ve built businesses from the ground up, served on local commissions, and worked side by side with families through my equestrian and bioenergetics work. When I see a problem, I dig in until I find a solution. That’s the energy and commitment I’ll bring to the Board of Education.

When elected, the community will continue to see and hear from me. You’ll see me at meetings, in conversations with parents and teachers, and out in the community — because being a representative means being present. I want every resident to know that their voice matters and that their concerns will be heard.

On Nov. 4th, I ask for your vote — not just for me, but for a Board of Education that listens, learns, and leads with heart. Together, we can build a school system that works for every child, every teacher, and every family in Colchester.

**Olivia Duksa – Colchester
Republican Candidate for
Board of Education**

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Vote Row B!

To the Editor:

I am currently serving on the BOF, and I hope that I will have your support to continue serving our community.

Thank you and please vote Row B!

Sincerely
Bridget McLennan – East Hampton
Chair and Candidate, Board of Finance

I'd Be Honored for Vote

To the Editor:

My name is David Caterisano, and I'm running for the East Hampton Board of Finance. As a longtime resident, a Coast Guard veteran, and the parent of five children — three of whom attend our town's schools — I care deeply about East Hampton's future. Two of my kids also serve as junior volunteers with the East Hampton Fire Department, and I couldn't be prouder of their community spirit.

Like many families, I understand the challenge of balancing the needs of our town with the reality of household budgets. We all want great schools, reliable services, and safe neighborhoods — but we also need to keep taxes reasonable. That's where responsible financial oversight matters most.

My time in the United States Coast Guard taught me leadership, discipline, and accountability. Those lessons will guide how I serve on the Board of Finance. I believe in listening carefully, analyzing facts, and making thoughtful decisions that benefit everyone — not just a few.

I'm also a strong believer in bipartisanship. Fiscal responsibility isn't a Republican or Democratic issue — it's a community issue. I will work with anyone, regardless of party, who shares the goal of keeping East Hampton strong and financially stable. Respectful collaboration and common sense will always come first

With over 15 years of experience in finance and business, I understand how to manage resources wisely and plan for the future. My goal is simple: ensure that every dollar spent by the town reflects our shared priorities and supports the kind of community we all want for our families.

East Hampton is a special place. It's where my family lives, learns, and serves. I'm ready to bring my experience, integrity, and commitment to public service to the Board of Finance — and I'd be honored to earn your vote.

David Caterisano
Candidate, East Hampton Board of Finance

Working Together for a Stronger Colchester

Dear Colchester Neighbors:

Colchester is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family — and together, we can make it even better. Like many of you, I know how much harder it's become to stretch a family budget. Prices are higher everywhere — from groceries to utilities — and families are feeling the pressure. But here's the good news: local leadership can make a real difference.

We may not be able to fix Washington, and we can only do so much to influence Hartford. But right here in Colchester, we can make government work for our residents. That's why I was proud to help shape and support the Colchester Republican plan to assist residents during the federal government shutdown and SNAP crisis — a plan that helps our most vulnerable neighbors and costs taxpayers nothing by using existing resources. That's the kind of practical, compassionate leadership I believe in.

My name is Michael Dubreuil, and I'm running for the Board of Finance because I believe in smart solutions, fiscal responsibility, and keeping Colchester affordable for all families. I've worked with the Republican team to bring forward innovative ideas that move our town forward while honoring the Board of Finance mission: "Balancing the needs of Colchester with its ability to pay."

As a parent with children in our school system, I'm deeply committed to supporting education and the teachers who make a difference every day. The foundation of our schools is the partnership between parents, teachers, and students — and that's something worth protecting.

However, we must ensure every tax dollar works as hard as our families do. Over the past four years, the cost of educating each student in Colchester has risen 22% — a pace we simply can't sustain. We can and must do better. By focusing on transparency, smart budgeting, and collaboration, we can ensure more resources reach classrooms and directly support teachers and students without overburdening taxpayers.

All of our Republican candidates share a commitment to teamwork, listening, and action — improving education, protecting taxpayers, and building a stronger Colchester for the future.

I hope to earn your support and your vote — and I encourage you to vote for all the Republican candidates on Row B. Together, we can keep Colchester a place we're proud to call home.

With gratitude,
Michael Dubreuil – Colchester
Republican Candidate for Board of Finance

Supports Nelson

To the Editor:

I am writing to enthusiastically support Nancy Nelson for a seat on Colchester's Board of Education. In addition to her vast experience (30+ years!) as an educator, she brings an energy, dedication and commitment to the Colchester community and a willingness to do the hard work that is so crucial to ensuring the success of our current and future students. A skilled communicator, Nancy is eager to share her knowledge and experience with others, but is always interested in hearing other viewpoints and working collaboratively to bring about the best outcomes for our schools. She is a strong advocate for rigorous classroom instruction that challenges all students, and is committed to responsible budgeting (with accountability) and the effective stewardship of resources.

Nancy and I have been neighbors for more than five years, and during that time I have witnessed her steadily increasing service to the Colchester community. In addition to many neighborhood activities, she is an active volunteer at the Senior Center, the current chair of the CORE Commission, and a member of the Colchester Coalition for Youth. If elected, I am certain that she will bring the same energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the Board of Education. I hope you will join me in giving her your vote.

Thank you,
B. Holly Goodwin – Colchester

Republican Straight Across

To the Editor:

Do you like the character of Colchester – the trees, the fields, the calmness? Are you tired of the yearly tax increases, the BOE asking for more and getting it. If you answer (yes) to these questions, then it would in your interest to vote row “B” Republican straight across.

Frank Grande – Colchester

In Support of Ted Hintz

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Ted Hintz Jr. for Town Council. I have worked with Ted on multiple personal situations and on the budget for the East Hampton Ambulance Association. He has integrity and a willingness to help those in need. I have grown in my respect and confidence in his abilities and his honesty. I am a registered independent and endeavor to make my decisions on who would be the best for the job at hand. I believe Ted would bring a perspective that will bring positive changes to East Hampton. I know he has lived here his whole life and wants nothing but to see it prosper and be a safe place for us to live and raise our families.

Debra Mayer – East Hampton

Dementia Talks No. 35

To the Editor:

In visiting Mom some time back, I giggle at the memory. Note that I will reference the other resident as Ms. M in this submission.

Let me “set the table” so to speak...no pun intended, as it was dinnertime; I sat with Mom and her four table-mates. Out of the air came a question: “Are you going to climb the building tonight?” It totally caught me and some of the aides off guard. So, I inquired and here is the exchange that ensued:

Me: “Why, Ms. M, would Mom climb up the building tonight?”

Ms. M: “Well we have to do it at night!”

Mom: “I don't think I'll climb it.”

Ms. M: “Someone has to climb it. Are you sure you won't climb the building tonight?”

Me: “Should we do it tonight?”

Ms. M: “That is the best time. They won't know we did it.”

Me: “Did what?”

Ms. M: “Blow up the building, of course!!! Someone has to climb up, then we blow it up. They won't know it was us.”

Me: “Well, Ms. M, I think tomorrow will be better because tonight it is going to storm and will be too dangerous to climb the building.”

Ms. M: “Are you sure?”

Me: “Yes, plus we might be in peacetime tomorrow.”

Ms. M: “Really????”

Me: “Yes”

Ms. M: “Ok, tomorrow then. We blow up the building tomorrow.”

Some of Mom's table-mates lived through World War II; I don't know where they were, what happened to them personally, or how they might have been engaged in wartime. There could be truth here and Ms. M could have been part of a group that blew up buildings. One will never know. We all have trauma in our past; we must tread lightly.

I am grateful for those that have supported me on my journey, because without the lessons they have taught and the stories, they have shared I would not be able to navigate the dinner table with mom and her table-mates. Their personal history is what they know, what they live and who they are. All we can do is meet them where they are and try to make them feel better in the moment.

Know you are not alone.

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

Supports Livensparger

To the Editor:

As a parent of three in the Portland school system, I am writing to support Erin Livensparger as a candidate for the Portland Board of Education. We first met Erin through the Portland Little League when she coached T-ball with my husband and our kids played together. From the start, it was clear Erin is someone who shows kindness, patience, and genuine care. Whether coaching, organizing, or cheering from the sidelines, Erin always finds ways to lift others up and bring people together. That same spirit carries through in everything she does in our community. She listens, looks for solutions, and treats everyone with respect – qualities that make a real difference in a time when collaboration matters more than ever.

Erin is someone who demonstrates in her everyday actions that all students deserve to be seen, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential. She knows strong schools are built not only on academics, but on empathy, inclusion, and opportunity.

I know Erin will bring that same heart and dedication to the Board of Education – advocating for our kids, supporting our teachers, and strengthening our community.

Please join me in voting for Erin for the Portland Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Piascik – Portland

A Path to Progress

To the Editor:

Last year's budget season was challenging and contentious in towns across the state and East Hampton was no exception. After the failure of the first referendum, I, as chair of the Board of Education, was quoted in the *Rivereast*. Since then, a portion of that quote has been referenced several times, out of context and presumably to make it fit a narrative that was not in the spirit in which it was intended. Context is important to truth and integrity so I would like to share the quote in its entirety. When referencing the failed referendum, I said, “The cost of public education is becoming unmanageable for taxpayers.” However, the quote continued, “It is a systemic problem that needs to be addressed by the state in order to provide relief to taxpayers that does not come at the expense of our children's education.” I want to be clear. I did make that statement, and I stand by it.

We are living in challenging times where the cost of everything is on the rise. Personal expenses such as food, housing, utilities, and medical care are increasing, as are our taxes to cover the higher cost of education, public safety and government services. When creating a budget, local leaders have two choices. They can choose an arbitrary line in the sand and eliminate services in order to reach a prescribed number, often to the detriment of our children's education and our community as a whole. Alternatively, they can continuously work to find ways to decrease costs, to advocate for changes in the system at the state level, and to put forth a carefully crafted budget that makes some sacrifices while still maintaining the integrity of our schools and our town, helping this community to thrive, both now and in the future.

I can confidently say that the Board of Education has made a faithful effort to do the latter. I know my fellow Democratic candidates across all boards share this vision for a thoughtfully executed path to progress that continues to build community through communication, collaboration, and civility. Please join me in voting Row A on Nov. 4th.

Nancy Kohler – East Hampton
Chair and Candidate, East Hampton
Board of Education

Keep it Going in Colchester

To the Editor:

Over the past two years in Colchester, our Board of Selectmen has truly demonstrated what it means to serve the community. I want to express my sincere thanks to Rosemary Coyle, Bernie Dennler, Cliff O'Donal, Art Shilosky, and Denise Turner for coming together month after month to act in the best interest of the town and its citizens. It has been such a relief to see that there are still people in this town who put the work ahead of their own personal power and gain. Thank you for everything you have done – I hope you all win reelection on Tuesday so we can keep going in the right direction.

Susie Milner – Colchester

Nathan Jaycox for BOE

To the Editor:

Nathan Jaycox believes that the Board of Education should empower teachers, parents and students to work together to ensure that every student is prepared to pursue their chosen career after graduation. He believes excellence in education does not have to come at an excessive cost to taxpayers.

Nate is an engineer at Electric Boat in Groton. He also maintains an active State of Connecticut Teaching Certificate for Grade 7-12 Physics. He understands what it takes to guide and challenge students to reach their full potential. Nate is hard-working, organized, a man of integrity and is uniquely adept at teamwork.

Please vote for Nathan Jaycox. He would be a wonderful asset on our Board of Education!

Linda Ursin – East Hampton

Practical, Transparent Approach

To the Editor:

My name is Michael Beaulieu, and I'm running for a seat on the Hebron Board of Finance. I'm honored to have the endorsement of two current Board of Finance members, Michael McCormack and James DeDonato, as well as Heather Summerer, my colleague on the RHAM Board of Education.

My wife and I have lived in Hebron for nearly 30 years, raising our two daughters here and watching our community grow. Hebron is a special town – one with strong schools, caring neighbors, and dedicated public servants – but we also face important financial challenges.

Over the years, property taxes have risen significantly, and for many families, that burden is becoming harder to bear. While it's essential that our town continues to provide the services residents depend on, we must also be careful stewards of taxpayer dollars. The Board of Finance plays a key role in striking that balance – supporting community priorities while maintaining fiscal discipline.

If elected, I will bring a practical, transparent, and data-driven approach to financial decision-making. My goal is to ensure Hebron remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family—without placing undue strain on taxpayers.

I would be honored to earn your support on Election Day.

Sincerely,
Michael Beaulieu – Hebron

Blessings

To the Editor:

Ooops! I missed Hebron's most recent Department of Public Works Action Committee meeting, 10/20/25. Sometimes family takes precedence over town politics. None the less, I look forward to reading the minutes.

One thing I noticed, on that agenda, was creating a space at the transfer station, for kitchen waste. Being a rural type person, from a fiercely independent family, I could not help having mixed feelings about this. Composting, it seems to me, is one of those jobs we can do ourselves. But again, it appears I was raised in a different environment than that of a suburban town, in 2025, and not in an apartment complex.

When we moved to Hebron I bought a simple composter bin. A well-made, black plastic container to “store” kitchen waste. At my old house, I just dug a hole and dumped the onion skins there. But in Hebron we have neighbors, so I got the canister. It is super simple, especially if you eat a diet that does not include animal bones. I purchased an inexpensive, color coordinated, cooking pot, with a lid, and placed it next to the kitchen sink. All food waste, carrot tops, egg shells and so on, go into that pot. After a week the food begins to break down, gets slimy and intriguingly, smells like vomit from time to time. Then, we take this “waste” and dump it into the composter. The formal composting process begins with two shovel fulls of dirt, from your yard and occasionally turning the contents. Basically, the food waste and dirt merge, in the container, all by themselves. Fruit flies form, bacteria grows; it's great. In 25 years we have emptied the composter maybe eight times. Once empty, add some dirt and start again.

When we dump the compost, we feed it to the weakest part of the yard. A few times pumpkins and squash have grown, out of the organic mat-

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★ *Letters cont. from page 11*

ter. Once composted, the organic matter no longer smells offensive. Our friends do this too and over the summer cherry tomato plants grew out the vents on their composter all by themselves. It was hilarious

Be sure your composter is small enough that you can easily dump it and that is has a good latch on the top. Raccoons love messing around with kitchen waste. However, proper compost is not a waste, but a blessing. #save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Dems Have Education Priorities

To the Editor:

Education is facing challenges that past generations never could have imagined. Special education particularly requires more significant investments, such as personnel and programming, that have forced spending to skyrocket.

East Hampton is not alone in those challenges, but our needs are great. While we can and will meet them, we cannot turn our backs on the rest of the students and families in our public schools who likewise deserve an excellent education system.

The Democratic ticket is uniquely qualified to support the needs of all students. Financially and ethically, Row A represents decades of budgetary insight and educational expertise from candidates who understand and utilize best practices.

We are frequently asked why special education is so expensive and why costs continue to rise while enrollment gets smaller. Consider these statistics. As of Oct. 1, East Hampton has 1,665 students enrolled in local public schools. Roughly 21%, or 345 students, are enrolled in special education services. Across the state, the number of children diagnosed with autism has doubled more 100% from mere decades ago, requiring personnel support from teachers, paraprofessionals, speech-language pathologists, social workers and occupational therapists.

Quality programming requires qualified educators and professionals to provide students with their best opportunities to succeed. We have a moral and financial obligation to meet the needs of every child in East Hampton public schools, even as state funding declines and the federal government cuts educational services irresponsibly.

The entire slate of Democratic candidates, including those running for Town Council, the Board of Finance, and the Board of Education, will continue to rise to the challenge. There are no easy solutions. We need people on our side ready to make educated and responsible decisions.

Vote Row A on Tuesday.

Sincerely,

Edie DeSimone – East Hampton

***Note:** DeSimone is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said she is writing as an individual.*

She'll Bring Meaningful Change

To the Residents of East Hampton:

As the children of Joelyn Leon, we are elated that she has decided to run for East Hampton Town Council. For the entirety of our lives, we have been graced by the passion our mother has for community and bringing people together. Her dedication to uplifting others and the countless hours she has spent working tirelessly to help those in need continues to inspire us in our adult lives. Although we've since moved away, East Hampton will always be home, and we are so proud that our mother has chosen to try and make our town a better place.

Our mother, throughout our lives, has been our number one supporter. Her commitment to her work, to her beliefs, and her unwavering passion has encouraged us to work hard, to care deeply about those around us, and stand strong for what we believe in. Even when she was balancing her career, her master's program, and raising children, she always found time to support our goals and dreams. Our mother's determination, compassion, and integrity are what she will bring to the East Hampton Ttown Council and is what will inspire others to make a change for the better in our hometown.

Our mother has always been someone who shows up when it matters most. As we reflect on her work, we remember her involvement in supporting improvements at East Hampton High School, working to make sure students had safe spaces to learn. Beyond that, we are reminded that our mother has spent her career standing up for working families across Connecticut, advocating for fairness, good jobs, and strong public services. No matter the challenge she brings people together and pushes for solutions that benefit the community. We know our mother will always put the people of East Hampton first. Her commitment to education, her belief in the importance of a community that is affordable and welcoming to families and seniors alike is one that we feel will deeply resonate with our neighbors in our hometown.

We could not be prouder of our mother as we know that she will cherish her role on this council. It is with this that we fundamentally believe Joelyn Leon will help bring meaningful change to this town, ensuring everyone's voice is heard and that every member of our community feels valued and represented.

Sincerely,

Alexia and Noah Leon – East Hampton

Reelect Nancy Kohler

To the Editor:

As a fellow parent and longtime community volunteer, I am proud to endorse Nancy Kohler for reelection to the East Hampton Board of Education. I first met Nancy through our work with the PTO and from the beginning, I was deeply impressed by her intelligence, integrity, and genuine care for this community.

Serving as chair of the Board of Education is no easy task, yet Nancy has led with skill, grace, compassion, and strength. She has guided the board through complex challenges, all while keeping students and families at the heart of every decision. Nancy listens carefully, manages differing opinions with respect, and finds common ground among people with a wide range of perspectives.

Through her dedication and integrity, Nancy exemplifies the very best of public service. Please join me in voting to reelect Nancy Kohler to the East Hampton Board of Education. Our schools and our community are stronger because of her leadership.

Nancy Oakley – East Hampton

***Note:** Oakley is a member of the East Hampton Board of Education, but said she is writing as an individual.*

Three Excellent Candidates

To the Editor:

Andover voters, next week, on Nov. 4, we have the opportunity to elect three candidates to the Board of Education. There are two open Democratic spots, and one open Republican spot. Luckily, we have three experienced and qualified candidates to fill these positions: Michael Beckwith as a Democratic candidate, Gerry Cremé as a Democratic candidate, and Sharon St. Rock, who is cross-endorsed by both parties and should be selected as the Republican candidate.

Both Michael Beckwith and Gerry Cremé have served previously on the board of education and are running for reelection to their current spots. They both bring a wealth of knowledge about education, teaching, and the process of governing the Board of Education. Gerry Cremé is a retired teacher who brings 18 years of teaching experience and a strong dedication to student learning. Michael Beckwith is a 14-year veteran teacher and current math teacher in East Hartford. Michael provides a critical voice to the Board of Education with deep knowledge of educational policy and its practical applications in Connecticut schools today. Michael also has two children within the AES school system and, as such, contributes the perspective of both a parent and an educator to the Board of Education. Both Gerry and Michael have been strong advocates for AES on the Board of Education and will continue to serve our community well. Both should be selected as the Democratic candidates.

Sharon St. Rock is an elementary school nurse and has children in the AES school system. As someone who is regularly working in the school environment and understands the forefront issues of school administration from a staff perspective and a parent, Sharon offers critical perspectives to our Board of Education and should be selected as the Republican candidate.

In a rapidly changing political environment, we are very lucky to have three well-qualified candidates who will be able to ground decisions in their extensive experience with Connecticut school systems and understand deeply the field of education today. All three will be able to support the quality education and opportunities our children in Andover deserve.

To ensure that all three candidates are elected to serve on the board, be sure to vote for Michael Beckwith and Gerry Cremé as the Democratic selections and Sharon St. Rock as the Republican on Nov. 4th.

Chesney McOmber – Andover

SNAP Benefits

Friends and Neighbors:

Many changes have been made to the vital support systems that serve at the federal and state level. Professionals and residents alike eagerly await new information and prepare actions plans in response to H.R.1 – “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” signed into effect July 4th, 2025. Marlborough has a total population of just over 6,000. In 2024 1,066 residents were active participants of the Department of Social Services; 268 were 17 and under, 523 were 17-64 and 275 were 65+.

These residents received assistance in medical care and food security. To highlight these two categories: 235 participants received SNAP benefits and 1,057 received medical assistance. Data from CTDDataHaven.org project 23 families in Marlborough could lose their SNAP benefits as a direct impact from H.R.1. If you are in a place where you can assist monetarily, please consider donating to the Marlborough Food Bank. Checks can be mailed to 26 N Main St, Marlborough, gift cards to local grocery stores, restaurant, amazon and for gas stations can be dropped off Mon & Tues, online donations at foodbankofmarlborough.wordpress.com/donate. Every contribution — big or small — helps ensure our neighbors have the food and support they need. Statistics sourced from data.ct.gov.

**Shoshana Merced – Marlborough
Director of Human and Social Services
& Municipal Agent for the Elderly**

Supports Beaulieu

To the Editor:

After my husband and I moved to Hebron, I met Michael during my first Hebron Lions meeting. He was friendly and welcoming. During my four years here, I have personally seen Michael serve our community in various roles at the Hebron Lions Club and the Church of the Holy Family Music Ministry. He is currently serving as a board member of Hebron Lions International.

It is not often that you meet a person who is involved in the community, committed, and has the conviction to make a positive difference in Hebron members' lives. This person is Mike Beaulieu, a Hebron resident of more than 30 years, where he and his wife have raised a family. His children attended Hebron schools and graduated from RHAM High School, creating a deep, personal connection to our community and its schools.

Michael understands the needs of our community through his community connections and has the educational background and professional experience to serve on the Board of Finance. He has a degree in finance from Central Connecticut State University and has built a successful career as a Financial Services Compliance Officer. He knows and understands our community.

My experience is that you want a knowledgeable, dedicated, and committed person for the Board of Finance role. That person is Michael Beaulieu.

Caroline Salazar – Hebron

Livernois for Hebron PZC

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support for Chad Livernois and his candidacy for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Since moving to our town in 2018, Chad has shown a deep appreciation for the values that make Hebron so special – its sense of community, its rural character, and its thoughtful approach to growth and development.

Chad's background demonstrates the kind of dedication and problem-solving skills that our community can count on. He served six years in the United States Navy as a nuclear operator aboard a submarine—an experience that required precision, discipline, and the ability to make sound decisions under pressure. These qualities translate directly into the careful, reasoned work required of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

In his professional life, Chad works at a power plant, applying his technical expertise and analytical mindset to ensure safe, efficient operations. Colleagues and neighbors—describe him as dependable, level-headed, and committed to doing the right thing for the people around him. He listens carefully, evaluates information thoughtfully, and acts with integrity.

Chad understands the necessary balance: honoring our traditions while planning for a sustainable future. His approach to development is rooted in respect – for the town's character, for its residents, and for the long-term impact of every decision. That kind of leadership is exactly what Hebron needs.

I wholeheartedly endorse Chad Livernois for the Planning and Zoning Commission. His experience, work ethic, and commitment to our town will make him an invaluable asset to the board and to the community he proudly calls home.

**Jason Guidone
Chair, Hebron Republican Town Committee**

Let's Do George Proud

To the Editor:

This past summer our family got hooked on *Hamilton*. We watched it regularly and listened to the music almost daily. And it gave us a LOT to talk about it.

We talked about history, art, music, and even visited Washington, D.C. where we traveled out to Mount Vernon to see George Washington's estate and resting grounds. We also talked about life, death, and the lasting impact that people – and definitely public servants – can have.

And less than one week away from our latest municipal election, I'm reminded of a specific quote from the musical. Seasoned general and leader, Washington, gives a young Alexander Hamilton some stark advice when he says, “Winning was easy, governing's harder.”

In a small town like Colchester, it's easy to pass quick judgments. And for those public servants in town who volunteer their time, sacrifice their privacy, and work tirelessly to do what's best for our town and our schools, the judgment is often never-ending.

But what Washington was saying to Hamilton was a reminder to all of us. It's easy to sit on the sidelines. It's easy to watch. What's hard is to do it. To step up and lead. To be a force for good.

As Election Day approaches next Tuesday, November 4th, I urge you to have George in your ear at the ballot box. Who has governed with integrity in this town? Who has restored stability? And truly brought Colchester together?

Like the founding fathers, the answer to those questions isn't drawn neatly across party lines. Democracy is messy, most especially when people are passionate and care deeply about the community, but that's what makes it so important.

I'm proud to support Row A – Bernie Dennler and the entire Democratic team – as I'm confident in their commitment, knowledge, and the experience they each to Colchester. In addition to my two votes for Nancy Nelson and Gussie Gilberti, I'm equally

proud to give two votes to Row C for the Board of Education as I know Margo Gignac and Donna Antonacci are dedicated public servants who have governed amidst adversity, doubt, and judgment – doing so with their hearts on their sleeves.

Let's do George (even the musical version) proud next Tuesday and exercise our most sacred right. Don't sit home and judge – vote.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Tracey-Calash – Colchester

***Note:** Tracey-Calash is a member of the Colchester Board of Education but said she is speaking as an individual.*

Why Row C for BOE?

To the Editor:

For the past four years, Margo and I have made a positive difference on the Colchester Board of Education (BOE). We could not do it alone, though! Our fellow BOE members have worked in collaboration to strengthen teacher support and special education for Colchester students to succeed. The school administration, teachers and support staff are all aligned to make Colchester schools the best they can be.

When running again, we realized that our values did not match our local Republican Town Committee. Party affiliation doesn't matter when it comes to our children and community. Keeping solid schools means working together to properly educate our children, maintain facilities, and plan ahead to ensure responsible spending and affordable taxes.

Please choose to vote and consider us for two of the four possible slots on BOE. We ask that you don't simply go by party line. The days of party levers are gone, and most ballots are a mix of good folks from both sides. Row C this Nov. 4th brings experience and accomplishments — integrity and honesty.

**Donna Antonacci
Chair and Candidate, Colchester
Board of Education**

Vote Row A

Dear Voters of Marlborough:

All around our hometown, colorful campaign signs remind us that election season is here. At a time when few people want to become involved in local government, the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee assembled the most qualified candidates willing to serve in various positions from the Board of Education to the Board of Selectmen.

Information about our vetted candidates can be found on the Marlborough Democrats' website, in their personal letters published by the *Rivereast*, Marlborough Community Facebook, and in our mailings. Anthony Bratz and Susan McFarland, running for the Board of Selectmen, have even posted times to meet voters for coffee and conversation!

Our mission to identify candidates for this election has been accomplished, but we always welcome interested citizens to contact us. We solidly endorse our stellar 2025 slate. Now it is up to each of us to support local leadership and the future of Marlborough by voting early at town hall or on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4th.

**Vote Line A,
Natalie Bradley
Member, Marlborough Democratic
Town Committee**

Voting for McFarland

Dear Neighbors:

I'm writing to endorse my friend, Susan McFarland, for Marlborough Board of Selectmen. Susan and I have been friends since high school and she is an honest, hardworking person who will put Marlborough's interests at the forefront of all decisions. As she did when she served on the Zoning Commission, Susan will listen to our input and do what's right for our town.

I support Susan McFarland for Marlborough BOS and encourage my neighbors to join me in voting for her on Nov. 4th!

Thank you,

Sandra Monteiro – Hebron

Compassionate Heart

To the Editor:

I am writing to support Ted Hintz Jr for East Hampton Town Council. We now have one grandchild here and another on the way. We care about this town and its future.

I met Ted at CERT, which my wife and I joined to help serve our community. Since then, I also became a member of Rotary. Ted is an active Rotarian.

We have seen how much Ted cares about people and “shows up” to serve and give. A good example of that was when the Hurricane Helene floods in Asheville, N.C., happened in September 2024, absolutely devastating that community. Ted saw the huge need in that community and started acting. He got our local East Hampton Rotary involved and quickly had a box truck load and another full semi-tractor trailer load of relief supplies organized and he and another East Hampton Rotarian were on their way to Asheville. Further calls were made to other Rotary CT chapters and due to what Ted started several truckloads of critical/needed supplies were on their way to Asheville. (It made me very proud to be a fellow East Hampton Rotarian with Ted.)

Ted is a fiscal conservative with a compassionate heart. If you care about what your local taxes will be in the future, you will join me in voting for Ted Hintz Jr.

Rick Mayer – East Hampton