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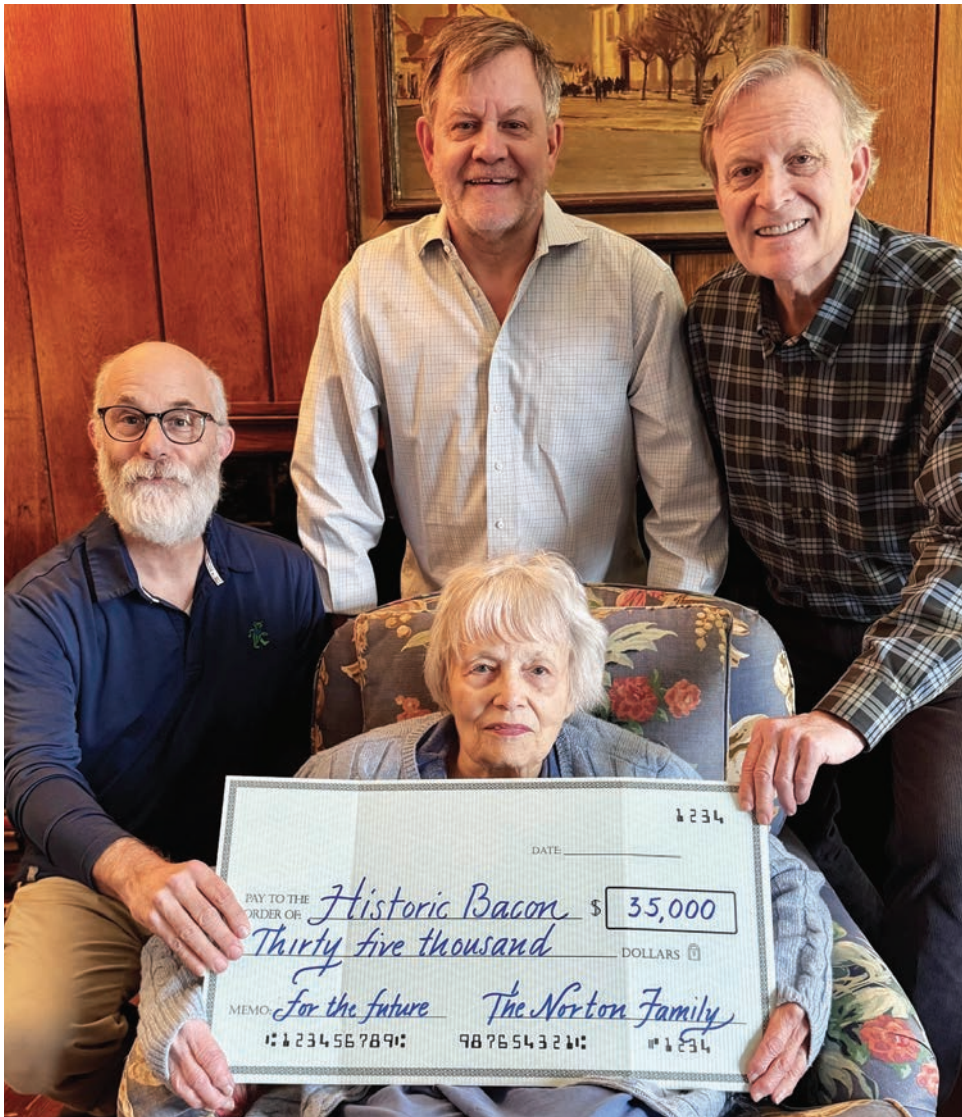
News Bulletin

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

Volume 47, Number 42

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November 7, 2025



A Hefty Donation... The Norton family has made a \$35,000 donation to help preserve and restore Historic Bacon Academy. From left, Jeremy, Andrew, and Christopher with their mother, Lynn Norton. See story on page 20.

Dennler, Democrats Win Big in Colchester

By Toriana Williams

Democrats celebrated a decisive victory in Colchester Tuesday night, as First Selectman Bernie Dennler secured a second term with overwhelming support and his party expanded control across the town's highest-profile boards.

Dennler collected 3,329 votes against Republican John Thomas' tally of 1,516, according to unofficial results posted on the secretary of the state's website Wednesday morning.

Wednesday morning, Dennler shared his feelings on his win.

"I am so grateful that my community has put its trust in me for a second term," he said. "I am excited that we will be able to continue our progress, and I'm looking forward to completing many of the projects we've started."

Dennler highlighted major capital improvements that will continue under his administration, including athletic facility upgrades and grant-funded renovations, such as the athletic complex renovation at Bacon Academy and the Colchester RecPlex as they move closer to being ready for referendum. He added that plans are advancing for the former Senior Center building on Norwich Avenue, including an updated veterans' space and converting the remainder of the building for Colchester Police.

Dennler said the margin demonstrated widespread approval of his governing approach.

"I think the margin of victory says that we have been successful in my biggest mission – bringing Colchester together."

Dennler also praised his opponent Thomas, and contrasted this election with previous cycles.

"John ran a quiet but respectful campaign," he said. "I appreciated how different our race was from the intense and divisive races of 2021

and 2023."

Thomas, who is also chair of the Colchester Republican Town Committee, could not be reached for comment for this story.

Dennler said he stayed focused on what he characterized as results over rhetoric, and that bipartisan support helped fuel his win.

"Democratic turnout was high [Tuesday], but if you look at the numbers it's also clear that I had significant bipartisan support too," he said.

Dennler also praised the newly elected team.

"I am incredibly proud of the Democratic team of candidates who were elected alongside me last night," he said. "Not just because of our party affiliation but because of who they are."

Dennler highlighted the diverse experience now represented in town government, saying, "Lifelong educators will have a seat at the table on [the] Board of Education. Financial experts will serve on [the] Board of Finance."

He also pledged partnership with Republicans who did win seats and said, "I am ready for us to work together to move our town forward and make sure all voices are heard."

Results of Other Races

Democrats also secured majority seats on the **Board of Selectmen**, with Rosemary Coyle, who collected 2,976 votes, and Denise Turner, with 2,952, both winning seats. Republican Art Shilosky, with 2,327 votes, also won reelection. Republican Cliff O'Donal, however, lost his re-

See *Colchester Results*, page 22

Belltown Democrats Notch Strong Victories

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton voters took to the polls this week to elect candidates for the Town Council, Board of Education, Board of Finance, Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Assessment Appeals.

The election was a decisive showing for the Democrats, with Democrats holding onto their majority on the Town Council, and regaining majorities on both the Board of Education and the Board of Finance.

In an email, East Hampton Democratic Town Committee Chair **Kevin Reich** wrote, "The East Hampton voters over the last two weeks have voted in record numbers in a local election to support the successes and accomplishments over the last two years. The Democratic leadership majority is looking forward to the opportunity to continue this work in a bipartisan manner collaborating with everyone.

Yes, the challenges are there, but our goal is through kindness, compassion and respect, to improve the quality of life for all residents and ultimately move our community forward".

Republican Town Committee Chair **Melissa Engel** struck an optimistic tone despite her party's disappointing results.

"Congratulations to all who were elected!" Engel wrote. "Regardless of party, everyone who stepped up to run for office is to be applauded and encouraged to stay involved. Democracy depends on it. In the end, we are still all neighbors and friends who want what's best for East Hampton."

In the **Town Council** race, Democratic incumbents **Dean Markham**, **Richard Knotek**, **Jack Solomon** and **Karen Wanat** all won reelection, joined by newcomer **Joelyn Leon**. On the Republican side, incumbents **Tim Feegel** and

Ted Hintz will return to their positions as well.

Reactions from Democrats were expectedly celebratory, with Leon writing, "This victory belongs to all of us who believe in a strong, connected, and forward-looking East Hampton."

"I'm grateful for everyone who knocked doors, had conversations, and showed up to vote," she added. "It's even more gratifying to see people across the country standing up to save democracy and make their voices heard. I look forward to serving our community with honesty, transparency, and heart."

Wanat echoed that sentiment after her reelection. "The residents have spoken," she wrote, "and I'm truly humbled by [their] trust. I'll keep doing what I've always done – listening, showing up, and working to move our town forward, guided by the voices of those who call East

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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.

There will be free parking and free entry.





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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. 27-Nov. 2:

Mia Hageman – Bacon Academy (Soccer): Hageman was named the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Player of the Year after helping the Bobcats win the ECC championship for the second straight season. Hageman, a senior captain, was one of a half dozen Bobcats to be named All-ECC first-team, joining Alyssa Blanchette, Quinn Guntulis, Lanie McIllduff, Arianna Elliott, and Isabel Faber. On Oct. 27, Bacon Academy wrapped up a repeat as a conference champions with a 1-0 victory over Stonington behind a goal from Blanchette.

Colin Marshall – East Hampton (Soccer): Marshall scored a goal and dished out a pair of assists as the Bellringers eliminated Immaculate, 3-1, in the first round of the Class S state tournament on Nov. 1. Marshall, a senior, powered an East Hampton attack that also got goals from Sebby Woodson and Sean Hargreaves. Ethan Hall added a helper as the Bellringers advanced to the second round. Marshall was also named All-Shoreline Conference (SLC) first team this fall. Woodson and Jackson Rurka were named

to the All-SLC second team, while goalie Shane Ruggiero was named All-SLC honorable mention.

Morgan McCarthy – RHAM High School (Soccer): McCarthy scored two goals, including the game-winner in the closing seconds, as the Raptors upset Nonnewaug in the first round of the Class M state tournament on Nov. 1. McCarthy, a junior, led the way as the No. 27 seeded Raptors traveled to Woodbury and shocked the No. 6 Chiefs on their home turf.

Gracie DeRing – Portland High School (Soccer): DeRing was named the Shoreline Conference (SLC) Goalie of the Year. DeRing, a senior captain, headed a Highlanders defensive unit that held six opponents scoreless during the regular season. Joining DeRing on the All-SLC team were teammates Christina Austin (1st team), Lea Rivera (2nd team), and Kiley Scott (honorable mention). Assistant coach Julie Hughs was also named the SLC Assistant Coach of the Year.

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.



Mia Hageman, a senior at Bacon Academy, was named the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Player of the Year as the Bobcats captured a the ECC title for the second consecutive season.

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September | 2025 | Wethersfield

TOP PERFORMANCE AWARD

Exceptional Excellence.... Mimi Perrotti, of Century 21, received the President's Circle Award for the sixth month in a row. Perrotti said, "I am so grateful for every client who has trusted me to guide them through one of the biggest decisions of their lives. Your confidence, referrals, and loyalty are what make this possible. Thank you for allowing me to do what I love every single day."

RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM

AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has announced 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 seasonal 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 animal-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.

RHAM Alumni Soccer Game

Attention all former RHAM boys and girls soccer players – including graduating RHAM seniors! The seventh Annual Jim Fromme Memorial RHAM Alumni Soccer Game will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, at Oakwood in Glastonbury. Drinks and pizza will follow.

If able to attend, email Pam at pamfromme1@gmail.com or call 860-478-0772 to confirm attendance. But if your plans change at the last minute, just show up!

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

The old ABC show *Wide World of Sports* used to open with host Jim McKay talking about “the thrill of victory” and “the agony of defeat.” Well, sports defeats don’t get much more agonizing than the one the Toronto Blue Jays experienced last weekend, I’m sorry to say.

As I’m sure many of you know, the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Blue Jays in the annual World Series. On paper, not a huge surprise; the Dodgers were the heavy favorites to win going in. But in Game 7 last Saturday night, Toronto was two outs – two measly outs – away from winning the whole thing.

Is it the one strike away that the Red Sox were in 1986? No. (Sorry not sorry that I had to go there.) But it’s still pretty freaking close – particularly for a team that last won the World Series in 1993.

Toronto held a tiny one-run lead in the top of the 9th, with all eyes on the Dodgers’ superhuman Shohei Ohtani due up third in the inning. A friend of mine had asked me, going into that inning, if there were two outs and nobody on, if the Blue Jays should walk Ohtani in that spot.

Unfortunately for Toronto, while there was

indeed nobody on when Ohtani came up, that was because the guy before him – the #9 hitter, Miguel Rojas, in the game more for his glove than his bat – had, amazingly, hit a home run to tie the game. It was a stunning development. Even Rojas’ own teammates were stunned. This was a guy who had hit exactly seven home runs during the regular season; Barry Bonds he ain’t. A home run was the last thing you expected in that spot. But it’s what happened – and in an instant, a Toronto crowd ready to get delirious with celebration fell stone silent.

The game remained tied going to the bottom of the ninth – and in relatively short order the Blue Jays had loaded the bases with nobody out. If you were a Blue Jays fan – and I was that night (but more on that later) – you *had* to like your chances. As a Mets fan, I’m no stranger to bases-loaded, none-out situations resulting in a big fat goose egg on the scoreboard, but these were the Blue Jays. They’d won the American League pennant; they’d played superbly well against the (again, heavily favored) Dodgers. Surely they could scratch a run across, right?

Editor’s Desk continued on page 6

Bulletin Board

Judging from the multitude of TV advertisements and billboards touting the services of personal injury attorneys, I have come to the conclusion that this must be a lucrative profession indeed.

Maybe a little too lucrative.

Even with near constant encouragement, how many dog bite victims, motorcycle injuries, a forklift ran over my foot incidents, I caught my you-know-what in my zipper tragedies, etc. must be generated to feed this swarm of hungry sharks? And as more and more law school graduates enter the feeding grounds, how does one set oneself apart from his fellow sharks new and old?

After all, it seems to me they all say pretty much the same thing.

“We treat all our clients like family. We won’t let the insurance companies bully you! We’ll get you a huge settlement at no cost to you unless we win! We’re not really in this for the money—we’re crusaders for justice! We went into business only to make victims whole again. It’s not all about the money, it’s all about you. Blah, blah, blah.”

Right.

Now I’m not saying there’s no need for personal injury attorneys, or that they’re dishonest, or unethical or anything. They’re damn helpful if you actually honestly need one. But at what point does this frenzy of advertising and the promise of easy money (and, c’mon, that’s what it’s all about, isn’t it?) turn us into a country of hopeful potential victims just waiting for the chance to cash in (or cash out) with a lucrative lawsuit (at no cost to ourselves)?

I actually saw a TV ad in Boston a while back where a self-professed “real client” said he called the law firm in the ad directly from the scene of his car accident. Talk about not wasting any time getting down to business. He must have been carrying the contact information in his wallet or on his phone for who knows how long in hopes that someday someone would run him over or drop a piano on his foot or look at him sideways or something. Now, finally, his payday had arrived and he wasn’t about to dawdle.

But how does the newly graduated personal injury attorney looking to make his fortune (or find justice for victims, if you prefer) set himself apart from the pack—or the school (assuming sharks travel in schools)?

You specialize. That’s how. You pick out some specialty that no one else seems to realize is a potential gold mine.

Like spaghetti sauce.

(I would have said motorcycle accidents, but everybody’s already jumped all over that one, so we’re too late to the party).

I can see the advertisement now.

“Have you been injured in a spaghetti sauce accident? Pick up the phone right now and call Slip, Slide & Fracture. We are the foremost—and possibly the only—personal injury law firm that specializes in recovering damages from reckless injuries involving spaghetti sauce. Slips, burns, food poisoning, allergic reactions, uncleanable stains on your rented tuxedo...we do it all. You wouldn’t hire a chainsaw salesman to give you a vasectomy would you? So why would you hire anybody but a specialist when you have a spaghetti sauce case? Don’t let the insurance companies pay you less than you deserve. Go to a specialist. We know sauce, we understand.”

The pitch is followed by a TV testimonial from an earnest-looking injury victim: “My name is Francine and I am a real client of Slip, Slide & Fracture. I called Slip, Slide & Fracture when I injured myself trying to open a jar of spaghetti sauce. The lid just would not come off no matter how hard I twisted it. At my half-wit’s end, I finally got a machete and tried to chop the jar open. But the machete slipped and I ended up cutting off my left hand. Having seen their ads on TV, I immediately called Slip, Slide & Fracture (fortunately, I am right handed).

“They not only reattached my severed hand right there in their office, they gave me a free ballpoint pen with their name on it. They then went to work on my case. I didn’t have to do anything but sit around at home and eat bon bons. My attorneys went to court and pointed out that the spaghetti jar that caused my injury did not include clear directions that the lid has to be turned counterclockwise to open. Thanks to that unconscionable lack of direction on the label, I was turning the lid the wrong way the whole time! If not for Slip, Slide & Fracture, I’d still have only one hand, an unopened jar of spaghetti sauce and I wouldn’t be riding around on this really cool new e-bike like another accident just waiting to happen. Thanks Slip, Slide & Fracture!”

(Apparently, the defense in this case foolishly relied on the ‘she’s too stupid to live’ defense, which only makes the defendant look meanspirited.)

Anyway, that’s my advice to newly minted personal injury lawyers. Pick your own unique lane in the shark tank and exploit it for all that it’s worth. Oh, and feel free to specialize in spaghetti sauce if you like. No harm, no foul. I finally got myself one of those jar opener wrench thingies they advertise on TV and I’ve moved on.

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.



Champs!... The RHAM U11 Boys Soccer Team had a successful weekend at the Colchester Soccer Fest. The team finished with a 3-0-1 record, with a 3-0 win over Glastonbury for the Silver Division Championship!

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

Portland Potholes

To the Editor:

The south slope of High Street was repaved months ago. But a smooth ride has yet to be. The steel access covers to valves below were not raised to match the finished surface of the new pavement, something that’s done before paving begins. In this case it has yet to be done months after the repaving!

Hazardous, steep, jagged, sharp-edged pot-holes now dot the area creating jolts much greater than did the previous rippled surface. This must be corrected to prevent serious personal injury or damage to car tires/suspension.

Repaving High Street’s north slope is on the docket. It must be done correctly this time!

Peter Kushkowski
“Almost Heaven”
Portland

Election Eve Thoughts

To the Editor:

As I write this on Election eve, I want to recognize and thank all those who put themselves forward to seek office to represent the interests of the citizens of Colchester. I hope that those who are elected hold true to their responsibility to represent all and that those who are unsuccessful in this election stay engaged in some other way in the governance of our town.

Respectfully,
Stan Soby – Colchester

Thank You, Public Works

To the Editor:

A compliment for the Colchester Public Works Department. Thank you for taking quick action to fix the corroded corner at Cemetery Road and Route 149. You have done a great job!!

Roberta Tiburski – Colchester

Veterans Day Flags

To the Editor:

This Veterans Day, the Guild of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton has placed American flags at the gravesites of veterans buried in St. Patrick Cemetery. We remember the men and women who have served our country by defending and preserving our freedoms.

Thank you to Donna Bonito, Linda Dellano, Bob DeMarchi, Helen Hill, Joan Lord, Elaine Smith, Tina and Chuck Yenknor and Rosemarie Terrasi for their efforts in honoring our veterans.

Ann DeMarchi – East Hampton

Paper Shred Coming

To the Editor:

This is a reminder that the Hebron Green Committee will be holding our annual paper shred event on Saturday, Nov. 15, this year, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the south parking lot at RHAM High School in Hebron. At this event, you will be able to recycle your confidential papers safely and securely rather than throwing them in the trash. It is open only to residents (no businesses) of the RHAM towns of Hebron, Andover and Marlborough, with a limit of five boxes or bags of papers per vehicle.

We always see a huge turn-out at these events, and want to make sure that everyone can participate who wants to. Also as in past years, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for donation to the local food bank, so please bring a donation along with your papers. To ensure safety and a smoother operation, please put all papers and donated food in the trunk of your vehicle and stay in the vehicle so Green Committee members can unload. If you have any questions, please call 860-670-6334.

We look forward to seeing you at our Paper Shred on Nov. 15!

Mike Harder
Hebron Green Committee

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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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Local Republicans

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago, a letter to the editor expressed that there is a New Era of Republican Leadership. It noted that there were times when that local leadership felt more divisive than unifying. The writer said that the new leadership is grounded in kindness, community and commitment. I applaud the writer for her sentiments and want to believe that, on our local level, Republicans are regaining their sane conservative ethics. A functioning democracy needs both liberal and conservative viewpoints. Although I applaud and respect the sentiment, this statement does not go far enough for these times; it does not explicitly denounce Trumpism. Neither the radical right nor the radical left represents democratic principles. Both are divisive and neither reflect majority America. (Note: extremists will see anyone left or right of them as “radical,” even if those approaching the middle are actually reasonable. It is a shame that the Republican brand has been so tainted by extremists.) In light of these remarks, regardless of the results of our recent local election, I wish the new Colchester Republicans success if they truly are grounded in kindness, community and commitment. We all need each other to achieve mutual success.

John Barnowski – Colchester

DPW Plan B Squared

To the Editor:

With the elections behind us, Hebron is faced with an important opportunity for our elected officials and residents to come together and continue to move forward. I remain hopeful that the entire community will embrace our common good and shared responsibilities to face a challenging future. I was grateful to read the DPW Action Committee Update by Vice Chair Todd Habicht in last week’s *Rivereast*. I was encouraged by committee member Richard Steiner’s comment that the committee is “laser-focused” on keeping the DPW at Old Colchester Road. For two members of the public to appear at this late juncture, relying on conjecture and suggesting a “Plan B” at a different location would offer any cost savings, undermines the tremendous efforts of the committee and ignores a plethora of available information. Ironically, when serious environmental and historic impacts of placing a DPW facility at the proposed Kinney Road site were first presented to the Town in August 2022, the response was a cold, “We don’t have a Plan B.” Clearly that has dramatically changed for the better as the wisdom of keeping the DPW at its current site have been acknowledged. Somehow Plan B has become Plan A.

While residents are rightly concerned with the cost of a new DPW facility, the need has been established for many years, see the 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development. A review of the recently published DPW designs show a responsible approach to construction and a desire to be as cost effective as possible. It has been a privilege to regularly attend the DPW Action Committee meetings since the committee was formed in 2023. The committee was established by the Board of Selectmen with one goal: Build a new Public Works facility at the current location on Old Colchester Road. The reason for this specific goal was the undeniable result of the DPW Survey completed in August 2023. Created and executed by the Town of Hebron, the survey reported that 68.57% of respondents said “Keep Public Works at Old Colchester Road.” To reiterate this preference, the survey also reported that only 15.72% supported using the Horton Property on Kinney Road and only 10.43% supported using another location. To suggest that an abstract vision of a better Plan B can overcome these results only detracts from the potential success of the DPW project. Please visit Save Hebron Center on Facebook for more information.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

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Let It Be

To the Editor:

Is it just me or is life moving too fast these days? So impossibly busy from the time you pick your head off the pillow to the time you put it back down. Does that bathroom need to be cleaned again? I thought I just did that; oh, that was last week! Grocery shopping again? The news. Paying those exorbitant bills, although thank the Lord for autopay! Always with the cell phones – the addiction I can’t quit. Why, if I’m now retired, am I so busy I have not time? Let’s take some time. Put down the phone. Turn off the TV and walk away from the laptop. Siri, stop. Remember how it used to be? When I was a kid and got home from school the house was quiet. You could think. Let’s get back there. Concentrate on the things that matter like our loved ones – even our furry ones. Make some time with them. Yeah, there is still a lot to do but it will be there tomorrow. Let it be.

Beth Rude – Colchester

Overdevelopment

To the Editor:

For over 100 years the Town of East Hampton, as well as many others, have adopted a practice of build now and let the developers run wild, and then continually raise taxes to supposedly balance out the need for tax dollars to run the town. Politicians continue to adopt nothing but this practice and for certain it does not work. Rampant development as we see on a regular basis in the Town of East Hampton may be great for the politicians and the builders, but not for the people trying to preserve property and a way of life! This just continues to escalate and snowball in a hard downward spiral. Town residents struggle to continue paying the freight of out-of-control development while the Town Hall continues through greed and to make a name for themselves continue on a nonstop basis to ask us the taxpayers to foot the bill. Services are very important but the rampant out-of-control development with very little thought to its short- and long-term consequences remains to frustrate many of the town’s residents. I hope people thought twice this year before voting for the continuation of the politician ‘tax, spend and then develop to pay for it all’ scenario. This has been going on for far too long and must stop somewhere.

David DeMerchant – East Hampton

Minimum Wage

To the Editor:

I think we can add our current governor to the list of politicians that make stupid mistakes. His recent increase in the minimum wage, for example. The increase in wages affects all employees. You can’t just increase the lowest-wage earners. You have to increase the rest of your employee’s wages, too. Now the employer needs to make adjustments. He can reduce the number of employees and make them work harder and faster or he can increase his prices. If he raises his prices he may lose customers. For example, I went to a class reunion a week ago at a modest restaurant. The price for all sandwiches was \$14.99. Add the sales tax and tip and we are up to \$20. Some people are going to stop going to this restaurant. He then needs to raise his prices again or go out of business. The lower-wage earners can work extra hours, like I did and my parents did. Another reason why I think he made a bad judgement is our absence of tolls in our state. He made a proposal to resume tolls again but it upset our residents. If he had made a sensible proposal it might have been welcomed. Like adding drive-thru toll monitors as you enter our state and additional ones as you approach our larger cities. Commercial vehicles would pay higher rates. Charge each resident a modest rate and non-residents a higher rate. For example, charge residents a modest fee, like \$.35 for each toll and non-residents \$1.50 for the same toll. To offset the resident toll fee, you decrease some of our other resident fees, such as lower vehicle registration costs and remove the fees on drivers licenses to visit our parks, etc.

Frank Blume – Colchester

Cell Phones in School

To the Editor:

Under the recent recommendation to restrict cell phones in public schools from the Connecticut Board of Education, it’s important that schools establish a good balance. While there is research that cell phones contribute to classroom disruptions, mental health concerns, and lack of connection with peers, schools can encourage responsible cell phone use. Panorama Education suggests different strategies that set clear boundaries, but promote healthy digital habits. One strategy is to introduce screen time management utilizing tools on both Apple and Android phones. Additionally, schools can promote offline activities such as clubs, sports, or

introduce dedicated phone free periods. At my school, Bacon Academy, we have Bobcat Block on Fridays for 30 minutes where students pick which activity they would like to go to. This allows us to unwind and detox from our phones and schoolwork. As a 12th grade student, the cell phone policy has changed throughout the years. I can confidently say that the more restricting policy has benefited me as a student. In past years, my phone has been either on my desk or in my backpack. I found myself constantly tempted to use it in between work. Now that we have phone caddies, I no longer feel attached and can focus on my schoolwork. Ada Fenick, a professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine, states that even if students are not actively using their phone but they can see it, they can still get distracted. With this in consideration, I do believe phones should be allowed during passing periods, lunches, and study halls. Students should be able to contact their parents, friends, or work if need be. I think with new policies comes new challenges and feedback, and it’s about finding what works best within the school.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Nelson – Colchester

Bullying

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, the Glastonbury Martin Luther King Community Initiative (GMLKCI) sponsored a Community Conversation entitled Bullying...with a Focus on Body Shaming at the Welles Turner Memorial Library. The program was presented by Jeanne Theleen, clinical supervisor, and Madison “Maddy” Fleshner, both professional counselors at Glastonbury Youth and Family Services. Registered dietician Julia Gaiser served on the panel as well. This topic is particularly timely, if not urgent, given data that reveal teen and young adult suicide is the second leading cause of death in the U.S. (CDC, 2023). Incidence data on major depressive disorder for this cohort are alarming, with mental health services reported as inadequate and often unavailable. The objective of the conversation was to create greater understanding of the broad and complex nature of body shaming across ages and genders. Body shaming, a form of bullying, was defined as the inappropriate and unsolicited mocking, stigmatizing or commenting on

See Letters, page 6

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Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

Right?
Well, out one came rather quickly, on a pop out to first. The next batter then hit a ground ball to Rojas – yes, that same Rojas who had just tied the game – who juggled the ball for a moment before recovering and throwing out Toronto pinch runner Isiah Kiner-Falefa by an eyelash. It was an incredibly, incredibly close play at home. They say baseball’s a game of inches – but in that moment, it was more like a game of centimeters. And those centimeters were in the Dodgers’ favor.
That made two outs – and suddenly, extra innings were looking pretty likely. But the Blue Jays still weren’t done. The next batter, Ernie Clement, hit a long fly ball to deep left field. Dodgers left fielder Kike Hernandez was chasing after it, looking to make a Willie Mays-style over-the-shoulder catch, when center fielder Andy Pages – who had just been inserted into the game for defense two batters earlier – came running, basically mowed down Hernandez, and caught the ball.
And onto extra innings it went.
After a scoreless 10th inning, the Dodgers grabbed the lead in the top of the 11th when catcher Will Smith hit a go-ahead home run – truly a crushing blow. The anguish that swept over the Blue Jays’ fans’ faces was almost too much to bear.
Somewhat amazingly, though, the Blue Jays *still* weren’t done. Down 5-4 in the bottom of the 11th, Vlad Guerrero Jr. led off the inning with a double. However, instead of slugger Bo Bichette coming up, the aforementioned Kiner-Falefa walked to the plate, as he had been inserted as a pinch runner in Bichette’s stead in that doomed bottom of the ninth. All postseason, Kiner-Falefa looked like, to paraphrase the classic *Bull Durham*, he wouldn’t be able to hit water if he fell off a friggin’ boat. So, manager John Schneider asked him to bunt. Bunt he did, and it was a beauty, advancing Guerrero to third. Unfortunately, it also ate up an out, leaving the Blue Jays just two outs away from a long, painful offseason.
After an unintentional-but-not-really walk to Addison Barger, Alejandro Kirk broke his bat and hit into a fairly routine double play – and the Dodgers had won the World Series, their second world championship in as many years.
Considering how close they came to winning – on a couple of occasions, in fact – this was a devastating, devastating loss for the Blue Jays. And for their fans, which, surprisingly, included me.
I’ve never been a Blue Jays fan. Oh, I don’t *dislike* them; they’re not the Phillies or Braves or Yankees, for crying out loud. But my team is the Mets; I don’t really have a “second favorite.”
This postseason, though, it was the Blue Jays who pulled me back into watching baseball. After the Mets’ crushing elimination

on the literal last day of the season, I didn’t know if I could bring myself to watch *any* of the playoffs. I wanted to lick my wounds, crawl under a blanket, and remain there until spring training. The Blue Jays, though, proved too difficult to ignore. I had followed Vladdy and Bo since I saw them play live – a couple of times – in Hartford, when they were climbing up Toronto’s minor league ladder. Also, Canada’s had a tough year; the country as a whole could’ve used the win.
So I found myself crawling off the mat and following the Blue Jays, to see how deep they’d get. Turned out it was pretty darn deep. The World Series wound up being Blue Jays vs. Dodgers, and the choice for me was pretty clear.
To be honest, it felt good to watch a World Series where I was actually rooting *for* a team, instead of simply rooting for the team they were playing to lose. Too often it hadn’t been that way; the Fall Classic would roll around and I’d be rooting for the Yankees to lose, or the Astros, or the Braves, or the Phillies, which doesn’t have the same fulfilling feeling. But this year, I found myself legitimately rooting *for* the Blue Jays. I found myself, to quote Gracie Abrams, actually invested.
So when the Dodgers won the championship Saturday night, I was, well, fairly devastated. More than I’ve been affected by any non-Mets-related loss in a long time. And before I knew it I was watching the events of that ninth inning on repeat.
Not so much the Rojas game-tying home run; that was a crusher, but those things happen. No, it was the bottom of the ninth that I kept revisiting. Kiner-Falefa was a pinch runner, so in theory he was installed in the game for his speed, and yet he had an absurdly short lead off of third base. Why didn’t he have a bigger lead? The play was so close at home, a couple of extra steps – heck, *one* extra step – could’ve made all the difference. If only he’d had a bigger lead.
If only he’d slid into home head first instead of feet first – or if only he hadn’t slid at all. Counterintuitive as it may seem, it actually slows a runner down to leave his feet and go into a dive. Unless you’re trying to avoid a tag – which Kiner-Falefa wouldn’t have been, as it was a force play – you’re better off just staying in your sprint.
If only.....if only.....if only.....
At the end of the day, the Blue Jays still had a fantastic season. They went further than 28 other teams did. They’re the American League champions of 2025; nothing can take that distinction away from them.
But they wanted more. They deserved more. And for a while there last Saturday night, it looked like they were going to get it.

See you next week – when I promise I’ll write about something other than baseball.

★ Letters cont. from page 5

an individual’s body or appearance in a matter perceived to be negative, regardless of its intent. Size-ism was defined as a form of prejudice or discrimination based on a person’s size or weight. These acts may affect employment, health care, social inclusion, relationships et al. What might seem like a harmless comment may create a painful memory for life!
Microaggressions are more subtle than direct confrontations. Without knowing the circumstances, they can be hurtful. Examples of microaggressions include unsolicited diet and weight advice; connecting someone’s medical condition to their body appearance; comments such as “you’re nice and slender; you’re tall for a girl; she’s a tomboy.”
The panel highlighted that body shaming can lead to feelings of unworthiness, inadequacy, low self-esteem, embarrassment, guilt and shame. Gossiping provides the energy to propel these acts broadly. Social media provides another broad avenue for victimization.
Tools for victims such as behavioral rehearsal language were presented for use in confrontational situations. The conversation also considered issues surrounding the perpetrator’s behavior that also needs attention. It is a serious problem for them as well. A Q/A followed the presentation.
I applaud Glastonbury Youth and Family Services for addressing this issue. I urge parents, community organizations, religious groups et al. to encourage and welcome this conversation.
Stephen Becker, Ed.D. – Glastonbury
Note: Becker is a psychologist and serves on the board of directors of the Glastonbury Martin Luther King Community Initiative.

Economic Scars
To the Editor:
“I went back to Ohio
But my pretty countryside
It had been paved down the middle
By a government that had no pride
The farms of Ohio
Had been replaced by shopping malls
And Muzak filled the air
Hey, ho, where did you go Ohio?...” – Chris-sie Hynde
Chrissie Hynde is quite hard on government. However, there are no government agencies designed to protect certain ways of life. Imagine coming home for the holidays and Amston, as you knew it, was gone! If you haven’t been attending multiple committee and board meetings or tracking real estate ads, you may have missed a beat and who could blame you. The news is quite depressing. But have no fear, I’m sure your phone is near, so go out and photograph the land and trees you enjoy right now. Then, call your water company, unearthen crayons and a map of Hebron Center and Amston. You can color while your water gets tested. Baseline tests are crucial.
Color in JHBlvd, the plastic pedestrian

bridge, the buildings slated for Toomey Lane and new housing complexes, one near the elementary school, the other flanking a local farm. Across from Wild Bills, color in three business and two housing lots. Don’t forget the old silver plate building and another business abutting the Air Line Trail. Fifty-three acres, along Route 85, sold on 4/16/25. Add to that another 53 acres and you have “The Lakewood Estates approved plan of development consist(ing) of 32 single family residential home sites spread over 106 acres.” (lakewoodestateshebronct.com)
Little by little, farmland and forests fall to economic development. The public is fed a diet of positive catch words and tricky real estate ads supporting economic development. Some feel delighted at the prospect of concrete, others reach for the antacids. ‘Twas ever thus. Land lovers head for the hills with suburban sprawl hot on their heels. Unless individuals and organizations can afford to purchase open land, especially at commercial prices, one can do almost nothing but smile, and learn to live with the sadness. John Denver understood this sadness when he wrote, “More people, more scars upon the land.”
One thing we can hope for is that Hebron’s Open Space program does not disappear. Their extensive acreage offers us healthy recreation spaces, a glimpse into the past and a sustainable guide for our future. #save17.
Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Sharing Your Time and Talents
To the Editor:
In every community, there are people whose knowledge, skills, and life experiences make a lasting impact and here in Portland, we’re lucky to have so many. At the Portland Senior Center, we’ve seen firsthand how sharing even a small piece of what you know can brighten someone’s day, spark a new interest, or make a difference that ripples far beyond the classroom.
We’re always looking for volunteers, especially those who have a special expertise or passion they’d like to share. Maybe you’re a recently retired teacher who loves history, a nurse with wellness tips, a musician, a crafter, or someone who simply enjoys conversation and connection. Every bit of time and talent you offer enriches our community and helps our older adults continue learning, laughing, and growing.
Like so many of the programs and activities offered here at the Portland Senior Center, each one plays a role in promoting healthy aging, supporting aging in place, and encouraging life-long learning. From fitness and wellness to creativity, social connection, and education, every opportunity reminds us how much we can learn from one another. Whether it’s teaching a class, leading an activity, or simply sharing a story, your contribution truly matters.
If you have an idea or would like to get involved, please reach out to the Portland Senior Center. Volunteering doesn’t just fill a need it fills hearts, including your own.
Let’s continue building a community where every generation has something to give, and everyone feels they belong.
Warmly,
Sarah Elliott-Caratasios, LMSW
Director, Portland Waverly Senior Center

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Dementia Talks No. 36
To the Editor:
I called her Ginny to get her attention. Using “Mom” just wasn’t cutting it.

On the Alzheimer’s journey things, people and places are erased. Some things stay; others fade away. Is it heartbreaking? Yes, it is. Is it acceptable? Not really. Do we have a choice? Yes – your choice lies within the situation and how you engage. Sometimes emotion wins over – in these times give yourself grace. Sometimes you will walk away with a bounce in your step because you had a good interaction.

Loved ones go through stages of grief, at different times, at different paces and stages can repeat. The grief journey is individual. Are there ‘normal’ stages to grief? Sure. However, know that everyone will walk through them very different from you; and you will walk through them in your own way.

Yesterday, I was helping mom into her jacket so we could walk outside. I realized that I was giving her instructions with the precursor of Mom. “Mom, put your hand in the arm of the jacket.” To someone with Alzheimer’s, the phrase “arm of the jacket” seems a bit wacky. Kind of like “driving on a parkway.” I realized that I had to change my approach – which included using her name instead of Mom, to get her attention. Then using the word ‘hole’ instead of ‘arm of the jacket.’ Once we got the motion down – all went well; jacket went on, hat went on, gloves went on. She actually pulled the glove out of my hand and put it on herself. Yeah.

On my way home, I realized I called her by her name. A small lump in my throat started and my eyes watered. She is still Mom, but I had to get her attention by calling her by her first name. Are the memories of raising my sister and I gone? I don’t know. I won’t ask.

I can only hope that with every visit I can see the sparkle in her eyes and a wave as I approach the door to enter into a world that is so very different from anywhere else. I pray there is recognition, even a glimmer in a squeeze of a hand. That is the hope that I hold on to; and you can too.

Know you are not alone.
With much love and peace,
Tonya Maurer -- Amston
Alzheimer’s Hot Line 1-800-272-3900

Helping Neighbors in Need
To the Editor:

I sure hope the federal government has reopened by the time this is published. At the time of writing, the Senate Democrats have voted 14 times against reopening the government. The focus of my letter is not political. Both sides of the aisle want health care reform, and they clearly need to negotiate, hash it out, make deals. That’s what politicians do. Meanwhile, over one million people have not gotten paid in a month. Many millions have had assistance reduced or eliminated, not just SNAP, and WIC, but Head Start programs, Indian Affairs, school lunches, and more.

There are at least two things we can do.
1. Give generously to the local Food Pantry. Check their website for particular needs. Remember, toilet paper and personal hygiene products are always needed. Dunkin Donuts, and Stop and Shop (at least some of them) also offer ways to donate to local charities.

2. Call and email our wise and humane Senators relentlessly until they decide to vote in favor of opening the government and allowing folks to put food back on the table. Conveniently, members of Congress still receive pay during shut-downs. Besides, Chris Murphy has a net worth of \$1.5 million; he’s not suffering. Dick Blumenthal has a net worth of \$85 million; he’s not hurting by the shutdown.

These repugnant politicians are playing a self-serving game, and it is up to us to step up and come to the aid of our neighbors, and fellow countrymen. This is an especially bad time, with cold weather approaching, bringing home heating bills, and the need to outfit children with winter apparel who’ve outgrown last year’s supply. Of course, we’re also now in the Holiday season, and the extra expenses that come with that. We can, and ought to, take care of one another.

Aravis Pasha – Hebron

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A Profile in Leadership
To the Editor:
I am writing this letter to the editor about an individual who has served this town in official capacity for some 40 years. That person is retiring Hebron selectman Dan Larson.

I have observed Dan these past 8 years and what I can say wholeheartedly is something said to me a couple of weeks ago. When talking about Dan’s leadership, Carla Pomproicz, longtime town, clerk said this, and I quote, “I don’t always agree with Dan on his political positions, but I would trust him with my life.” I could not say it any better.

The residents of Hebron have literally trusted Dan with their lives as a leader in the fire department or inspecting our buildings to make sure all were safe. He continued in his service on the Board of Selectmen. He remained a man of conviction, who led, when others may be afraid of deciding.

He did so at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting. Dan led the board to decide about a complex issue affecting the affordable housing project that will benefit our community in countless ways. He turned the conversation around. Without this decision, the project would be on hold another year because state deadlines would be missed.

What also makes him a leader is his caring. The day before the board meeting, he was in Maine helping a woman repair her home to keep her safe, not because he was paid but because he cared. He got home very late and got up the next day and put in a full day before coming for a 2+ hour meeting to do the right thing... lead.

I worked for 20 years on health care issues for the elderly on the national level in D.C. There I had the opportunity to observe leadership up close on Capitol Hill and in various administrations.

My friends, for 40 years you have been served long and faithfully by a man whose love and care for his community runs deep. May more leaders have the courage, the values and the conviction to lead like Dan Larson, truly a servant of the people.

The Rev. Ron Kolanowski
Rector, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Hebron

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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 Lit-tle 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 Ameri-can Legion (19U, 17U, 15U and 13U), as well as teams to compete in Babe Ruth (13U-16U).
Interested players should register at www.tcligion.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 Con-necticut) will host the Lions Service Carnival at Cromwell Town Hall & Library Complex Gym-nasium, 41 West St., Cromwell.
The Eastern Connecticut District governor, Jim Tripp of Portland, welcomes all district resi-dents; the district serves Middlesex, New Lon-don, Tolland, and Windham counties
The carnival invites families to spend Nation-al 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 en-

vironmental care to supporting mental wellness and veterans in need. Pick up a “service pass-port.” 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.
For updates, message the Lions through the District 23C Lions Facebook page.

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The Marlborough Lions recently donated \$500 to Marlborough Food Bank. Food bank volunteers Dawn Tavolieri and David Pratt recently accepted the check from Lions Club Treasurer Tom Reiser. From left are Tavolieri, Reiser and Pratt.

Lions Donate to Food Bank

The Marlborough Lions recently donated funds to the Marlborough Food Bank. Dawn Tavolieri and David Pratt accepted a \$500 check on behalf of the Food Bank from Marlborough Lions Club Treasurer Tom Reiser. Tavolieri and Pratt indicated that the Food Bank is primarily in need of cash donations, which allows the Food Bank to make the most of the funds donated. The funds for the donation were raised during various Lions Club fundraisers, such as the annual ‘Round the Lake 5K and Masquerade 5K road races and the spring Pancake Breakfast. The Marlborough Food Bank provides local

families with all sorts of food and household items. Currently, the Food Bank provides assistance to over 200 local individuals every month by providing them with much needed items and helpful gift cards. Anyone wishing to donate non-perishable food items for the Food Bank can drop items off at Town Hall. The Lions also collect eyeglasses and hearing aids, which can be dropped off at Liberty Bank, Town Hall, Richmond Memorial Library and at the office of Steven Rafalowsky on Saner Road in Marlborough.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

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

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.

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. 9: Veterans Sunday will be celebrated with Sunday school students participating. All who have served in the United States armed forces will be honored and given a gift made by the Sunday school children. The service will be led by worship assistant Gwen Lawson, while the youth group along with Seaver participate in a Homelessness Awareness Night sleepover at Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron. Included in the service will be a musical piece played by the Bell Choir. Bible Study is led by Seaver and meets Thursdays at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. upstairs in the lounge. All are welcome. 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-perishable 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. 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.

Holiday Craft Fair

American Legion Post 197 in Marlborough will host a Holiday Craft Fair Saturday, Nov. 29, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the post, located at 128 East Hampton Rd., Route 66. All are invited to come support local vendors for some holiday shopping. There will be raffles, snacks, and refreshments for purchase.

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.

Veterans Dinner

The East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club invites the community to a special Veterans Dinner on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m., at the East Hampton VFW on North Maple Street. Veterans and their spouses are invited to attend at no cost, while the general public is welcome to join for a \$30 contribution. This special evening honors military veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Marlborough Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps will be performing. The military trivia questions with prizes will be back again this year and more. For more information, call Ashley with the East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club at 860-301-4517.

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 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.



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Democrats Win Big in Local Races

By Toriana Williams

Democrats scored decisive victories across the board Tuesday night, securing a majority of local offices and continuing a trend of strong Democratic performance in town elections.

Democratic candidates Susan McFarland and Anthony Bratz won two of the **Board of Selectmen** seats, ensuring a Democratic majority for the board.

McFarland led all candidates with 1,081 votes, followed closely by Bratz with 1,025 votes. Republican Robert Fraulino received 761 votes, according to unofficial results posted on the secretary of the state’s website.

At the Democratic election night gathering, held at the Marlborough Bakery and Café, owner Sandy Squillante happily greeted the winners as champagne bottles popped. Cheers of celebration filled the room as well as the scent of delicious baked goods and a small buffet of food prepared for the candidates. The mood was “ecstatic,” McFarland described.

Of her strong win, McFarland said, “I’m appreciative that the community came out, and I’m going to come forward to do the job for my town.”

When asked by the *Rivereast* whether she was surprised by the Democrats’ strong showing, McFarland said she wasn’t, “because I think we had a really good campaign.” She attributed their win to the hard work put forth by the entire team, a message that was echoed clearly by all candidates.

“We’ve been trying to address the issues that we thought were important to the residents,”

McFarland shared, stating that she was cautiously optimistic to begin with, and “obviously I’m very pleased now.”

Bratz, once the reality of his own win sunk in, said he felt “disbelief” when the results showed clearly who the town wanted. He credited the coordinated effort of the Democratic slate for the across-the-ticket success.

The message voters sent via the results, he said, was that they wanted “a united front. That we’re looking for sensible government in a time where our federal government isn’t quite sensible.” Bratz noted the team’s priorities on being fiscally responsible and engaging voters to “make local government appeal to the masses. I think that’s what the slate really tried to get across.”

For other races, **Board of Finance** Republican candidate Michael Nastri garnered 970 votes, alongside Republican candidate Ken Hjulstrom with 854 votes.

For the **Board of Finance alternates**, Democrats Travis Michaud, 1,002 votes, and Joseph Sheriden, with 997 votes, won over Republican Michael Condodello with 784 votes.

Democrats secured a victory on the **Board of Education**, with Democrats Linda Earley receiving 1,002 votes, William “Bill” Guzman with 986 votes and unaffiliated voter but Democratic-endorsed candidate Raymond “Chip” Morris with 984 votes.

Republican candidates that lost were Susan Pedrick, who received 730 votes, and Louise Concodello, who received 769. Concodello will

remain on the **Board of Selectmen**.

Board of Assessment appeals had a bipartisan win as only one Democratic candidate ran, that being Emily Collins with 1,047 votes. Republican David Morgansen received a seat with 797 votes, winning over Susan Pedrick, who accumulated 767 votes. However, for the Republican Party, these are considered preliminary outcomes as the margin between votes reach the threshold for a recanvas.

All **Planning Commission** candidates received a seat, with Democrat Beth Lander Morris with 1,089 votes, Democrat Peggy Golfin with 1,056 votes and Republican Subby Magro with 855 votes.

For **Planning Commission Alternates**, Democrat Jason Cooper received 1,027 votes, Republican Zina Planeta with 783 votes, securing her win alongside Cooper and over Mark Paul with 764 votes.

The **Zoning Commission** had four candidates while residents could only vote for up to three. Winners were Democrat Erik Stromberg who received the most votes with 1,066, Republican Eric Colantonio with 798 votes and Republican Salvatore Sena Jr., with 765 votes. Republican Christopher Wherry lost with 755 votes. However, for the Republican Party, these are considered preliminary outcomes as the margin between votes reach the threshold for a recanvas.

Zoning Commission Alternates were chosen to be Democrats John Grass with 1,055 votes and Justin Bransfield with 1,000 votes. Republican John Planeta received 745 votes, losing to the Democrats.

For the Zoning Board of Appeals, residents voted for up to three candidates against the four that ran. Winners were Democrat Matthew Wil-

son who received 1,047 votes alongside Democrat Elizabeth Bransfield with 1,039 votes and Republican candidate Patrick Pabouet with 737 votes. Republican Zena Planeta received 732 votes and lost. However, for the Republican party, these are considered preliminary outcomes as the margin between votes reach the threshold for a recanvas.

Zoning Board of Appeals alternates candidates both won, with Democrat Robert Larson with 1,068 votes and Donna Mosher with 902 votes.

The **Regional (RHAM) Board of Education** candidates both found a seat on the board with Democrat Pamela Farrington who received 1,108 votes and Republican Carely Fraulino with 841 votes.

Democratic Reaction

Andrew “Drew” Golfin, first vice chair of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee and a member of the RHAM school board, said the results reflected the dedication of local volunteers.

“We have an amazing group of people in this town,” he said. “It was a real effort on the part of the [DTC],” he shared, crediting the amount of time spent making phone calls, distributing mailings and flyers.

Golfin said the team’s energy and persistence helped connect with voters.

“By us getting out there and really trying to get our message across, it just motivated people to say, ‘These people are committed,’” he said. “We put so much effort into it, people could see – if these people are working this hard, they’re going to work hard for the town.”

Looking ahead, Golfin said the real fun hasn’t yet started: “The work is just beginning.”

Chair of the Republican Town Committee, Judy Kelly, was unable to be reached for comment.

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. The center will be closed in observance of Veterans Day on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

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.

Shopping Trips: Monday, Dec. 1, the bus will go to N. Windham Walmart. Depart the senior center at 1:30 p.m. and return at 4 p.m. Call to reserve ride. Additional holiday shopping trips on 12/8 (Marshalls/HomeGoods) and 12/15 (Ocean State Job Lot or Ollie’s).

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

Thanksgiving Lunch: Nov. 21, noon-2 p.m. There will be Thanksgiving lunch, a music performance by MES, and free raffles. Cost for lunch is \$10, exact cash or check. Must RSVP by 11/14

Open Enrollment: Dec. 2, by appointment only. Change prescription plans, switch between traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans.

Technology Assistance: Thursday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m.-noon. One-on-one appointments with Richmond Memorial Library technology specialist. By appointment only.

Blood Drive: Thursday, Dec. 4. For more information or to make an appointment to donate, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or sign up online at redcrossblood.org with sponsor code “Marlborough”.

Encore Club: Wednesday, Dec. 10, featuring holiday music by Bill Naughton Jr. and light refreshments. RSVP by 12/3.

Ugly Sweater Party: Wednesday, Dec. 17, noon-2 p.m.; RSVP by Dec. 10. (Note: there was an error in the quarterly newsletter; these dates here are the correct dates.)

Free Holiday Gift-Wrapping: Thursday, Dec. 18, 2-3 p.m., and Friday, Dec. 19, 9-11 a.m. Bring your gifts; they’ll be wrapped for free. Call if interested.

Regularly Scheduled Programs: For full descriptions, call the senior center. **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.

Blood Pressure Checks (free) and Chatham Health Education Presentation: Monday, Nov. 10. Blood pressure checks from 11:30 a.m.-12:15

p.m., and presentation from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

Coffee & Conversations: Thursday, Nov. 20, 11 a.m.

Birthday Club: Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1-2 p.m., with cake. Open to all friends and family. It does not have to be your birthday month to celebrate. However, if it is, please RSVP.

Parkinson’s Exercise: Visit www.beatpdtoday.com/class-schedule or call 860-918-9594 to register and for more information.

Mahjong: Wednesdays, 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.

Tap: Wednesdays, 5-6:30 p.m.

Social Services: 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 for people 60 years of age and over, and their spouses or caregivers. Apply directly with CRT by calling 860-560-5848, or call the senior center for a referral.

Transportation: Rides to medical appointments, employment, essential services, the Senior Center and recreation activities are available to seniors and people with disabilities. Transportation is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Rides must be reserved two business days in advance. Call 860-295-6209 for more information. Visit the town website, www.marlboroughct.gov, for the complete Transportation Policy, which took effect Nov. 1. There will be no transportation Tuesday Nov. 25.

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RE11-7-25

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

Taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Or simply going out to dinner? Bring the *Rivereast* with you! Whether it's across the globe or across town, we want to see where you've been! Simply snap a photo with the *Rivereast*, send it to bulletin@glcitizen.com and, if printed, you'll receive a gift card to Campagna Restaurant in Portland! Further details are listed below. Happy travels!



Seeing Stonehenge... Portland residents Mike, Cathy and Jen Masselli, along with Gina Masselli of Windsor Locks, brought along their *Rivereast News Bulletin* on a European cruise that concluded with a visit to Stonehenge. The Disney cruise also included a visit to Brugge, Belgium – where they had the opportunity to make Belgian chocolate! – as well as three stops in Norway.



Sensational Santorini... Mark and Nancy Congdon of Colchester, along with Kevin and Jolene Geysen of East Hampton, recently went on a Mediterranean cruise to Greece and Italy. They brought along the *Rivereast* of course! They had a beautiful trip visiting Europe for the first time. Salute!



On the Island... Although they never met Prince Edward, Eric Stano and Noelle McGuire of East Hampton recently visited the rich scenery of Prince Edward Island in Canada for a spectacular vacation!



Touring the West... Larry Jacques of Columbia went on a tour of the west and stopped at Taos Pueblo, New Mexico.

Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?
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Quilt Project to Benefit the Food Bank

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

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

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,

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: 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.

LibrarYoga: Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m. Yoga 200 Certified instructor Amie Meacham leads an hour of gentle yoga for adults in the Library Community Room. All levels welcome; bring your own mat if you have one and wear comfy clothes.

Book Club: Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m. Copies of the current month’s book are available at the circulation desk. This month’s book is *My Side of the River* by Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez.

Teen Programs: Magic: the Gathering (Grades 7-12): Thursday, Nov. 13, 1-3 p.m. Come play Magic: The Gathering! 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.

Teen Advisory Board: Grades 8-12: Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m. Take a leadership role in shaping how the library serves teens. Help plan programs, improve the Teen Space, and more.

Children’s Program: Animal Hybrids with

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.

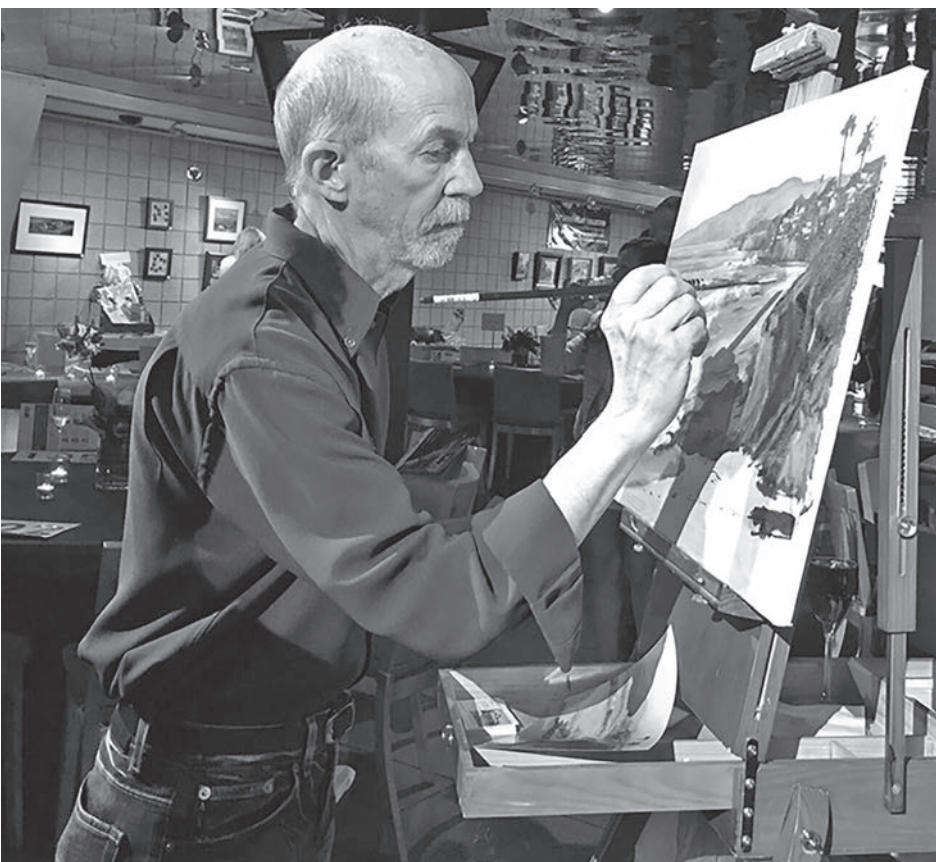
3D-printed items, Christmas crafts and more.

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.

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.

Read to a Therapy Dog: Grades K-3: Tuesday, Nov. 18, 4:30 p.m. Readers will be assigned a 15-minute time slot between 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to read to Jovie, a certified therapy dog.



East Hampton oil painter Tom Swimm
Live Demo by Local Artist

Local artist Tom Swimm will have his artwork included in the exhibit at Artopia 2025 at Epoch Arts, 22 Skinner St., on Sunday, Nov. 9, starting at 1 p.m.

Swimm will do a live painting demonstration and exhibit his original oils along with work from 20 other artists that will also be featured at the event. In addition to the art exhibit, there will be music, art demonstrations, food vendors and craft artisans.

Artopia is free to the public. For more information, email epocharts.org.

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 St.

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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ROCK - I	Skyy Vodka 80° \$19⁹⁹ (1.75 L)	Absolut Vodka 80° \$28⁹⁹ (1.75 L)	Basil Hayden Bourbon 80° \$37⁹⁹ (750 mL)
	Espolon Blanco 80° \$54⁹⁹ (1.75 L)	Myers Dark Rum 80° \$40⁹⁹ (1.75 L)	Jack Daniels Black Label 80° \$22⁹⁹ (750 mL)
WINE	Black Box Wines \$19⁹⁹ (3 L Box)	Robert Mondavi Prim. Select Wines \$16⁹⁹ (1.5 L)	14 Hands Hot To Trot Red \$9⁹⁹ (750 mL)
	Clos DuBois Chardonay \$19⁹⁹ (1.5 L)	La Marca Prosecco \$17⁹⁹ (750 mL)	Corbett Canyon Wines \$16⁹⁹ (3 L Box)
BEER	Bud & Bud Lt 12 oz., 30-pack cans \$27⁴⁹	Busch & Busch Lt 12 oz., 18-pack cans \$15⁴⁹	
	Modela 12 oz., 24-pack cans \$27⁴⁹	Yuengling 12 oz., 24-pack cans \$22⁹⁹	

Not responsible for typographical errors.

Center Package Store

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Sun. 10am-5pm

RE11-7-25

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Veterans Sought for American Legion

In an effort to save one of the oldest military organizations in East Hampton, American Legion Post 64 is inviting any interested veteran to join. Young or old are eligible; all you need to have completed is basic training. The purpose of this organization is to provide outreach to veterans, offer scholarships to new recruits, and support the Rocky Hill State Veterans Healthcare Center.

Post 64 currently meets bi-monthly at the East Hampton VFW at 20 North Maple St. Its next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m.

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

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.

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

Holiday Wreath Workshop: Monday, Dec. 1, at Jessica's Garden in Marlborough. There are two sessions to choose from: one from 4-5:30 p.m. and one from 6:30-8 p.m. Fee is \$35. Gather your friends and design a holiday wreath. Parks and Rec. will have a curated selection of fresh evergreens, pinecones, ribbons, accents, and holly for you to adorn your wreath to your own style. All materials are provided. BYOB and snacks.

Belltown Holiday Market: At Town Hall Thursday, Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m. This community event brings together local crafters, artisans, and food vendors. Discover one-of-a-kind handmade gifts, explore seasonal treats to take

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

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.

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.

Foster Child Gifts: The collection of gifts for foster children must be done by Dec. 7. The gifts must be new in its original packing and not wrapped.

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

Middle Haddam Public Library News

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

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

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 Haddam, 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 living historians, scholars, and artists from eastern Connecticut. Call the library to register.

Open Mic Night: Friday, Nov. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. Share your talent or just come and listen



FREE “HOME & HEALTH EXPO”

Saturday, Nov. 8 | 10 AM – 2 PM

East Hampton Town Hall

Take charge of your health and your future - or help a loved one do the same!

Join us for a day of **expert advice, demonstrations, and resources** to help you or a loved one age in place safely and to keep yourself healthy and fit.

Featured Topics & Activities:

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

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

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

Refreshments provided

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

Sponsored by the East Hampton Commission on Aging



RE10-24-25

Autumn Leaves Fair

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.

Art on Display

Local artist Valerie Stockburger will display her oil paintings at Town Hall during 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.

Thanksgiving Dinner for Local Seniors

VFW Post 5095 invites East Hampton seniors to a festive Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 16, beginning at 1 p.m. The celebration will be held at the Post Hall, located at 20 North Maple St.

Sign-up sheets are available at the following locations: East Hampton Senior Center; Chatham Acres and Bellwood Court senior housing; VFW Post 5095; and Town Hall

For questions or to sign up directly, call the post at 860-267-8837.

Bingo at VFW Post

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

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

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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.

HeatSmart at Home & Health Expo

Information on a new initiative to promote energy efficiency will be available at this week-end's Home & Health Expo.

East Hampton Town Manager David Cox has announced HeatSmart East Hampton, a campaign to increase awareness of energy efficiency and increase participation in the residential weatherization program, Home Energy Solutions, as well as the adoption of heat pumps.

The campaign is led by East Hampton's Clean Energy Task Force and the Town of East Hampton, in partnership with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG), the towns of Chester, Deep River and Portland who have collectively been awarded a Community Partnership Initiative grant by the Sponsors of Energize ConnecticutSM, Ever-source and Avangrid, Inc. subsidiaries Connecticut Natural Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas. East Hampton has also partnered with The Rockfall Foundation in this effort.

The East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force and Lantern Energy, a utility-approved autho-

rized contractor, will exhibit at the Commission on Aging sponsored Home & Health Expo this Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Town Hall.

In a press release, the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force wrote, "HeatSmart Connecticut helps homeowners, renters, and small businesses across the state, including 20 Environmental Justice Communities, take control of their energy use. Through energy assessment, weatherization and other energy efficiency upgrades, participants can receive immediate improvements to comfort and efficiency in their homes or businesses. On top of that, these upgrades often lead to significant savings on energy bills each year, helping families and businesses keep more money in their pockets while reducing their environmental footprint."

For more information, visit HeatSmartCT.org/EastHampton or call 877-878-3006 to sign up directly for a Home Energy Solutions assessment (be sure to mention HeatSmart).

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.

Holiday Closing: The senior center will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans Day.

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

Trailblazers Walking Group: Monday, Nov. 10, at 9 a.m., at Air Line State Park, 69 Smith St. All paces welcome.

Nutrition Talk with Chris Blancarte of Senior Resources: Monday, Nov. 10, noon. "Go with Your Gut - Exploring the Connection Between Food and Gut Health" will be the topic. Drop-ins welcome – sign up for lunch too.

Veterans Breakfast and Veterans Day Celebration: Wednesday, Nov. 12, 9:30 a.m. Veteran and will be honored with coffee, conversation and community. Enjoy pastries and coffee provided by Colebrook Village, and connect with fellow veterans and friends. Veterans liaison Sherri Vogt will be on hand to share resources and support. Call the senior center to register, at 860-267-4426.

Creative Recharge for Caregivers: Thursday, Nov. 13, 6 p.m. This workshop is a hands-on collage class designed especially for caregivers. All are welcome. Cost is \$3.

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 Opportunities: 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.

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. It's a one-stop event for living well at every age.

Meet local experts who can show you how to make your home safer, more comfortable and more energy efficient as the years go by, and learn about services that support independence and peace of mind.

There will be mini-sessions from fitness and yoga professionals and a physical therapist who will share exercises and practices to stay active and mobile and to prevent injury. Also, a psychiatrist will speak on how to recognize and respond to mental health issues in aging – what is normal and what is not, including the difference between depression and dementia, as well as strategies to effectively adapt to later years.

Curious about alternative health measures? Discover naturopathic medicine, Reiki and sound healing – and enjoy a free chair massage. Refreshments will be served.

More than 30 vendors will be on hand, along with a number of speakers. See the updated schedule of speakers below, including the addition of VFW representatives at noon.

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 injury prevention and how physical therapy can help;

10:30 a.m., Mairead Painter, the state's Long Term Care Ombudsman, who will focus on long term care facilities and making informed choices for the future, while Alison Dvorak, executive director of the Senior Resources Agency on Aging, will highlight community resources that support aging in place for those who prefer to stay at home;

10:30 a.m. Roslyn Brault, Reiki, sound and hands-on-healing;

11:15 a.m. Dr. Harry Morgan, a specialist in geriatric psychiatry, will talk about depression and dementia and how to tell the difference, as well as strategies to adapt effectively to later years;

11:30 a.m. A three-person panel of experts will discuss at-home care, finances, and Medicaid planning;

11:30 a.m., Yoga with Amie Meacham – chair yoga and standing yoga;

Noon, VFW representatives will talk about the benefits and resources that veterans qualify for, but often don't use;

12:30 p.m., First Responders: East Hampton Police, Fire & Ambulance will discuss what we can do to help them in an emergency;

12:30 p.m., Mary Henderson, personal trainer, who will talk about the importance of exercise, key exercises 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.

Lions Sponsor Free Concert

On Monday, Nov. 10, at 1 p.m., at the VFW post on North Maple Street, the East Hampton Lions will sponsor another in its series of free concerts for the seniors, with free door prizes and light refreshments. This concert's entertainer will be T-Bone (Tom Stankus).

The Lions say T-Bone will have something for everyone – showtunes, songs from the '30s to the '70s, polkas, comedy and dance favorites.

For further information, call Lion Mary Krogh at 860-977-5760.

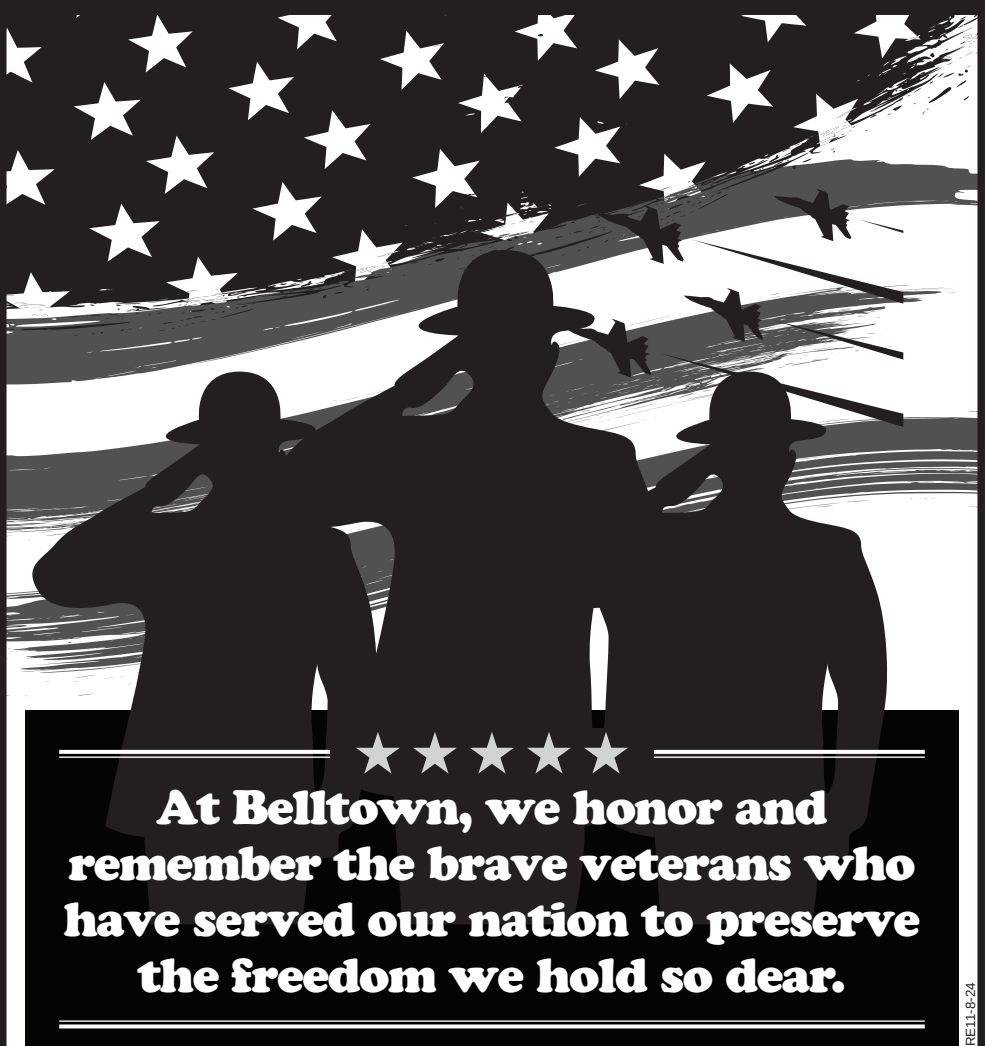
Middle Haddam Library Annual Meeting

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.

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Food Collected for Pantry... Zion Lutheran Church recently participated in the Thrivent Feed Northeast 2025 project, where over 500 food items were collected. The 706 pounds of food was donated to Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown. Donna Berndtson, church member, is shown with food collected.

Discussion of Downtown, Riverfront Master Plan

The Town of Portland and consultant FHI Studio (now IMEG) invite the public to a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17, at the Portland High School library, to discuss the initial work and goals of the Portland Downtown and Riverfront Master Plan.

The goal is to create a vision for the future of the Downtown and Riverfront Areas of Portland. This comprehensive effort will focus on key topics such as land use, multi-model

mobility (walking, biking, driving, and taking transit), commercial uses, wellness, access to the outdoors, and housing diversity.

The meeting will outline the planned process and seek public input on the direction for Portland downtown and riverfront districts.

All are invited. For more information about the project and to sign up for project updates, visit [downtownportlandct.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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Portland to Honor Veterans

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

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

for children under 10.

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

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

Trinity Episcopal News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., invites all to services on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Bible Study starts at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. The church schedule can always be located at [www.trinitychurchportlandct.org](#).

Upcoming Worship: 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 members will gather to bake and pack Christmas

cookies for Streetfire Ministries.

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

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

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. For more information or to register, call 860-342-6761.

Food Share Mobile Pantry comes to the Food Bank every other Monday; the next pantry visit will be Nov. 17.

Weekly Programs: Unless noted, all programs are free. **Monday, 11/10: Light Aerobics,** 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, 11/11: Center closed for Veterans Day.

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

Thursday, 11/13: Tone & Stretch, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch,** 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal,** noon – cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: beef stroganoff, egg noodles, mixed veggies, cheddar biscuit and butter, string cheese, cup of pears; **Mahjongg (FULL),** 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble,** 1 p.m.

Friday, 11/14: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Mahjongg,** 10 a.m.

Upcoming Events: Unless noted, all events are free. **Live Well Workshop:** Mondays, Nov. 10-Dec. 1, 2-4:30 p.m. This workshop began Oct. 27, and focuses on gaining the knowledge and skills needed to live well with ongoing health conditions. Connect with others weekly and explore planning and problem solving, working with providers, healthy lifestyle choices and more. Registration required as limited space is available; contact Heather to register.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holiday Center Decorating & Pizza Party!: Tuesday, Dec. 2, 1-2 p.m. Registration recommended.

Ikea Shopping Trip: Wednesday, Dec. 3, leave the center at 10:30 a.m. Cost is a \$5 ride fee; registration required.

Bingo with Sean from Ageless Insurance: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1:30 p.m. Registration recommended.

Slater Memorial Museum & Lunch at La Stella Bakery: Wednesday, Dec. 10, leaving the center at 9:30 a.m. There is a \$5 ride fee and \$10 museum admission; pay for your own meal. Registration required

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

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

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

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.

Holiday Fair

Trinity Church, located at 345 Main St., will hold its annual Holiday Fair Saturday, Nov. 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

There will be seasonal crafts and baked goods, pies and treats, children's crafts and activities, crown jewels (costume jewelry), and raffles. People can also visit with Santa and take a photo.

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Food Drive Brings in Over 1,300 Bags



Members of the Mainetti family pose with bags of donated food at the Portland Food Bank on Nov. 2. From left are, front row, Casey Pisani, Luke Manning, Kelly Mainetti, Sheila Peterson and Colleen Kimball; back row, Kim Hanna, Josh Mainetti, Tim Manning and Nick Mainetti.

By Anne Lilburn

It seems fair to call the Mainetti family’s annual food drive in Portland a success this year.

Organizer Kelly Mainetti has been a part of this drive since the beginning, 31 years ago. That’s when her mother-in-law, the late Pat Mainetti, took her grandkids — Kelly’s children — out to leave off bags on a few local blocks. Since then it’s grown by leaps and bounds.

This year, the drive had a lofty goal, aiming for 1,000 bags in honor of Mainetti’s brother, Shaun Manning, who had helped organize the drive with his sister in years past before his sudden death a little less than a year ago. The final tally, as of Sunday evening, was 1,306 bags, dwarfing the 800 bags that was their record from last year.

Inside the volunteer-run Portland Food Bank on Nov. 2, bags filled the floors, tables and hallways. At least 50 volunteers worked to unpack, sort, and label the donated food, and the Mainetti family estimated that over 100 people total helped to collect bags, and unload, sort and store food.

Kelly Mainetti said she wanted to make sure to thank all those who came out to volunteer, as well as those who had contributed in other ways, making it a full community effort.

She said that Adams Hometown Market donated the brown paper bags that were left on people’s doorsteps, while the Town of Portland and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows’ Stephen Terry Lodge shared the cost of printing

the flyers that went on those bags.

Middlesex United Way provided volunteers for bag prep, and groups from the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Xavier High School and the Portland Leo Club all volunteered on the final pick-up day.

Portland High School freshmen Declan Kelley, 14, and Liam Witschy, also 14, both were there unpacking and sorting food on behalf of the Leo Club.

“We just want to help out the community in every way we can,” said Witschy.

“It’s impressive, the stuff we can all get done,” added Kelley.

Also there unloading carloads of grocery bags was food drive founder Pat Mainetti’s widowed husband, Nick, 84. He described his wife as “fun-loving” and said he thought the big turn-out and overall enthusiasm of the day, with people enjoying themselves and smiling while they worked, was a great testament to her spirit.

Food bank volunteer and manager Kevin Backman said he was happy to see his shelves fully stocked, adding that it was especially important at this time, with more residents in need and the status of SNAP benefits during the federal government shutdown still in a state of confusion as of press time.

Kelley Mainetti said she thought her brother would be happy to see the turnout and the big haul – but she wasn’t sure he’d be surprised, adding that he always had big hopes.



Nick Mainetti pushes a cart filled with donated food and, in the inset at top right, unloads the cart with the help of Bill Caffrey.

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. 9, worship will feature a celebration of the church’s Ministry of Volunteers.

Also at 10 a.m., elementary aged children will meet for Church School in the newly renovated classroom, and the middle school class will meet in the youth room. Infant - Pre-K children will enjoy playtime and an age-appropriate lesson.

The High School Youth Group Pizza Party is this Sunday, Nov. 9, from 6-7:30 p.m. Bring

a friend for fun, games, conversation and food. The meeting will be held in the upstairs room at the church.

This Sunday, the church is collecting donations of shelf-stable beverages. These items can be in a can, bottle or box and should not need refrigeration. It can include juices, Yoo-Hoo, Coffeemate, and especially shelf-stable milk products. Drop off your donations in the shopping cart located in the narthex. All donations are appreciated.

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

Planning Underway for Class of ‘66 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.”

CERT Volunteers Wanted

The Portland Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is looking to recruit new members and a group coordinator to assist with community activities, and join the team.

The CERT program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Call Barbra Felgate at 860-916-8887 for more information or if interested in joining.

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.

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Town Hall Holiday Closing

Portland Town Hall will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11, in observation of Veterans Day.

However, there will be a wreath-laying ceremony that day at 11 a.m., behind Town Hall at the Veterans Memorial Wall. All are welcome to join.

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.

Bereavement Support Group

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

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

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

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Propane Tank Leak Takes 3 Hours to Control

By Anne Lilburn

A leak in an underground propane tank on Stephen Tom Road took crews three hours to repair on Sunday, Oct. 26.

The leak, coming from a 1,000-gallon underground tank at a new residential construction site that was nearing completion, was first reported around 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, but Portland Fire Department Deputy Fire Marshall Andy Goff said it first began on Saturday, Oct. 25, when a contractor's excavator hit a control valve, damaging it.

The initial temporary repair that was completed by a propane company failed a day later, said Goff, which is when neighbors began to smell gas and called emergency services.

Portland Fire Department responded, and upon arriving on the scene, realized that the repair was failing. One firefighter was hit, but not injured, by a wooden plug that had been part of the temporary repair when it was expelled from the tank, Goff said.

The fire department said in a Facebook post that they quickly requested aid and were assisted by tankers from neighboring communities, including East Hampton, Westfield, and Glastonbury. Once there, the department said that they stretched hose lines, established a water supply and sent out crews to "meter then nearby properties."

The Connecticut Department of Energy and

Environmental Protection (DEEP) was notified and sent their mobile propane response trailer to the scene, where they were able to "stop the leak and make a repair," according to the Facebook post. Goff praised DEEP's expertise in the area, noting that the department has expertise in both managing hazardous chemical releases (including propane) and also specifically in managing propane emergencies.

Originally, firefighters thought that they might have to flair the tank, allowing it to burn off, but DEEP was instead able to remove the damaged threads and install a new, functional

pressure release valve.

"We want to thank the CT DEEP for their help and response," the fire department wrote, "as well as our mutual aid partners for standing by and helping to provide thousands of gallons of water to ensure we had a safe scene. No injuries were involved. And crews operated for just under three hours."

Going forward, Goff said that the contractor involved in the construction was going to re-excavate the tank and inspect it to make sure that it was safe, and install a new one if it was not.

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: Sunday School 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 continuing its review of *The Chosen* video series. Episodes 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.

Giving: Zion will hold a Coat Drive again this year to support Amazing Grace in Middletown. Amazing Grace services eight surrounding towns, including Portland. The drive will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.

A New Exhibit in Honor of Veterans Day

On Sunday Nov. 9, the Portland Historical Society's Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, 492 Main St., will be open from 2-4 p.m., with a special exhibit in honor of Veterans Day.

The society will exhibit several items belonging to Sergeant Beatrice White (Taylor), who served in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during World War II. Beatrice was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles White of 34 Waverly Ave.

Beatrice's only brother, Nelson, died of leukemia at age 21, and when the war came, Beatrice told her mom and dad that someone from the family had to enlist to serve the country.

Among the many items in the exhibit are pictures of Beatrice, her uniform and duffel bag. The items were recently donated to the museum by Beatrice's daughter, Bev Taylor (PHS Class of 1967.)



Sergeant Beatrice White (Taylor)

St. Mary Guild Basket Raffle

The Ladies Guild of St. Mary will sponsor their annual Basket Raffle this Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and after all weekend Masses in the church Rosary Room.

The event will include a wide variety of 70 baskets and 4 pumpkins with \$125 worth of a choice of gift cards in each. All are welcome.

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.

To donate an adult used coat, a large receptacle is available in the Rosary Room at the Church of Saint Mary, 45 Freestone Ave.

PHS Class of 2015 Reunion

The Portland High School Class of 2015 is organizing a 10-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.

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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Local Support Surges for Herman’s Diner

By Toriana Williams

When a small town loses a staple – even slowly – it can feel like losing a piece of itself. A fear of the happening is what sparked a wave of support in Colchester after a local business owner made a public plea for Herman’s Diner.

“Colchester & Surrounding - I need your help for someone who deserves it more than anyone...” read the beginning of the Facebook post, written by Todd Charlebois from Todd’s Tree Service. He continued by describing Khristina Goulet as “the heart behind Herman’s Diner,” a woman who is there “every single morning before the sun comes up, cooking, cleaning, smiling, making everyone feel like family. She pours everything she’s got into that place - her time, her heart, her soul.”

The post quickly spread, prompting residents from across Connecticut to fill the diner’s seats again.

Despite the flood of new customers, Goulet said she never would have reached out on her own.

“He told me he was going to do something. I didn’t know what it was,” she said of Charlebois’ Facebook post. “He’s a good friend of mine.”

Herman’s Diner has been owned and run by Goulet for nearly four years. However, the eatery has been around for decades, and she previously worked there under the previous owner

before taking over.

The transition, she said, was driven by the people who walked through the door every day. “I like my customers, I like the community,” she explained.

Recently, though, business slowed to a worrying trickle.

While restaurant business always fluctuates, Goulet said the last couple of months in particular “have been off.” And even though customers might dissipate, bills, she added, “never go away.”

Still, she kept working - opening the doors daily, cooking from scratch and checking in on regulars. “You really get to know people’s lives,” she shared.

Among those regulars is Charlebois.

“Normally, [Todd] sees ... cars and it has just been overly slow. He was like, ‘What’s going on?’”

That’s when he stepped in.

Charlebois said his motivation came from respect.

“Ever since Khristina took over, I’ve witnessed on the sidelines ... the dedication that she puts into that place,” he said. Being a fellow small business owner, he said he knows what it’s like “to be in a very harsh economy right now.”

Charlebois described Goulet as someone who “puts way too much work and way too much



Khristina Goulet, right, and daughter Makenzy Merritt, stand proudly in front of Herman’s Diner, a staple in the town of Colchester.

heart into that place for it not to be successful.”

In his Facebook message to the town, Charlebois wrote: “She’s way too proud, too stubborn and too selfless to ever ask for help. She’s the type who will feed someone else before she feeds herself – and I can’t just sit back and watch her fight this alone.”

So Charlebois offered tangible support – covering the cost of meals. “Todd’s Tree Service is going to cover the bill for every fifth customer on weekdays, and every tenth customer on weekends,” his public message read. “No strings. No catch. I just want people to go there, eat, enjoy and show this woman that her hard work

matters.”

Charlebois said the idea for the Facebook post, and the offer, arose from “kind of like a little sidebar conversation” when he and Goulet discussed the slowing. When Goulet confided the decline was severe, Charlebois said he “had to help because that’s just me. That’s the kind of character I am.”

Goulet said the impact was immediate.

“We’ve definitely had a lot of people come in that have seen the post,” she said. “Not just here in Colchester, but surrounding towns.”

Charlebois said the response has encouraged him. “It really showed me how [there were] certain things we could all agree on and all come to terms with,” he said. “It made me feel good ... that other people care. It’s not just me.”

He said he hopes the waves of customers continue – not just because they know they have a shot of getting a free meal, but because they genuinely want to return.

“She can only do what she does, and she’s ... good at it,” he said of Goulet. “Everything she cooks out of that kitchen comes with love.”

To Goulet, Herman’s Diner is defined by the people who fill it. Many have eaten there since childhood, now bringing their own kids. “It’s neat,” she said – seeing “a new generation starting.”

Goulet said her motivation is simple: “I just think of my customers.” And Charlebois captured that spirit in his call to the public.

“Bring your friends, your family, your co-workers,” he wrote. “Fill those seats. Leave her a big tip. Tell her you appreciate her. Because the people who need help the most are usually the ones who will never ask for it. And if Colchester has any heart left – we’ll show up for her.”

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Bobcats Boys Soccer Endures in Enfield



Bacon Academy senior captain Troy Johnson competes for the ball during the Bobcats' 3-1 victory over Comp Sci in the second round of the Class M state tournament in Enfield.

By Josh Howard

After falling behind by a goal in the first half, Bacon Academy boys soccer shifted gears and rallied to beat the Eagles of Comp Sci (CREC Academy of Computer Science and Engineering), 3-1, in the second round of the Class M state tournament on Monday.

Senior Talan Ladyga broke a 1-1 tie early in the second half, blasting in the go-ahead goal from straight away as the Bobcats took the lead and never looked back.

Following a slow start, Bacon Academy head coach Skip Starks said the team regrouped and refocused during the halftime break.

"We made a couple of mistakes and they capitalized in the first half," noted Starks. "I don't have to light too many fires to motivate these guys. They know what is expected and we got away from things, so we made sure we were going to maximize that in the second half."

Midway through the first half, the Eagles drew first blood on a goal from Gavin Bernard.

But after that, the Bobcats controlled the ball and the tempo for the remainder of the match.

Sophomore Shane Meyer netted the equalizer by hammering a shot into the left corner of the net after getting a nifty feed from senior captain Troy Johnson.

Following Ladyga's decisive goal, Johnson would add an insurance goal late in regulation to wrap up the scoring and send the Bobcats to the quarterfinals round.

"We came out slow, but we realized that we should be playing at a higher caliber," said Johnson. "I think picking up the energy really helped us pull away for this win."

Johnson is captaining the team with fellow senior Brayden Ward. Ward is manning the backend for a Bobcats defensive unit that was flawless after allowing the early goal.

"We made one mistake, but we didn't let that

change us," noted Ward. "We just kept playing our game and we calmed down."

Junior goalie Michael Wisniewski made a pair of saves in net and Ward also thwarted an attack by the Eagles late in the first half when he cleared a ball in front of the net.

Ward said the goal of the defensive front is to make Wisniewski's life easier, adding, "We're just trying to do whatever we can to support him."

Meyer and Allen Quinones were also credited with assists in the victory in Enfield.

Following the game, Ladyga was given the "Blue bucket hat" for scoring what turned out to be the game-winner. The hat is awarded to the "Man of the Match" following each game and Starks said Ladyga "delivered" when called upon in the win-or-go-home game.

Prior to the state tourney, it had been an up and down regular season for the Bobcats, who were victorious only once over their first handful of games before winning three of their final six matches to close the regular season with a record of 6-6-4.

Bacon then won an Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) quarterfinals game before being eliminated in the conference semifinals by East Lyme, the eventual ECC champs.

Starks said the games within the notoriously competitive conference prepared the Bobcats for the state tourney, where they entered as the No. 25 seed.

"No one feels sorry for us, but our players know what they are capable of. They get those battle scars and you find out what you are all about," explained Starks. "We've hit our stride at the right moment, from an emotional and execution standpoint."

In the first round of the state tourney, the Bobcats traveled to Woodbury and beat the No. 8-seeded Chiefs, 2-1, at Nonnewaug High



Stephen Stabach, a senior, gets ready to launch a free kick as senior captain Brayden Ward watches in the background.

School on Halloween.

Jack Levasseur and Owen McLoughlin netted goals in the tourney opener as the Bobcats advanced to the second round where they took care of business in Enfield by beating the No. 9-seeded Eagles.

Along with serving as team captains, Johnson and Ward were also recognized with All-ECC first team honors.

Johnson said that team approached the state tournament as a clean slate.

"The beginning of the season was tough, but I feel like we found the right combination even

though it came later in the season," added Johnson. "It really doesn't matter if you have a bad regular season, you can have a chance in the state tournament and I was really glad we were able to pull out this win."

Starks added that all the Class of 2026 members, which include 11 players and a team manager, have made a tremendous impact on the program, adding, "They've been together a long time. They'll have big shoes to fill on both a quantity and quality level."

Visit ciac.fpsports.org for a complete list of tournament brackets and results.

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How Does Your Garden Grow?... The Colchester Giving Garden has wrapped up its 2025 growing and donating season. Its team of volunteers worked weekly from April until mid-October to grow and donate over 1,700 lbs. of fresh produce to those in need in our community this year. All of the food grown is donated to Colchester’s food bank and area soup kitchens. Donations are welcome to help keep the volunteers’ mission going in future years; email colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com for more information. The garden will start up again in the early spring, and volunteers are welcome.

Dog Park Fundraising Photo Shoot

The Colchester Dog Park Committee is hosting a fundraising pet photo shoot with Santa. Children and families are welcome too. The event will be held at Colchester Fish & Game Club on Sunday, Nov. 30, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The committee will sell digital images, 5x7 and 8x10 photo prints, Christmas cards and ornaments. All orders will be available for pickup at Park & Rec by Dec. 12. Cash, check

and Venmo are accepted.

A new photo setting is available this year. Photography donated by SMS Photo of Colchester. For appointments, call Janice at 860-608-8489. Walk-ins will be accepted if time is available.

All proceeds will support the Colchester Dog Park. For more information, email tagno-bark@gmail.com.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

Abundant Life Church, a Christ-follower church that believes in salvation through Jesus Christ, is located at 85 Skinner Rd. Worship is in person at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Adult Sunday/Bible School: two classes, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study for Women: Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Sweet Aroma, Colchester.

Healing Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. prayer meetings – Thursdays, 10 a.m.

and Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Men’s and Women’s Breakfast: Meets once per month on Saturday mornings.

The church also has many other things to offer. Unless otherwise noted, all groups/studies are held at the church. Call the church office for more info on the groups.

For more information, call the church office at 860-537-3082 or visit AbundantL.com.

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. 10: 10 a.m., Making Memories, Commission on Aging meeting, Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign, Veterans’ Tribute; 11 a.m.-noon, fitness orientation by appointment; 12:30 Mah Jongg, Bridge, Setback.

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

Wednesday, Nov. 12: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Reflexology by Appointment; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Hand and Foot Card Game, Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Elder

Abuse Presentation; 1 p.m., Sew-cial Time; 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Cardio Drumming; 2:30 p.m., CSC Staff Meeting.

Thursday, Nov. 13: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling, Bereavement Group; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip to Wallingford; 11 a.m.; Yoga; noon, Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m., Chair Massage by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Ornament Class, Knit & Crochet; 4-8 p.m., Wellness Nights.

Friday, Nov. 14: No Social Services Hours; 9 a.m., Open Art Studio, Seasonal Crafting; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 10:45 a.m., Blood Pressure Clinic; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:15 a.m., Chatham Health Education Series; noon, Tech Time with Harry; 1:15 p.m., Bingo.

Norton Family Continues Supporting Historic Bacon

The Norton family includes many generations of Bacon Academy graduates and supporters – and now the family has made a significant donation to support the preservation and restoration of the Historic Bacon Academy building.

The honors Nick Norton – father and husband – and Diana Norton Giles – their sister and daughter. Both served as chairs of the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees and were proud Bacon Academy graduates. They also were each dedicated to preserving the building and ensuring that its educational traditions endured.

Today, Andrew Norton continues the fam-

ily legacy as chairman of the Bacon Academy Trustees.

The family’s gift of \$35,000 matches Pierpont Bacon’s original gift that established one of America’s earliest high schools in 1803. Today, that same amount is helping to repair the roof and historic cupola, as well as creating an accessible entrance ramp and a new restroom on the first floor. These improvements will help keep Historic Bacon alive and bring the building back into use for the people of Colchester and beyond.

The Trustees noted that while the Norton family’s generosity has made a significant impact on this project, this restoration work relies on the continued support of many others. Every gift – large and small – from Colchester citizens, local businesses, alumni and friends across the country helps ensure that Bacon Academy’s historic legacy endures for generations to come.

To support Phase 2 of the restoration, follow Bacon Academy Trustees on Facebook, and to make a donation visit www.baconacademy-trustees.org.

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.



It's very important this year to review your plan, as there are many changes!

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Upcoming Educational Events

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

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

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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 – and pickup is tomorrow.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, Boy Scouts distributed fliers and bags to local homes, and residents were asked to put their donations in the bags provided. Tomorrow, 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.

Color House Ornament Trail

This holiday season, The Color House Art & Pottery Studio is inviting the community to join in a brand-new tradition: the first annual Color House Ornament Trail.

Running Dec. 1-21, 100 handcrafted ceramic ornaments created by artist Tina Parsadanov and her team at The Color House will be hidden all around Colchester, from local parks to small businesses. Each ornament is unique, and free for whoever discovers it.

Participants are encouraged to visit participating Colchester businesses to collect stamps in their Ornament Trail Digital Passport. Even

Senior Center Upcoming Trips

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

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

Newport Playhouse – A Twisted Christmas Carol: Tuesday, Dec. 2, 9:15 a.m. A *Twisted*

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.

if an ornament has already been found at a location, visitors can still stop in to scan the business’s unique stamp. For every five stamps collected, participants will earn an entry into grand prize drawings featuring handmade pottery and gift cards from town favorites. Visit www.co-hoct.com/ornamenttrail for more information and to register.

This event would not be possible without the support of community sponsors Family Pizza, Ooh La La Boutique, Sweet Aroma Coffeehouse, Studio E Dance & Acro, My Kid’s Place, and Skyview Team at Carl Guild & Associates.

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

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

Boy Scout Troop 72 Recycling Project

Boy Scout 72 continues to accept recyclable containers from residents or businesses at the Colchester Polish Club. You can drop bags of recyclable containers on the left hand side of the pavilion at the Polish Club at 395 South Main Street Colchester. Or email letendrej@sbcglobal.net or text or call 860-917-8391, if you wish to schedule a pick up.

Your donations will help Scouts go to summer camp, high adventure trips and enjoy other camping activities that they might have to miss due to a family’s ability to afford the event.



Pumpkintown Fun... The Colchester Cooperative Nursery School would like to thank Paul and Sandy’s Too for a field trip to Pumpkintown, U.S.A.! Students had a blast meeting the pumpkin people, exploring all of the buildings, sliding down a fireman’s pole, getting lost in the hay maze, climbing on the spider’s web, and bouncing on the giant rubber tubes. A highlight for everyone was taking the hay-ride through the Pumpkintown Forest after enjoying apple cider and fresh donuts.

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The annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will return to Colchester next month. Pictured at a previous ceremony is Roseanne Tousignant of the Colchester Honor Guard.

Wreaths Across America Returns Dec. 13

Locally, volunteers from the Westchester Cemetery Association and Pack 109 supporting Wreaths Across America at Westchester Cemetery have been working hard to ensure that the 55 service members buried there will indeed be honored again this year with the placement of live, balsam veterans' wreaths as part of National Wreaths Across America Day 2025.

This annual event is held outdoors on location at the Westchester Cemetery off Route 16. The program starts at noon sharp on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Donations are welcome in the form of purchasing a wreath for a soldier and laying wreaths at gravestones. Each individual \$17 sponsors a fresh balsam wreath that will be placed on a veteran's the headstone on Dec. 13. To learn about event details, visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/CTWCCC. You can also send your contribution to Wreaths, c/o Joanne Rioux, 219 Lakeview Dr., Colchester, CT 06415.

"It is important that during challenging times we all take a moment to remember those who have met and overcome challenges – like our nation's military and their families – and show unity in our American spirit while we work together in an effort to march forward in the face of what seems to be insurmountable odds," said Karen

Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America. "We are so grateful to the good people of this great nation for participating in the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach."

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

Auditions for 'Christmas Story'

The Actor's Theatre of Colchester is presenting a live staged reading of *A Christmas Story*, based on the 1983 motion picture, on Dec. 12 and 13 – and auditions will be held Nov. 10 and 12 at 6:30 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center.

Contact lwarfield@colchesterct.gov with any questions.



Thanks, Fire Department!... The Colchester Cooperative Nursery School would like to say thank you to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department for two awesome field trips. Students learned about the different types of emergency vehicles, climbed into a firetruck, saw inside an ambulance and a stretcher, and even explored a full firefighter uniform. Students as well as parents learned about fire safety, what to do in an emergency, and when to replace smoke detectors.

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.

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 approxi-

mately one mile and take left onto Cato Corner Road. Follow Cato Corner Road to intersection of Cato Corner and Route 16. Go straight across onto Standish Road, off Route 16. Bear right at first stop sign. Turn right onto Red School House Road, and park in the cul-de-sac at the end of the road.

Route 2 westbound travelers, take Exit 16, turn left onto Route 149 South and follow directions above. Email foundersway10@gmail.com for additional information. Visit colchesterlandtrust.org for updates on the hike.

The fee for this hike is free to members of the CLT, \$5 per non-member adult, and free for all children under 18. The hike will be rain or shine, and is not stroller-friendly; trails are not groomed and have rocks and roots and wet areas. Advanced registration strongly suggested. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather and terrain. Bug and tick protection strongly suggested. Dogs are welcome on leash, but bring waste bags to dispose of off property.

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



This year, the Colchester Democratic Town Committee's scarecrow display on the Town Green – featuring First Selectman Bernie Dennler's face attached to a scarecrow – encouraged people to vote Democratic.

★ *Colchester Resultscont. from page 1*

election bid, barely edged out by Republican Tim Vaillancourt, who collected 1,847 votes to O'Donal's 1,829, according to the unofficial results on the secretary of the state's website.

The position for **Town Treasurer** was won by Democrat David Koji with 2,889 votes. Republican John Ringo received 1,888 votes.

The **Board of Finance seats for the full term** were swept by Democrats, with Jillian Vinci, at 3,010 votes, and Sean Gillespie, at 3,009, each easily topping Republican Michael Dubreuil's 1,924 tally.

For the **Board of Finance vacancy spot for four years**, Democrat Krista Kardys won with 2,907 votes, against Republican Amber Webster's 1,828.

Any Colchester resident knows the race for the **Board of Education** was a somewhat tumultuous one at times. However, with eight candidates on the ballot, residents could only vote for up to four. Winners were Democrats Nancy Nelson, who won 2,923 votes, and Gussie Gilberti who received 2,911. Republicans Cari Duigou, with 1,922 votes, and Cody McNeely, with 1,907, also won seats. Republican candidates that lost were Corrine Loyola, with 1,720 votes, and Olivia Duksa, with 1,798. Incumbent board Republicans Donna Antonacci and Margo Gignac, who were running as petitioned candidates, also lost. Gignac collected 825 votes while Antonacci took 774.

The **Board of Assessment Appeals** saw Democrats Andrew Cournoyer, with 2,936 votes, and

Eric Arthur Jackson, with 2,699, winning seats, alongside Republican Glenn Shilosky, who took 1,915 votes. Republican Michael Begun lost, collecting 1,735 votes.

Reactions

Democratic Town Committee chair Monica Swyden said the community clearly supported Dennler's leadership.

"We're totally thrilled with the results; the candidates worked really hard," she said. "And I think that Bernie winning with a 69% margin just shows that voters don't miss that chaos and instability that they voted out two years ago."

She credited turnout with affirming the town's direction. "They strongly reiterated that they're pleased with the direction that Bernie's moving the town in." She also thanked residents for engaging, saying that she thanked residents for "seeing the importance of coming out to vote."

Swyden said the Democratic success was rooted in effort and focus. "Candidates worked hard. We ran a good campaign," she said, adding that voters recognized results being delivered "when things are going well."

While Thomas could not be reached for comment as of press time, Dubreuil could, and he said "thank you to everyone who voted and congratulations to the winners."

He added he was "deeply grateful" to all who voted for him.

"You don't always win, but you learn and grow along the journey," he said.



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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.

CCT to Hold Auditions for Musical

Auditions are coming up for the Colchester Community Theatre's production of *Sister Act*.

Based on the hit musical, which was in turn based on the hit 1992 Whoppi Goldberg movie, *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.

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

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

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

Outreach and Other Opportunities: Knitting Group meets Thursdays at 10 a.m. Many knitted, crocheted, and quilted items have been

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

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



Colchester Coyotes Do It Again!... The Colchester Coyotes recently celebrated at Mel's Downtown Creamery as they took first place for the second tournament in a row. They won 3-0 in the championship game in the pouring rain at the Rocky Hill Columbus Day Tournament. Pictured are players Connor Parsons, Porter Winters, Jude Billiot, Ryder Hlasyszyn, Julian Norige, Ryan Griffin, Austin Wilinski, Max Dean, Cole Pennella, Anthony Szewczyk, Camden Pariseau and Bryan Poresky.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

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

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

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.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., studying the book of Revelation.

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

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.)

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.

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Andover Building Toward a Greener Future

By Toriana Williams

The Town of Andover has taken its first official step toward environmental sustainability with its recent Bronze certification from Sustainable CT, an organization that recognizes Connecticut municipalities for advancing community well-being and environmental stewardship.

Cathy Palazzi, chairman of Andover Sustainable CT, confirmed that the town achieved the Bronze Level certification on Oct. 1. It is the lowest level of certification, but, she said, “we are hoping to go on to the silver level for next August,” she said. Palazzi explained that the next goal will require extensive documentation and additional sustainability projects.

Sustainable CT, founded to guide towns in environmental and social responsibility, provides a framework of “action items” that municipalities can select and complete.

“They call it a toolkit,” Palazzi explained, “but you might call it an adventurous story.”

Each certification level requires a certain number of points – 200 for Bronze – and narrative evidence of achievement.

“The story that I did was on our new Community and Senior Center building,” Palazzi said. The project served as Andover’s central narrative submission, focusing on planning, funding and construction of a building that serves residents of all ages.

Palazzi’s only regret was that the structure was built without solar panels.

“I love the building, [but] they did not put solar on the roof,” she said. “It would have been awesome if they had done that.”

Palazzi emphasized that the certification process involves extensive documentation and collaboration across town departments.

“It’s really a lot of research,” she noted. “You have to delve into how it happened, how did you make it happen, who helped you do this, that type of thing.”

The committee is already preparing new projects for the next certification round, focusing on

school-based recycling, energy upgrades, affordable housing and environmental site assessments.

“Our big topics this coming year for 2026 will be recycling at [Andover Elementary School] ... and also energy,” Palazzi said. She shared that AES plans to implement LED lighting, “which does make it a certifiable reaction that I can use.”

AES Leads with Solar Power Initiative

One of the town’s most significant new sustainability milestones is taking place at AES, where the district has partnered with Eversource and energy companies to install solar panels.

School Superintendent Valerie Bruneau said the initiative is over three years in the making. The project began when Bruneau and a former Board of Education member, Steven Fuss, discussed the benefits of solar power.

Bruneau is also the part-time schools superintendent in Scotland, and noted the school there does use solar power.

Fuss “was quite interested in looking at solar for Andover,” Bruneau recalled, “so we did fill out our first application.” After first being denied, Andover reapplied, and was accepted into the Eversource energy efficiency program and, from there, worked with the solar energy company Greenskies Clean Focus and the energy consultancy firm Titan Energy.

The installation was recently completed, at no cost to the town, and features solar arrays across the main section of the school roof.

Bruneau explained the arrays “go across the whole middle section of the top of the school, not including the gymnasium and not including the old section, the gravel-roofed section,” Bruneau explained.

Although the panels are owned and maintained by the energy companies, the district will see financial savings through reduced electricity rates. “We instead take a reduction in energy cost,” Bruneau explained. “We are anticipating through our PPA to save a minimum of about \$8,000 a year.”

Congregational Church News

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

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

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes

to the church every other Wednesday from 8:30-10 a.m.; **Senior Pantry** is on the opposite Wednesdays.

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

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

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.

St. Peter’s Roast Pork Tenderloin Dinner

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church will hold its next monthly community dinner Saturday, Nov. 15, starting at 3:30 p.m. The menu will include pork tenderloin, gravy, applesauce, roasted potatoes, winter squash, rolls and dessert. The cost is \$17.

This meal is takeout-only. You will be given a ticket for each meal you order. A server will come to your car, take your ticket(s), your payment, and your dessert order. They will bring

your change, meal and dessert back to your car, and place all in your back seat or trunk. You won’t need to get out of your car.

As part of the St. Peter’s outreach programs, a portion of each meal sold this month will go to the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry.

The church is located at 30 Church St. For more details, contact the church at 860-228-3244 or visit www.StPetersHebron.com.

Townsend Cemetery Fall Clean-Up

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

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

The superintendent emphasized that the project reflects the school’s broader commitment to sustainability. In the past two years, AES has installed energy-efficient appliances.

“We had an energy-efficient, hot water heater dedicated to the kitchen,” she said. “We do composting with the kids. Our kids helped [resident] Jeff Ballard do the community garden.”

Bruneau added that these local efforts work in concert with Palazzi’s townwide sustainability leadership.

“She and I are working together,” Bruneau said, adding that the town is “moving forward, becoming green and energy efficient.”

Community Roots and Challenges

Palazzi’s passion for sustainability is deeply personal. Her husband, Michael, chaired the town’s Conservation Commission and initiated recycling programs at the local transfer station.

“He has always been very conscious of recycling, always from day one,” she said. “He would say to me, ‘Now, you make sure you have a bag for this, a bag for that, and you don’t mix it up.’”

The commission’s C.A.R.T. program collects bottles and cans for redemption, distributing proceeds from recycled cans donated to town organizations. “It’s a wonderful program,” Palazzi said. “He started it.”

Palazzi’s own awakening to environmental stewardship inspired her to launch Andover’s Sustainable CT chapter. “I said, we need to be

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 newsletter by email each month, ask for Haley at the center, at 860-742-7305 x4510.

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

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 descriptions, call the senior center or see the online newsletter. And for a listing of all weekly programs, see the online newsletter.

Food Pantry: Wednesdays, 8 a.m., Nov. 12 and 26. **Foodshare Truck:** Wednesday, Nov. 19, 8:30 a.m. Transportation to Andover Congregational Church, both the pantry and the truck, is available. For more information on other avail-

Instructional Basketball for Kids

The instructional basketball program, for kids in pre-k through grade 2, will start on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Boys and girls in first and second grade will be from 9 a.m. until 10:15 a.m., and Pre-K and Kindergarten will be from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Fill out the registration form that is posted on the town website, andoverconnecticut.org, and bring it to the first practice along with cash or a check for \$30 payable to the Town of Andover.

If you have any questions, call Carol Lee at 860-989-6988.

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 clee@andoverct.org.

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 Grandma’s Attic items

If you are a vendor and are interested in renting 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.

green. Our town needs to be green, and we’re not. We’re far from green. So let’s be green,” she said.

However, she acknowledged the challenges of sustaining momentum in a small town.

“People in the town will say to the [town] officials, ‘Oh we don’t want to pay more taxes,’” Palazzi said. “Well, who wants to pay more taxes? But sometimes you need to if you want to improve your town.”

Despite limited resources, Palazzi praised town officials, including outgoing Town Administrator Eric Anderson, for aggressively pursuing grants to support sustainability goals.

“He was wonderful, right on the spot, getting all the grants we could get ... for the bridges, for the roads, for the town hall, the library – everything he has done has been for this town,” she said.

Looking Forward

Andover’s sustainability leaders said this is just the beginning. The town’s Bronze certification has laid a foundation for more ambitious projects, from school recycling programs to LED conversions and electric vehicle planning.

Bruneau captured the town’s new direction in one sentence: “We kind of almost just want to present it as a, look – this is step number one that we’re taking as a town to become more green and energy-efficient.”

As Bruneau put it, “You know the Andover color is green. ... Andover’s living up to its green color.”

able dates and times please contact Joan Soucy at 860-208-3226.

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: Wednesday, Nov. 19, 30-minute appointments available from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Cost is \$32. Sign up by calling Linda Derick at 860-655-4409.

Coffee & Crafts: Fridays, Nov. 14 and 28, 12:30 p.m. Sign-up is necessary.

Field Trip: UConn Rock & Roll Museum Exhibition: Friday, Nov. 21. This is free.

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 partnership 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.

Center Closed for Thanksgiving: Thursday, Nov. 27.

Bingo & Basket Raffle

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Basket Raffle Night Friday, Nov. 21, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

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

Fire Department Turkey Drive

The Andover Fire Department is holding its 2025 Turkey Drive. Donations will be collected Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the firehouse on School Road.

The department has a goal of 100 turkeys for the Andover Food Pantry. The department is in need of turkeys, stuffing and monetary donations. Checks will also be accepted, made payable to Andover Food Pantry.

Your Money Matters

Your Money Matters, a budgeting game experience, 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 parents are encouraged to attend.

Led by Rebecca Bentley, assistant director at UConn’s One Stop Student Services, this interactive 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.

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A Near-Clean Sweep for Andover Democrats

By Toriana Williams

Andover Democrats swept nearly every contested seat Tuesday night, signaling a major shift in the small town's local politics and placing Democrats in strong control across several key boards.

Republicans won the race for **Town Clerk**, with Roberta Dougherty easily topping Democrat Jayne Jurovaty, according to unofficial results posted on the secretary of the state's website.

However, outside of that race, Democrats either captured a majority outright or emerged as top vote-getters across all boards.

The **Board of Finance** was swept by the Democrats, with Nicholas Clark, Heather Van Cara and Robert England all winning. The three Republican candidates, Ronald Langlois, Anna Dzladosz and Donald Denley, all lost their election bids.

On the local **Board of Education**, Democrats Gerard Cremè and Michael Beckwith won seats, as did unaffiliated Sharon St. Rock, who was cross-endorsed by both parties. Republican Marcie Miner lost her election bid.

The **Planning and Zoning Commission** offered up three candidates while residents could only vote for up to two. On top were Democrat

Patrick Dougherty and Republican Leigh Ann Hutchinson. Republican Stephen King lost.

The **Planning and Zoning Alternate** spot was won by Democrat Jay Kamins, who edged Republican Beata Gadowski by just three votes.

The **Zoning Board of Appeals** was swept by Democrats, with candidates Julia Haverl and Michael Greenhouse both winning. Republicans Adrian Mandeville and Andreas Halidis lost.

The **Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate** seat went to Democrat Jeffrey Ballard, who topped Republican Suzanna Langlois.

The **Board of Fire Commissioners** had a bi-partisan win, with Democrat Scott Yeomans and Republican Shawn Covell each winning seats.

Democratic Reaction

Democratic Town Committee co-chairs Scott Sauyet and Shannon Louden credited the results to persistent organized outreach and a clear rejection of what they called political hostility.

"It was a combination of things. We had many terrific candidates on the ballot and mailed hundreds of handwritten postcards to encourage voters to support them," they wrote jointly.

They added that "Andover residents are tired of the dysfunction on some of the town's boards

and wanted a change. And the disgust with the national Republican Party certainly extended to a need for change at all levels."

According to the co-chairs, voters were drawn to candidates who emphasized professionalism. The two spoke on three themes that they maintained: "Qualification, competence, and compassion. Voters chose candidates who they believed would be better able to get along with other Board members to get things done over those with the loudest voices."

They said the vote reflected not only high turnout energy but a broader political signal.

"These significant results suggest that people are tired of it and voted for quiet competence instead," they said. They shared their belief that residents prefer the Democratic message of "hope and kindness over the Republican's bullying and invocation of fear."

Republican Reaction

Republican Town Committee Chair Carol Barton acknowledged the strong turnout – and also the steep task her party faced this year.

"We got the town clerk elected," she said, but as for the rest of the races, Democrats "unfortunately did better than we did."

Barton stressed that Republican candidates

put in the work. "We were out front with people coming to the transfer station to hand out flyers. We had our signs out earlier," she explained.

But she believes Democrats' targeted outreach, particularly postcard mailers, played a role: "I heard that they had gotten a postcard to all the Democrats and we think that some of them did influence the parents at the school."

Barton also noted the challenge of separating national politics from small-town issues.

"Maybe people were upset about certain things because it's Trump and all that," but she clarified that she wasn't sure.

Barton suggested it was unfair for residents to take their anger over federal issues out on local candidates.

"You can't blame us for what Trump is doing," she said. "We're here to try to run our town ... the best way it can be served."

She added that despite the losses, Republicans are focused on moving forward, saying that it just wasn't their year.

"Two years from now, you can try again," she said. "It's an election and it's your vote."

Barton emphasized gratitude for those who stepped up to run, stating that she appreciated all candidates. "We did good," she said.

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Parks and Rec News & Notes

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

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

Intro to Jazz and Hip Hop: Fridays, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, 4-5 p.m. at Gilead Hill School gym, for ages 3-5. In this beginner-friendly holiday-themed dance class, young dancers will warm up to jolly tunes, learn basic dance steps, and work together to create a holiday routine.

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

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

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

United Brethren Synagogue News and Notes

United Brethren of Hebron Synagogue, located at 10 Church St. (Route 85), in the center of Hebron, invites you to our next Shabbat service on Friday, Nov. 7, at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Dessert will be served following the service.

Prior to the service, there will be a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. If you would like to come for dinner, email ubofhebron@gmail.com to indicate you know what dish you will bring and how many people to expect.

United Brethren of Hebron offers a flexible, inclusive approach to Judaism. The synagogue combines elements from both the Conservative and Reform traditions in its services and

its membership includes interfaith families and couples.

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

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.

HIHS Food Assistance Available

With the ongoing federal government shutdown and the delay in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Hebron Interfaith Human Services has announced the following information about its programs and how others can help.

Community Food Pantry: The HIHS Community Food Pantry, located at 26 Pendleton Drive in Hebron, is open to any income-eligible individual or family in Connecticut experiencing food insecurity. Hebron/Amston residents can shop once per week and out-of-town guests can shop twice per month. Food distribution hours are Tuesday/Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Friday, noon-5 p.m. Guests are asked to bring their own clean folded shopping bags.

Mobile Foodshare: The CT Foodshare mobile produce truck will be at the Church of Hope parking lot (junction of routes 85 and 66) every other Tuesday from 11:15 to 11:45 am. Everyone is welcome and guests are asked to bring their own reusable bags to hold their selections. The remaining dates for 2025 are Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16 and Dec. 30. Please dress accordingly for colder weather.

Holiday Assistance: Assistance for Thanksgiving and Holiday gifts is available on the HIHS website, www.hihst.org. Holiday gifts

are limited to parents/guardians with children living in their households in Hebron, Andover and Marlborough.

Donations Needed: Non-perishable donations of pantry staples, hygiene products and cleaning supplies are welcome. Items must not be expired, rusted or dented. Most-needed items: canned meats, hearty/chunky soups, pasta & sauce, instant potatoes, cereal/oatmeal, canned fruits. Grocery gift cards always welcome to use towards meat, dairy and eggs.

Thanksgiving Food Drive: Saturday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be two collection locations – at Ted's IGA, 127 Main St., and at the HIHS Community Food Pantry. HIHS will collect foods to make Thanksgiving bags, as well as gift cards.

Monetary Contributions: Can be made online via www.hihst.org or in person during normal pantry hours, which are Tuesday/Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Fri, noon-5 p.m.

Holiday Sponsors Needed: Bring joy to a child this holiday by becoming a gift sponsor for \$35 or a clothing sponsor for \$50. Details available at www.hihst.org.

For more information on HIHS, visit www.hihst.org, email hihsfoodpantry@gmail.com or call 860-228-1681.

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: Sunday worship is at 10 a.m., followed by coffee hour at 11 a.m. Services can also be viewed online at YouTube at www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

This Week's Scheduled Events/Meetings: Friday, 11/7: Faith and Film Potluck at 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall; Saturday, 11/8: Homeless Awareness Night at 5 p.m., Fellowship Hall; Sunday, 11/9: Worship Service at 10 a.m. (in-person in the sanctuary, as well as online and livestreamed); Coffee Hour at 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Sunday, 11/9: Coffee Hour at 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Sunday, 11/9: Board of Missions at 11:30 a.m.; Monday, 11/10: Bible study at 9:30 a.m., online via Zoom; Tuesday, 11/11: Church office closed for Veterans Day; Tuesday,

‘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.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

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

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

RHAM Bingo: Mondays, Nov. 17 and Dec. 8, 2:30-4 p.m. The RHAM National Honor Society Students come and call the games, provide refreshments, and prizes. You can play up to 4 cards for free and they play a total of 8 games.

Sound Healing: Tuesday, Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m., with staff from The Residence at Glastonbury. Through soothing vibrations from instruments like crystal singing bowls and the Native Flute, you'll be guided into a meditative state that promotes deep relaxation and emotional release.

Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings: Thursday, Nov. 20, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., offered by Chatham Health. No registration required. Then, stay for the monthly educational series immediately following.

On Yoga: The Architecture of Peace: Monday, Nov. 24, 10:15 a.m. Yoga instructor Laurie Pasteryak will show this documentary, which will be followed by a discussion. It will be a “yoga gratitude party” in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday week. Since there will be no yoga class

on that Thursday it will be a different type of gathering: a movie + discussion (known as “satsang”). It is free, but if you plan on coming, please pre-register for set-up purposes, but drop-ins are welcome too. You do not have to be in the yoga class; this is open to anyone.

Weekly Shopping Trips: Pre-registration is required by noon the day before the trip. Schedule: Friday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m., Walmart; Friday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m., Stop & Shop; Friday, Nov. 21, Big Y; Closed on Friday, Nov. 28; Friday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m., Walmart.

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

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

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

Voters OK Charter Changes, Dems Sweep Ballot

This program features the world premiere of the song “Lovely Chance,” commissioned by the chorus in honor of its founder Judith Podell, and five seasons of music.

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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 Shepherd's 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.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

'Soups & Savories' Luncheon: Sunday, Nov. 2, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Cozy up for warm conversations with hearty soups, savory bites, and tasty seasonal desserts. All are welcome.

Adult Bible Study: Every Sunday starting Sunday, Nov. 9. The study, on the First Epistle of Peter, will be led by Elder George Logan. The theme is "Standing Firm in Grace: A Call to Holiness in a Hostile World." All adults welcome to join in this study, where together they'll learn what it means to "stand firm in the true grace of God" (1 Peter 5:12).

Kingdom Women: Women's Bible Study: The study will continue in the Book of Psalms every first and third Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the church.

Kingdom Men: Men's Breakfast: Saturday, Nov. 15, 8-10 a.m., at the church. All men are invited.

Youth Group: First Friday Fellowship! Ornament Swap & Cookie-Decorating: Friday, Dec. 5. All middle and high school youth are welcome for food, a lesson, an ornament swap and cookie-decorating. Kids are welcome to come either at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and the whole event, or arrive at 8 p.m. for dessert and activity. Pick up is at 9:30 p.m.

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

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

Knights of Columbus Food Drive

The Knights of Columbus Council 11835 of the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd [Church of The Holy Family in Hebron and St. Columba Church in Columbia], is sponsoring a food drive through Nov. 30 to benefit the Covenant Soup Kitchen (CSK) in Willimantic.

Items Needed to Stock the Pantry: **Breakfast:** cereals; oatmeal (cooked or instant); and breakfast & granola bars; **Canned Goods:** pasta meals (ravioli, etc.); fruits (also dried); vegetables (corn, carrots, beets, potatoes & spinach); protein (chicken, beef, tuna) & baked or kidney beans; hearty soups; crushed tomatoes; and pasta sauce & tomato sauce (cans or jars); **Dry Goods:** rice & pasta; flavored rice & pasta mixes; noodle cups; Ramen noodles (all varieties); and macaroni & cheese; **Beverages:** juice (bottles, boxes & pouches); shelf stable milk and non-dairy alternatives; **Pantry Staples:** cooking oil, sugar, flour, spices & seasonings; **Toiletries:** shampoo, conditioner, soap (bar, body wash & hand soap); deodorant; toothpaste; body & hand lotion; and feminine hygiene products; **Baby Supplies:** diapers sizes 5,6,7; and baby wipes (scented & sensitive); and **Pet Supplies:** dog & cat food; and cat litter.

Note: Healthy options (no added sodium, no added sugar, low sugar, sugar free and low fat

foods of all kinds) are appreciated by CSK clients with chronic health conditions. Allergen-friendly options are also needed for those on restricted diets. Healthy snacks for children are highly encouraged.

Items Needed for Thanksgiving: Turkeys: Deliver frozen turkeys and all other items requiring refrigeration to CSK, 220 Valley St., Willimantic, Phone 860-423-1643. Do not leave turkeys or any other frozen or refrigerated food in the church collection bins. **Other needs:** stuffing mix, cranberry sauce (jellied or whole berry); gravy (jar, canned or packet); fresh or canned potatoes & sweet potatoes; corn & peas (frozen or canned); cornbread mixes & other quick bread or muffin mixes; dinner rolls; pie fillings (pumpkin & fruits); and pie crusts (frozen or refrigerated). Place donations in the designated bins located in the entry ways of CHF and SC. If delivering donations to CSK, direct staff to attribute them to "Parish of the Good Shepherd K of C Food drive."

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.

Church of The Holy Family News

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

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

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

"Neighbors Feeding Neighbors": The Social Outreach Committee collects breakfast cereal on the second Sunday of each month for the benefit of the Covenant Soup Kitchen (CSK) in Willimantic. The next collection date is Nov. 9. However, cereal is most welcome any time. Place bagged donations in the oak collection box near the Robing Room.

Meatloaves for CSK: The parish also provides meatloaves to CSK each month. Parishioners are asked to deliver a cooked meatloaf to the freezer in the garage (use side entrance) closest to the Parish House or the freezer in the St. Columba church hall by the 4th Tuesday of

the month. Meatloaves are delivered the next day. The next due date is Nov. 25. Contact Diane (860-508-9959) for more information.

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

Collection for Project HOPE, Inc. (Homeless Shelter): The Social Outreach Committee is collecting the following items for the shelter: household cleaning products (great need), paper towels, TP & 13- and 55-gallon trash bags; men's crew neck T-shirts & boxer briefs (M,L,XL,2XL); women's briefs (sizes 6-10); men's & women's wool socks; new or gently-used and clean winter clothing and coats; women's personal hygiene products; and laundry pods or liquid detergent. Place bagged donations in the oak collection box next to the Cry Room. Call Monica McKerracher (860-228-4211) for more information.

Homebound Ministry: The church ministers to homebound parishioners who wish to receive the sacraments. Call the church office (860-228-3727 ext. 106 or 110) to set up a schedule.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults: OCIA meetings started Sept. 28 in the Parish House. The sessions are open to adults who wish to join the Catholic Church, Catholic adults who have not yet completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation), and Catholic adults who wish to learn more about their faith. Contact the parish office (ext. 105) or email ocia@goodshepherdct.org for more information and to register.

Fire at St. Peter's Rectory

No one was injured when fire broke out at the rectory at St. Peter's Episcopal Church Tuesday evening.

According to a Wednesday morning press release, the Hebron Fire Department was dispatched Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 6:12 p.m., to 60 Church St., for a reported structure fire. The blaze was quickly handled, though. Firefighters said it was extinguished by 6:30 p.m.

Nobody was home at the time of the fire, and two pets were rescued, the fire department said. No injuries were reported to residents or firefighters.

The Rev. Ron Kolanowski, rector of St. Peter's, told the *Rivereast* Wednesday morning that the damage from the fire was "not very extensive at all," adding the blaze "made more smoke than it did real damage."

He said the fire was at an exterior wall on a shed located adjacent to the rear of the rectory.

Tuesday was Election Day, and the rectory is not far from the town voting location of Hebron Elementary School. However, Assistant Fire Chief Bill Schappert told the *Rivereast* Wednesday that the fire "should not have had any impact on voting."

He said voters were still able to access the school, and added, "Polls remained open the entire time."

The Hebron Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the fire, with assistance from the State Fire Marshal, the Hebron Fire Department said.

The department also thanked the following mutual aid partners for their assistance: Eversource,

Columbia Fire Department, Marlborough Fire Department, Colchester Fire and EMS, Willimantic Fire Department, Bolton Fire Department and Windham Hospital Paramedics.

Colebrook Village 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 household

essentials. All are asked to donate.

Most-wanted items Include: hearty soups (such as Campbell's Chunky or Progresso), canned meats (tuna, chicken, Spam, ham, salmon), pasta and tomato products (diced, crushed, sauce), rice sides, pasta sides, stuffing mix, canned fruit, jelly (squeeze bottles preferred for student food packs), laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo and body wash.

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The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Sandpaper grade

5 ____ Domingo

10 Scrub up, e.g.

14 Footnote word

15 Fingerprint feature

16 Big name in jeans

17 Popped up again

19 "Terrible" ruler

20 Maker of Barbie dolls

21 Reaches, as a goal

23 Hunches

26 Docility

29 Decorating themes

32 "How sweet ____!"

33 Stop for gas

35 Playskool product

36 Homer's son, et al.

38 Tenement pest

39 Discontinued Toyota line

41 Car accessory

42 "Be quiet!"

45 Not duped by

46 Make queasy

48 Like some marriages

50 Irregularity

52 Army officer

54 Kitchen filters

58 Quite often

59 Boardwalk cooler

62 Overabundance

63 Cherished

64 Coastal bird

65 Word before chair or street

66 Plumber's gadget

67 Wall frame part

DOWN

1 Mattress option

2 Notion

3 Not on the rocks

4 Closest to vacant

5 Be horribly hot

6 "Just as I thought!"

7 Neither partner

8 Grab the tab

9 Antiquated

10 Yielding

11 Taking another look at

12 "Westworld" star ____ Rachel Wood

13 Bowler's targets

18 Brown alternative

22 Workshop items

24 Manual readers

25 Old Persian capital

26 "In the Heat of the Night" detective

27 Pong maker

28 Extraordinary

30 "Shiloh" author Shelby

31 Church council

34 One-eighty

37 Hollywood Martin

40 Says OK

43 Shows for the first time

44 Act as chair-person

47 Type of pine

49 Where Bhutan is

51 "Tiny Dancer" singer

52 Hamster's home

53 Earthenware pot

55 Nam or Cong lead-in

56 Shade of beige

57 Put in the mail

60 "Selma" director DuVernay

61 Albanian coin

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Obituaries

Salem

Felix Robert Zemko

Felix Robert Zemko, fondly known as Butch, of Salem, passed away Thursday, Oct. 30, at Backus Hospital. He was 84 years old. Butch was born June 23, 1941, in Hartford. He was the son of the late Felix K. and Annie (Zahacefski) Zemko.

Butch enlisted with the U.S. Navy following high school and proudly served active duty for four years. He married his beloved wife, Josie Gonzales, on Aug. 3, 1964. The couple moved to Salem, where they made their home and raised their family. Butch retired several years ago after a long career as a carpenter with the New London based carpenters' union, local 30. He was a former member of the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Department. In his spare time, Butch enjoyed hunting and cooking.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his wife of 61 years, Josie; his children, Robert Zemko of Providence, R.I., Theresa Zemko of Groton; cousins, Patricia Nardella, Patricia Archer, Chris Temeline, and Debbie Okarmus; and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Andrea Zemko.

Funeral services were held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, on Monday, Nov. 3, beginning with calling hours followed by a celebration of life service at the funeral home at 11. Burial followed in the Salem Green Cemetery.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Department, 429 Old Colchester Rd., Salem, CT 06420.

For online condolences or to share a story of Butch for his family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Hebron

Stella A. Kalhok

On Wednesday, Oct. 22, surrounded by family, Stella was called to be with Jesus. She was born in St. Paul, New Brunswick Canada on Feb. 24, 1935.

She worked at the Royal typewriter company in Hartford which is where she met and married her husband Martin Kalhok. They were married for almost 65 years before Martin passed away in October 2023. They moved to Hebron in 1968 where they lived for the rest of their lives. Stella was a very proud Hebron Lions Club member and was always involved with all the Lions Club functions. She served as superintendent of the Arts and Crafts building for more than 15 years. She loved her Lions Club brothers and sisters. Stella was also a big fan of the UConn women's basketball team, always watching the games when she could.

She was predeceased by her parents, Maxime and Jeanne Arsenault; her husband, Martin Kalhok; and her beloved grandson, Kevin M. Schadtler.

She is survived by her son Paul Arsenault (Karen), Mary Schadtler (Bob), Marty Kalhok (Darlene), all who live in Hebron and were there for her each day. She had six grandchildren, Julie (Patrick), Michelle (Mallory), Rob (Samantha), Kevin (Jackie), Ben (Livi) and Heather; 14 great-grandchildren, Owen and Leo, Alice and Joel, Grace and Robi, Liz, Myra, Jason, Kevin and Alex, Miah and Piper, and Madison.

They brought her the greatest joy.

There are no calling hours and burial will be private.

Donations can be made in her name to the Hebron Lions Club, 347 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248, and can be made out directly to Hebron Lions CT Lions Eye Research.

May she now rest in peace.



da (Kromish) Legault and Adriana Kromish; grandsons, Jaxon and Cole Legault; his nieces, Monica Kauffman and Lindsay Gosselin; and his great-nieces, Emma and Kylie. He also is survived by his sister, Kellie Gosselin and her husband, Jeff Gosselin.

Although Alan faced a lot of sorrow, his heart remained full of love. His family will remember him for his sense of humor, boisterous laugh and blue eyes. Alan's greatest love was his family, but he also had a great passion for working on and fixing up cars. He accomplished many rebuilds in his lifetime, but he poured his heart into completing his 1975 *Starsky & Hutch* Gran Torino.

Please join his family for a graveside service at St. Bridget Cemetery, 22 N. Moodus Road, Moodus, on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 11 a.m.

Portland

Joyce Ann Brockway May

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, our mother, Joyce Ann Brockway May, moved on to her next glorious journey with the Lord after her courageous battle with cancer.

Joyce was born in New Haven to Russell and Annette (Desanto) Brockway. Her parents instilled strength and independence in her that was her compass for life. Joyce found several places to call home, with her last years spent in Florida, South Carolina, Cape Cod and Connecticut.

Her favorite days were spent volunteering her time and talents at the Hagood Mill Historic Site in Pickens, S.C., where she taught visitors about sheep-shearing, how wool is made into yarn and demonstrating how to weave. Her talents didn't stop there; she also enjoyed knitting and she will be fondly remembered for making sure we all had her handmade warm wool socks. Her hands were rarely still, and she found joy weaving on her beautiful looms which she had collected, crafting, going to flea markets (where she sold her delicious homemade pies). She also treasured her many camping trips when traveling to Connecticut from South Carolina and making many friends along the way.

Mom also had a special place in heart for her dogs. They were her constant loving, protective companions. Mom was a free spirit and enjoyed every moment and adventure of her life. She loved nature and cherished the glory and tranquility of the great outdoors. We will carry her memory in our hearts forever.

Joyce is survived by her sister Marcia (Edward) LaCroix; her children Lisa A. Rogers (James), John R. Kmetz (Marilyn), Michele Gordon (Raymond), and Deborah J. Kmetz; grandchildren (step) Sabrina Singarella, Jacqueline Kmetz, Mark Gordon (Stephanie), John Gordon (Lexie); and great-grandchildren Ava, Emma and Millie.

Joyce was predeceased by her husband William May, her parents, her brother Russell Brockway Jr. and her sister, Linda E. Lanziero.

Services will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society.

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



Andover

Clyde Wilson Conrad Jr.

Clyde Wilson Conrad Jr., 87, of Andover, passed away peacefully at his home Sunday, Oct. 26. Born Aug. 28, 1938, in Hartford, he was the son of the late Clyde W. Conrad Sr. and Lillian (Hiltz) Conrad.

Clyde was a hardworking and successful businessman throughout his life, known for his determination and entrepreneurial spirit. He owned and operated a Shell gas station in South Windsor and later opened and Rented bays at a service station. Alongside his brother Raymond, he also founded the New England 4 Wheelers Jeep club.

His career began humbly as a stock clerk at Popular Market, where his dedication and leadership soon earned him a management position. It was there that he met his future wife, Georgette Domingue, beginning a lifelong partnership filled with love and devotion.

Outside of work, Clyde found joy in the simple pleasures of life – especially bass fishing on Andover Lake or the occasional deep-sea fishing trip.

He is survived by his loving wife, Georgette Conrad; his daughter, Deanne Bowen; his son, Garland Conrad; and his cherished grandchildren, Danielle Buckley, Chantelle Harris and her husband Tyler, and K-Lee Brousseau. He also leaves behind his sister-in-law, Patricia Conrad; nieces and nephews Carrie Conrad and her husband Mike Moses and their children Alden, Emeric, and Amilia Moses, Christopher Conrad and his wife Ellen, and their children Kadie and Chase Conrad.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his brother, Raymond Conrad, and his granddaughter, Kayleigh Ann Van Brocklin.

A memorial Mass was held Sunday, Nov. 9, at 1 p.m., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church Street, Hebron

Clyde will be remembered for his kindness, hard work, and the love he shared with family and friends. His legacy of integrity, dedication, and warmth will live on in all who knew him.



East Hampton

Alan James Kromish Jr.

Alan (Butch) James Kromish Jr. passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the age of 59. Alan was born May 7, 1966, in Hartford, to Alan James Kromish Sr. and Ruth Mae (Boucher) Gustafson.

Alan was a longtime resident of East Hampton and East Haddam/Moodus. He graduated from East Hampton High School in 1985 and served with tremendous pride in the East Haddam Volunteer Fire Department, eventually achieving the rank of lieutenant.

He is predeceased by his father, mother and his newborn brother; stepfather, Carl Gustafson. He is also predeceased by Glen Gustafson, Makayla Korpinen, Jason Hyde and Nicholas Gosselin, as they held a special place in his heart.

Alan is survived by his daughters, Miran-



East Hampton

Kenneth Brady Sr.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Kenneth "Mike" Brady Sr. on Thursday, Oct. 23, surrounded by his loving family. Mike was the cherished son of Earl and Evelyn Brady and grew up in Westchester. After completing his education, he pursued a career in the construction industry, working for several prominent companies before retiring from the Arborio Corporation.

Mike's greatest pride and joy was the life he built with his beloved wife, Theresa Gawlak Brady, whom he married on March 26, 1956. Together, they shared a beautiful and fulfilling life, raising four sons: Kenneth Brady Jr. (Annie), Francis "Beaver" Brady (Kathy), Robert Brady (Jennifer), and Jeffrey Brady (Sandy).

He is survived by his treasured grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who brought immense joy to his life: Jen and Curtis Clark; Nick and Courtney Brady and their three children; Mandy Norman; Erin and Nick Colagiovanni and their two children; Lauren and Kurt Coleman and their two children; Audrey and Anthony Quintiliani; Michael and Kimberly Brady;



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RES-9-25

TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 13th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at the Portland High School located at 95 High Street Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at www.portlandct.org to consider the following:
PZC Application #25-05: 69 Marlborough Street. Request for Special Permit Modification. Application and Property of BRT DiMarco PTP, LLC. Map 19, Lot 68. Zone B-2, B-3 and TCVD. At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department and if you have any questions please contact that office.
Dated at Portland, CT this 28th day of October 2025
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 10/31, 11/7

TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 20th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT.
PZC Application #25-07: 862 Portland Cobalt Road. Request for Special Permit for a medical spa. Application of Jessica Blancato and property of Realejo Properties LLC. Map 31 Lot 23. Zone B-2.
Dated at Portland, CT this 5th day of November 2025
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 11/7, 11/14

PUBLIC HEARING
LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF HEBRON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Hebron Board of Selectmen has scheduled a Public Hearing for Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:45 p.m. in the Lower Level Meeting Room at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut, regarding a proposed ordinance for Municipal Extension of Tax Relief Exemption for Permanent and Totally Disabled Veterans.
The virtual option for attending the meeting:
Board of Selectmen Public Hearing
November 20, 2025, 6:45–9:45 PM (America/New_York)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://meet.goto.com/790607269>
You can also dial in using your phone.
Access Code: 790-607-269
United States: +1 (872) 240-3412
Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://meet.goto.com/install>
This ordinance may be adopted by the Hebron Board of Selectmen in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-65b, as amended.
Residents are encouraged to attend this Public Hearing and express their opinions.

Andrew J. Tierney
Town Manager

1 TB 11/7

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER
ZONING BOARD of APPEALS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025
7:00PM TO 9:00PM
TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
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#25-14 ZBA APPLICATION OF STEVEN ROCKEFELLER SEEKING A VARIANCE
Applicant is seeking relief from Sections 11.2 and 4.1.4 of the Andover Zoning regulations to merge lots within the Andover Lake District at 45 Lakeside Drive and 47 Lakeside Drive, demolish an existing residence on 45 Lakeside Drive, construct an addition to 47 Lakeside Drive and construct a workshop. The overall proposal intends to decrease rear yard and side yard non-conformities that currently exist. It will also require front yard and side yard variances for a proposed workshop. Interested parties may ask questions and/or offer comment, either verbally or in writing.
Please contact the Building and Land Use Office a minimum of 24 hours prior to the hearing date @860.742.7305, X - 4220.
William Desrosiers
Zoning Board of Appeals - Chairperson

2TB 11/7, 11/14

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LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:
I. **Petition 2025-23:** Petition of Stephen Kowalski, owner, for Special Permit to construct an accessory structure exceeding 900 square feet (2,592 sq. ft.) on a lot less than 5 acres (4.34 acres) in size in accordance with Section 2.E.8 of the Hebron Zoning Regulations at 389 Martin Road, Residence-1 District. Petition 2025-23 Kowalski Barn
II. **Petition 2025-24:** Petition of Proud Light LLC for Special Permit for the sale of open alcoholic beverages at a miniature golf course in accordance with Section 5.O.1 at 290 Church Street, Neighborhood Convenience District. Petition 2025-24 Alcohol at Mini Golf
Planning and Zoning Commission
Nov 19, 2025, 7:00–10:00 PM (America/New_York)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 4th day of November 2025.
Frank Zitkus, Chair

2TB 11/7, 11/14

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
IWWA ACTIONS

At the Regular Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency Meeting held on Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM, and the following actions were taken:
IW-25-031: WPCA, Barbara Avenue, Upgrade of Existing Pump Station and Site Grade within Wetlands and Upland Review Area, Map 19/ Block 45/ Lot 1 - Approved
IW-25-032: Paul Allegra, 88 Young Street, Install culvert under woods road across section of wetlands for access to rear lot, Map 21/ Block 52/ Lot 22C, Map 21/ Block 52/ Lot 22C-1 – Approved
IW-25-034: Peter Marlowe Forest Products LLC, 88 Young Street, Timber Harvest, Map 21/ Block 52/ Lot 22C, Map 21/ Block 52/ Lot 22C-1 – Approved As of Right
IW-25-033: Heather Groeper, 8 Bates Drive, Remove Trees and Brush within Wetlands, Map 02C/ Block 10/ Lot 5D – Approved As of Right
Chairman Joshua Wilson

1TB 11/7

Town of Portland

Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that quarterly bills are due and payable October 17, 2025. Payments not made in full on or before November 17, 2025 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the original due date.
Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the charge. Please contact the Water/Sewer department if you do not receive your bill at (860) 342-6735 or by email darce@portlandct.org. Payments are accepted in person at the Town Hall, 33 East Main Street, Portland. Payments can also be placed in the dropbox or mailed to the address listed below.
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Water/Sewer Dept.
P.O. Box 71
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Michele Nuhn, CCMC, CCMO
Town of Portland
Collector of Revenue

3TB 10/10, 10/24, 11/7

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For our group home positions we have Monday-Sunday open second and third shift which is 3pm-11pm and 11pm-7am.
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RE3-15-24

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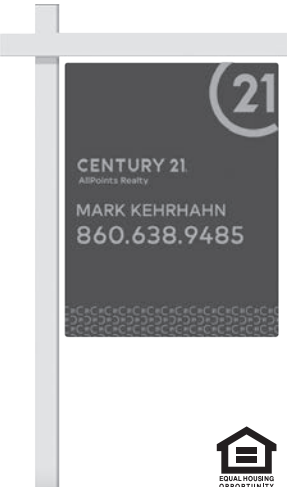
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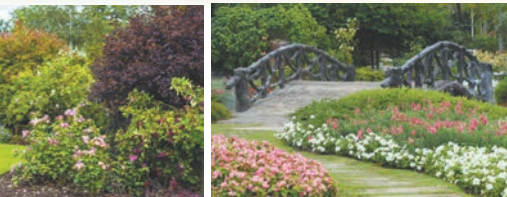
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