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News Bulletin

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

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January 2, 2026

Rivereast's Top 25 Local Sports Moments of 2025

By Josh Howard

1. Bacon Basketball Wins It All

On March 15, Bacon Academy girls basketball defeated Windham to win the Class M state championship at Mohegan Sun Arena.

The No. 2 seed Bobcats deployed a swarming defense that overwhelmed the top-seeded Whippets of Windham during the 39-25 victory.

Skyelyn Schoen-Rene scored a game-high 21 points as the Bobcats led from start to finish, while Liz Glover powered the defensive dominance with 14 rebounds and five blocks.

It was the program's first state championship victory since 2012 and came on the heels of the team winning the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championship at the same famed arena on Feb. 26.

2. RHAM Volleyball Keeps Stacking Championships

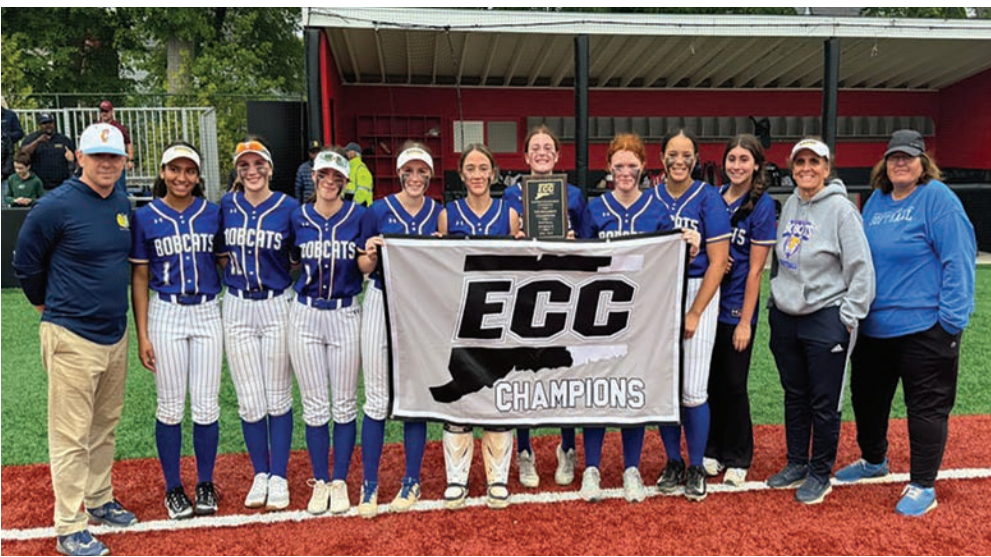
RHAM High School girls volleyball added another state championship to their resume in 2025, defeating Joel Barlow in five sets to capture the Class M state championship on Nov. 15.

It was the team's fourth state title in five years and marked the program's 11th state championship overall.

Meredith Weir was named the Most Valuable Player of the championship match after hammering home 26 kills and adding 20 digs.

The MVP-performance capped a memorable final season at RHAM for Weir, who also broke program record in aces and topped 1,000 career kills during the championship run.

Weir, Brooke Arcari, Rian Calhoun, Sammy DeGray, and Abby Simao were named All-Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) during the



Bacon Academy softball overcame the odds in 2025 to win the conference, defeating Montville, 9-6, in the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Division II championship game on May 30. The accomplishment was selected as a top local sports moment of 2025.

historic season.

3. Record-Breaking Anderson

Riley Anderson, a senior at Bacon Academy, broke the state record in 50 Freestyle and 100 Butterfly at the Class LL swimming and diving championships in November.

Anderson, who swims for the Manchester co-op, finished the 50 Freestyle in a time of 22.20 and the 100 Butterfly with a time of 53.30 to set the new standard of excellence. Along with winning the races as the Class LL final, Anderson also won both events at State Open to close her

high school career with two more state titles.

The record-setting state champion is a Duke University swimming commit.

4. Shorthanded Bobcat Captures Conference

On May 30, Bacon Academy softball won the Eastern Connecticut Conference (CCC) Division II, defeating Montville in the conference championship game at Mitchell College.

The Bobcats took down the Wolves from Montville, 9-6, behind the arm and bat of Riley Stolzman. Stolzman earned the win from

the mound and also connected on three hits to drive in three runs.

Reina Hill smacked a home run as the Bobcats jumped out to a 7-0 lead after the first two innings and never looked back.

Making the conference championship even more impressive was that Bacon Academy only had eight players available for the conference-clincher.

5. Stennett Shines on College Links

Following an illustrious golf career at Portland High School, Luke Stennett has continued to thrive on the college links.

The 2024 PHS graduate, hit the fairway running at the University Rhode Island as he was named the 2025 Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Year and was selected to the Atlantic 10 All-Conference team.

Additionally, he was a four-time Atlantic 10 Player of the Week and won three individual tournaments, including topping 75 other golfers on the leaderboards as URI defended its team title at the Ryan T. Lee Memorial Collegiate in September.

Prior to URI, Stennett was the first player in Connecticut to win four individual state championships during his time with the Highlanders.

6. Lynch Leaves Legacy

East Hampton High School's Brady Lynch wrapped a phenomenal career on the local hardwood by helping lead Bellringers basketball to a total of 18 wins this winter, including two wins in the Shoreline Conference (SLC) tournament in February and another pair of victories in the Division V state tourney in March.

See Top 25 Sports Moments , page 7

Marlborough BOS Continue Pledge Debate

By Toriana Williams

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen convened on Dec. 16, and the meeting addressed a range of issues, including school infrastructure planning, public safety governance, tax collection practices, traffic enforcement and several grant applications. Public participation was substantial, particularly on issues that had carried over from previous meetings.

MES Major Alterations Proposal

The most consequential and forward-looking discussion of the evening centered on the proposed work at Marlborough Elementary School. Superintendent Holly Hageman and Board of Education Chair Raymon Morris presented to the BOS regarding what had previously been referred to as a renovation project. Hageman requested that the terminology be changed from "renovation" to "major alterations," stating that this more accurately reflected the scope of the work. She further recommended that the Public Building Commission and the committee overseeing the school project not be composed of the same members.

Hageman reviewed what was described as a comprehensive executive summary and highlighted specific areas of the school that she said should be addressed, namely the school's roof as it was renovated roughly 24 years ago and has reached the end of its anticipated service plan. She also reviewed a draft timeline and potential funding mechanisms, and asked the BOS to begin reviewing that timeline. When Selectman Joe Askar, a Republican, asked what the final cost would be to town residents, Hageman stated that she could not yet provide an exact figure. The item is scheduled to be revisited at the Jan. 20 BOS meeting.

Contract with TaxServ Capital Services

Another significant action item involved the approval of a contract with TaxServ Capital Services, LLC, a collections agency. Town Manager David Porter reviewed contract terms and explained that the agency would receive 15% of collected outstanding fees, with the majority of uncollected taxes related to motor vehicles. He noted that the contract is open-ended but may

be terminated by the town with 15 days written notice. A motion to sign the contract passed unanimously.

Traffic Safety and Speed Enforcement

Traffic safety, particularly along North Main Street and surrounding roads, has been a recurring theme throughout the year as well as the meeting. Porter presented an update on the town's automatic traffic safety enforcement devices, also known as the speed cameras.

"The speed cameras have been enormously successful at making that road much safer," Porter shared. The total number of "citation eligible events" in July were 4,145, which dropped by 68% to 2,321 during the following October. "A lot of people have modified their behavior," he said, an outcome that had been hoped for previously.

Selectman Anthony Bratz, a Democrat, commented that he would like to see an assessment of other safety risks on North Main Street beyond speed alone.

See Marlborough BOS, page 23

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Andover BOS Confronts Staffing Crisis

By Toriana Williams

The Andover Board of Selectmen convened a special meeting on Dec. 22, primarily to address an urgent staffing crisis in the Assessor's Office that officials repeatedly described as "dire." The meeting also included deliberations on Community and Senior Center policies, personnel compensation matters and deferred action on a retroactive pay request for a former assistant town clerk.

Emergency Staffing

The most consequential and extensively debated issue was the Assistant Assessor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was moved to the beginning of the agenda to accommodate the assessor's availability. The assessor, John Chaponis, explained that the office had lost its assistant assessor in early November and was facing a severe operational shortfall.

"I'm already short 240 hours of clerical work in the office," Chaponis said. "There's no way we can get everything done on time with just me here on such a limited basis."

He detailed cascading consequences, including delayed supplemental motor vehicle tax bills and the need to request a one-month extension from the State of Connecticut to file the grand list. Even with that extension, he warned that meeting statutory deadlines would be extremely difficult. "I guarantee there will be things that won't be taxed this year," Chaponis admitted.

"That's what we're looking at."

The assessor outlined options for temporary assistance. Two external candidates with experience in assessor's offices had quoted rates of \$140 and \$150 per hour. Alternatively, the union representing the former assistant assessor had proposed allowing her to return on a limited basis under an MOU.

"The person who's worked in that office for the last 13 years ... knows where everything is," Chaponis said. "Versus bringing someone else in. ... They're not going to do as much work in the time frame that she could do it." Board members expressed concern that the seriousness of the situation had not been communicated sooner.

There was also extensive discussion about training a future hire while meeting immediate filling deadlines. Chaponis stated that training would be minimal until the grand list was completed and said a new employee would otherwise be "twiddling their thumbs."

Questions arose regarding compensation structure, overtime implications and whether the former assistant assessor should be treated as an employee or an independent contractor.

Ultimately, the board voted 4-0-1 to approve a motion to hire the former assistant assessor as a 1099 contractor at \$75 per hour for up to 10 hours per week, with hours logged and services

ending no later than March 10, 2026. Selectwoman Carol Lee, a Republican, abstained.

Board Clerk Employment Status

The Board next addressed a request from Board Clerk Marina Pandolfi to be considered a town employee rather than an independent contractor. Discussion centered on historical practice and whether the role had ever been treated as a formal town position. "I would prefer to just keep it a stipend situation," Selectman Jeff Murray, a Republican, said. "It's something that somebody could do in their spare time from their home." Other board members echoed similar sentiments, with Chair Jeff Maguire, a Democrat, who said he didn't "believe we should make her an employee."

No motion was made to change her status, and members acknowledged that the town may need to seek a new board clerk if the current arrangement becomes untenable.

Community and Senior Center Director Job Descriptions, PTO

Concerns raised by the Andover Community and Senior Center Director, Tess Grous, at a prior meeting were partially addressed. Revised job descriptions were distributed but not voted on, as members stated they had insufficient time to review them.

The board did approve a payout of accrued

paid time off. The director was confirmed to have 117 hours of PTO at an hourly rate of \$34.76, totaling \$4,066.92. The board voted unanimously to authorize payment in the next payroll cycle.

The board also voted unanimously to retroactively pay the stipend for Municipal Agent for Elderly and Social Services back to Nov. 20, 2025, the date the designation was approved.

Deferred Action for Former Assistant Town Clerk

The final substantive agenda item concerned a request for a retroactive lump-sum payment of \$7,948.15 to former assistant town clerk Britany Comstock for hours worked as acting town clerk during 2025. After reviewing a newly discovered memorandum between the prior town administrator and the union, members agreed the issue required legal review. "This is fairly complicated," Interim Town Administrator, Jim Bellano, said.

The board unanimously agreed to defer the matter to its January meeting after consultation with legal counsel.

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: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.

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RE11-29-24

Soup for Seniors

Join the Andover Community and Senior Center for their Soup For Seniors gathering on Friday, Jan. 23, 6-8 p.m.!

Bring your crockpot full of homemade soup with the list of ingredients. They will share a meal then freeze soup into single servings for our seniors. ACSC will provide bread and dessert.

This event is free to attend, but preregistration is required. A maximum of 60 reservations will be accepted. To reserve your seat, call 860-742-7305 x 4510. Call Linda for a ride!

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Community & Senior Center Happenings

The Andover Community and Senior Center, located at 25 School Rd., is open daily from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The lounge is open for cards, games and puzzles anytime, and coffee is always on. All are welcome. For all senior-related events, call Director Tess Grous at 860-798-6862. The center's monthly newsletter is available at 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.

Holiday Closings: The Center will be closed Jan. 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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.

January Weekly Programs: Chair Yoga with Haley: Mondays, 10-11 a.m. Cost \$7. Join Haley for a gentle and supportive chair yoga class. For transportation, contact Linda at (860) 498-2326. **Movie & Snack:** Mondays, 11 a.m. Free. Join the center for a cozy afternoon film, complete with snacks and friendly faces. From timeless classics to feel-good favorites. Call the office for the Movie Titles for the month or to make suggestions. Contact Linda to reserve your ride. **Dominos/Setback:** Mondays, 11 a.m. Free. Come, join the fun and play a friendly game of Dominos. Contact Linda to reserve your ride. **Food Pantry:** Mondays, 5-7 p.m. Transportation to Andover Congregational Church available at 5 p.m. (except holidays). For more information on other available dates and times please contact Joan Soucy 860-208-3226.

Hair Care with Helen: Monday, Jan. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$20. Need a trim? Sign up for a dry haircut with Helen. Hair must be clean and dry before your appointment. Transportation is available if needed. Space is limited—call the Center at (860) 798-6862 to reserve your spot.

Shopping Trips: Tuesdays, 8:30 AM. Alternating Shopping trips to Willimantic or Manchester. Shop Willimantic 1/13, 1/27. Shop in Manchester on 1/6, 1/20. Transportation is available—Contact Linda to reserve your ride. **Visit the Library:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. Free. Looking for a book? There's a lot to choose from! Check out a book, DVD, audio book, e-book, or a magazine. Movies are available too. Be sure to contact Linda for a ride.

Knitting: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Free. A midweek moment in the Lounge to connect. Transportation is available. Call Linda to reserve your ride. **Food Pantry:** Wednesdays, 8 a.m. Free. Transportation to Andover Congregational Church is available (except holidays). For more information on other available dates and times please contact Joan Soucy 860-208-3226.

Food Share Truck: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. | 1/7, 1/21 | Free. Transportation to Andover Congregational Church is available, contact The Center. For more information on other available dates and times please contact Joan Soucy 860-208-3226.

Birthday Bingo/Lunch: Wednesday, Jan. 7, 12: p.m. \$5. Light Lunch and celebration with cake. Bingo to follow. Call Linda to reserve your ride!

Luncheon: Wednesday, Jan. 14, 12 p.m. \$5. Catered by Cheney Tech Culinary School. Special Guest Speaker Erin Congdon from Collaborative Natural Health emphasis on healthy living and the benefits of drinking tea.

Bingo/Lunch: Wednesday, Jan. 21, 28, 12 p.m. \$5. Light Lunch and Prize Bingo to follow. Call Linda to reserve your ride!

Chair Massage with Linda: Wednesday, 1/7, 1/21 | 3:30–5:30 PM | \$32. Relax with a rejuvenating chair massage! Appointments are 30 minutes. Sign-up is required—call Linda Derick at (860) 655-4409.

Senior Art Class with Kim: Thursday, Jan. 15, 10-11 a.m. \$8. Watercolor & Sea Glass Unwind and get creative in their new Community Art Program! Explore watercolor painting and create beautiful mixed-media pieces using sea glass and shells. Space is limited, so sign up soon! Supplies are provided. Feel free to bring your own special pieces. To Sign up call 860-742-7305 x4510

Open Sew & Stitch: Thursdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Calling all makers! Whether you quilt, knit, crochet, or cross-stitch, join the center for a relaxed afternoon of creativity and connection. Bring your own supplies and a snack—come for the stitching, stay for the good company. Transportation is available. Call Linda to reserve your ride! **Community Yoga:** Thursdays, 5:45–6:45 p.m. \$10. Enjoy a community-based yoga class. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Linda Derick at (860) 655-4409.

Gentle Yoga: – Fridayd, 8:30–9:30 a.m. \$10. A slow-paced yoga practice suitable for all levels. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Haley Proto at (203) 645-4933. Transportation is available. **Strong & Steady – Resistance Band Workout:** – Fridays, 10-11 a.m. \$7. Improve your strength and balance with this resistance band workout—supplies provided. For more information, contact Haley Proto at (203) 645-4933. Transportation is available.

Coffee & Crafts: Friday, Jan. 16, 12:30 p.m. Free. Craft will be decorating Gingerbread houses. Sign-up is necessary. Transportation is available. Call Linda to reserve your ride!

Community Art Class with Kim: Friday, Jan. 9, 6-8 p.m. \$35 | 1 CLASS

Watercolor & Sea Glass – Ladies night out or just unwind and get creative in their new Community Art Program! Explore watercolor painting and create beautiful mixed-media pieces using sea glass and shells. Space is limited, so sign up soon! Supplies are provided. Feel free to bring your own special pieces. To Sign up call 860-742-7305 x4510

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

Travel In Time Club: 1/16 | Study Group | Free. Based on “Travel in Time in Connecticut”, by local author and teacher Dan Blanchard. This is another great intergenerational Partnership with Andover Elementary School. Students and Seniors will be working on stories and interviews.



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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Toriana Williams

Hey folks, it’s Toriana again, taking over while Mike is on his way back from vacation. I promise we’ll return you to your regularly scheduled programming next week.

I hope everyone had happy holidays! I caught a cold from the office, so that was fun. It was indeed my least favorite present. However, setting aside the holiday blues and ickies, I wanted to talk about one more culture shock I have recently experienced in Connecticut: the legal age of consent for intercourse and other sexual conduct is 16.

When I first learned that Connecticut’s age of consent is 16, my reaction was not analytical - it was visceral. I’m originally from Tennessee, a state where the age of consent is 18. Coming from that legal and cultural framework, discovering that Connecticut allows sexual intercourse between a 16-year-old and potentially a significantly older adult was genuinely shocking.

That reaction surprised me, because Connecticut is often viewed - and often rightly so - as a state that is more “progressive.” Strong public schools, progressive social services, robust protections for children and a political culture that frequently leads on issues of public health and safety. In many ways, Connecticut appears ahead of the curve. But on this issue, to me, it falls noticeably short.

In journalism school, one of the earliest lessons drilled into students is this: do not reveal your political leanings. Readers should be informed, not steered. I take that principle seriously. But age of consent should not be politicized in the first place. Protecting minors from harm is not a red or blue issue - and I am not arguing that it is. I’m stating that

plainly now, because experience has taught me that any discussion of sexual law reform can quickly be framed as ideological. This is not about politics. It is about protection, development and reality.

Connecticut law allows individuals aged 16 and older to legally consent to sexual activity, except in specific circumstances involving authority figures. On paper, that may seem reasonable. In practice, it allows scenarios that should give us pause: a 16-year-old high school student and a 30-year-old adult can legally engage in sexual intercourse.

That legality does not erase the imbalance. There is consent, and then there is informed consent. Those two concepts are not the same, and the distinction matters deeply here. A 16- or 17-year-old may be capable of agreeing to something in the moment. But the question we should be asking is whether they can truly understand - emotionally, psychologically and physically - the long-term consequences of engaging in sexual relationships with someone significantly older.

At 16, the brain is still developing. Impulse control, risk assessment, emotional regulation and long-term consequence evaluation are not fully formed. As someone who was 16 about 10 years ago, I can confirm with my whole heart that this is true. Teenagers are navigating identity, self-worth, peer pressure and first experiences - often all at once. Introducing a sexual dynamic with someone who has over a decade more life experience fundamentally alters that balance.

In relationships with large age gaps, especially involving teenagers, power does not

Editor’s Desk continued on page 6

Bulletin Board

Depending on when you read this I presume that many of you have made—or are contemplating making—various New Year’s resolutions as 2026 arrives with its potential for new beginnings. Perhaps you hope to lose some weight or to be a better person or (if you happened to wake up on New Year’s Day with a head the size of a basketball) to never again allow so much as a drop of alcohol to pass your lips.

I am told that making an annual list of resolutions is an old New Year’s tradition that dates back to the ancient Romans. The Roman tradition was to promise the god Janus (the patron deity of new beginnings) that they would behave better over the coming year than they had in the past year. As we know, the Roman Empire is no more, which makes me wonder if you can possibly take this good behavior thing too far, but perhaps I’m just jaded.

Whatever your promise, if you made one this year, there’s a good chance you’ll fail to keep it. There’s even a whole host of unofficial dates that commemorate the failure of well-intended resolutions, to include “Ditch New Year’s Resolutions Day” on January 17 and “Quitter’s Day” on the second Friday in January. One poll indicates that only 8 percent of people stick with their resolutions for one month. Another poll, by the Fisher College of Business, says that 23 percent of people quit their resolution by the first week and 43 percent quit by the end of January.

Despite those figures, yet another poll, this one by the Pew Research Center, indicates that 87 percent of people who made resolutions claim they have kept at least some of them a month into the new year. This indicates to me that a significant number of people don’t promise to try and be more truthful about their actual behavior. I’ll let you do the math.

Of those folks who decline to make New Year’s resolutions, 56 percent say their main reason for not doing so is they simply do not like to make resolutions. About one in ten say they don’t make resolutions because they break them too easily (i.e., no willpower); 9 percent say they can’t think of a resolution to make (being practically perfect in every way, apparently); and 17 percent say they have “another reason” which they have (paradoxically) apparently resolved not to share.

As for me, in my younger, more idealistic days, I used to make nearly impossible resolutions. For instance, I once resolved to make more of an effort to pick up my odiferous socks off the floor. That lasted about a week (until I changed my socks). I realized then that it would probably be wiser not to aim so high.

A number of years ago some writer for USA Today said he resolved to collect airsickness bags from every major airline. A lot of people thought the guy was crazy. I, on the other hand, wonder if we might be distant cousins or something.

Another writer offered heartfelt, if more general, suggestions for approaching the new year. These included (with my interpretations as to how they might relate to me personally): “Trust Your Instincts” (don’t travel on airplanes); “Stop Procrastinating” (if you’re already on an airplane, get off now!); “Learn to Take Risks” (get back on the airplane); “Forgive Someone” (the stewardess wouldn’t have called security if you didn’t try to force your way back onto the plane); “Tip Generously” (you never know when you might be having dinner in that same jail in the future); and “Learn One New Thing” (getting tasered isn’t as much fun as you might think).

Though I stopped making New Year’s resolutions some years ago (being among the 9 percent who consider themselves nearly perfect in every way), I did approach my wife this year to ask if she planned to make any resolutions.

“Why?” she asked.

“Because if you’re having difficulty, I’d be happy to offer a few suggestions,” I replied magnanimously.

And so it happens that I did in fact come to make a resolution for the coming year – and for all the years to come should I be allowed to live that long. I resolved that I will never ever attempt to offer her such assistance ever again, so help me God.

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.



Lions Club Makes Donation... The Portland Lions Club presented a \$1,000 donation to the Portland Food Bank and wished to thank the Portland Community for its generous support. From left to right: Kevin Backman, Jim Tripp, Larry Geist, Deb Sullivan, Anita Carpena, Peggy Arico, Rod Schlosser, Carol Revicki, Peter Lord

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

Thank You JJIS

To the Editor:

On behalf of the 30 senior recipients of the Holiday Box Project, I would like to send my gratitude for this ongoing collaboration with the Jack Jackter Intermediate School: the students, families and faculty for their kindness and generosity. Every holiday season for well over 40 years, the Colchester Senior Center has partnered with the Colchester Public Schools to bring cheer to seniors who may be experiencing loneliness, illness or need during the holiday season.

The senior center helps to select the seniors and works with them to establish their holiday wish lists. The wish lists are delivered to the school, and each classroom is assigned a senior and generously helps to fulfill the wish lists. After the school’s annual Holiday Assembly, volunteers and senior center staff have the great joy of delivering the boxes and collecting many smiles along the way.

To be able to intentionally cheer the spirits of some of those seniors means a great deal. It is also a wonderful lesson for the students, who are learning the impact they can have on helping one another and making their community better. We are grateful for your kind and generous hearts.

Patty Watts
Director of Senior Services
Town of Colchester

Dementia Talks #43

To the Editor:

We are coming up on one year at the current community where mom lives; this said it is our first holiday season experiencing the variety of events and activities that have been made available through the last two months.

Here is a glimpse into last weekend... Last Sunday I was going through pictures of mom and I from the Friday night Christmas Concert. A local music school hosted the concert and the students presented holiday music. The music was presented by children playing violins, there was a cello, and several rotated playing the piano.

It was lovely. But perhaps not in the sense that you may think. It was lovely because it felt like a holiday tradition in a place where traditions have faded. It felt like a shared moment in time captured for a mere second so unique, like a snowflake falling from the sky. Shared by family members and their loved ones; and together the feeling of joy filled the room as the music played. Most of us silent, then the eruption of clapping from all corners of the room for the musicians that shared their time with us and sprinkled happiness from the high ceiling of our “Town Square”.

After the concert, mom, myself and two other residents wandered through the memory care

See Letters, page 6

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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A Holiday Love Letter to Connecticut

It was on a snow-covered Christmas Eve in 1984 that I first encountered eastern Connecticut. The silent and starry night lent an extra dose of whatever it is that stops us in our tracks. The country roads we took to the house were dotted with a miraculous number of historic survivors. It was so enchanting a sight that I remarked to my hosts how much it resembled a toy town beneath a Christmas tree. Upon which they proudly elaborated on Connecticut’s early and steadfast commitment to environmental conservation and historic preservation.

In other words, the beauty and history I was taking in all around me did not remain here by accident. It had survived intact only because enough people in the past had made up their minds that clean water, verdant farmland and rich history are truly priceless. They are the valuable, tangible, quality-of-life-enhancing assets any community would be happy to inherit. They constitute the kind of irreplaceable riches which ought never be squandered. Because once they’ve been lost you never get them back.

For people like me not as fortunate to grow up in a place like this, it is precisely the kind of place we long to find. Yet despite my obvious appreciation, I have to admit I was not looking forward to a walking tour of the historic Horton property along Kinney Road, at the heart of Hebron Center. Though I had enthusiastically accepted the invitation, once the overcast day arrived, the thought of a boring and muddy afternoon was not all that compelling. But compelling it most certainly turned out to be!

I never expected to see an 18th century agrarian marvel of walled cattle lanes made of boulders so massive it required a community-wide effort to accomplish.

I didn’t know that glaciers advanced and receded over Connecticut so many times that the pulverized rock and soil beneath them would form a shelf of hard pan, the secret ingredient which keeps all the nutrients so close to the planted surface.

I didn’t know this property had been gifted to the early colonists by the Sachem Attawanhood. Nor did I know that for thousands of years this land has remained among the most extraordinarily rich and productive soil in the state. These pristine, prehistoric fields owe their very survival to the massive walls built to protect them from the trampling effect of livestock.

I didn’t know about the dramatic rescue of Caesar Peters from Southern bounty hunters. A feat accomplished by the ingenious

and patriotic women of Hebron.

Experiencing firsthand the silence and power of these still farmed and freshly cut fields, the very ones first occupied over 12,000 years ago, felt almost sacred. It was a feeling not unlike that Christmas Eve forty years ago.

Even in the Bible, Hebron signifies the first piece of the promised land. What a fitting name for this treasure gifted to us by a community long ago. We owe it to them for not squandering the riches left to us.

The only question which remains is what kind of community are we? Are we the kind which wants to be remembered for our generosity, our foresight, our commitment to protecting and providing for the future residents of this place we so gladly call home? Or are we a community which is ok with being forgotten, or worse yet, remembered only for what we squandered? Because you can be absolutely sure, no one longs to live here for the public works facilities. And we’re supposed to believe a new public works at Kinney Road wouldn’t risk this irreplaceable gift? Or that the hard pan, which made Hebron Center possible in the first place, wouldn’t spread even a small degree of contamination far beyond Kinney Road? I for one don’t believe it. And it’s my opinion the only reason it was proposed to begin with was to profit a few by squandering the riches of the many.

Over the ensuing decades I’ve travelled extensively throughout the Mid-Atlantic and New England states. But something about eastern Connecticut always stood apart. Something in the character of the people is different here. It’s the only place in America I’ve been where almost to a person, valuing things like courtesy, and friendliness, and nature and history isn’t the exception to the rule, but rather the norm. In that sense, this place really is “still revolutionary.”

I think it’s because people stay here, and return here. It’s why so many of my neighbors grew up here, and whose parents grew up here. Because if it wasn’t beautiful, and natural, and healthy, and proud of its history, people would move on. Eastern Connecticut is unique precisely because its residents do care, and do value the natural and historic inheritance they are so fortunate to call home. They care because it comes naturally to them. Their parents cared, their grandparents cared, and now they care, and their children care.

So let’s save this treasure, and gift it to those who will thank us when we’re gone. Because I believe we are a community who cares. And I’m proud to be a member of a community like ours.

Happy New Year Eastern Connecticut!
With love, admiration, and gratitude,
Greg Frutchey



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★ Letters cont. from page 5

neighborhood to stretch our legs, then settled in one of the ‘family’ rooms. Three of us on a couch and one in a comfy chair. As we took in the Disney movie playing on the TV, mom cuddled in and fell asleep on my shoulder.

Moments are precious. At times we are overcome by the hustle and bustle of November and December. At other times we freeze-frame a moment, an event, a smile, a hug into our minds to be thought of sometime in the distant future.

My hope is that mom still has those freeze-framed moments scrolling through her mind.

May you leap into 2026 with joy and hope at knowing that you are not alone.

With much love and peace,
Tonya Maurer - Amston
Alzheimer’s Hot Line 1-800-272-3900

Editor’s Desk continued from page 4

need to be overt to be present. A 30-year-old brings more financial stability, more sexual experience, more emotional leverage and more social authority - even without intending harm. The younger individual may feel “mature” or “chosen,” but that feeling itself is often part of the imbalance.

The emotional impact can be lasting. Teens may internalize guilt, confusion or shame long after the relationship ends. They may struggle to reconcile how something that was legal left them feeling used, manipulated or diminished. Physical consequences - including risks to sexual health - compound those emotional effects, particularly when a teenager may not feel empowered to negotiate boundaries or protection with an older partner.

Some argue that raising the age of consent to 18 would criminalize consensual relationships. That concern deserves discussion, and close-in-age exemptions are an important safeguard. But that argument becomes far less persuasive when the age gap stretches into double digits. A relationship between a 16- and 19-year-old is not equivalent to one between a 16-year-old and a 30-year-old, yet Connecticut law currently permits both.

Tennessee, like several other states, sets the age of consent at 18. That does not mean exploitation disappears - laws alone cannot do that - but it does create a clearer boundary. It sends an unambiguous message: minors deserve time to grow, learn and mature before being legally exposed to adult sexual relationships.

Andrea’s Hebron Legacy

To the Editor:

I was heartbroken to read the news of the passing of Andrea Lattanzi of Hebron in last week’s *Rivereast*. My sincere condolences go out to Andrea’s family, including her devoted husband David Lotreck, their children and grandson, as well as a long list of friends. Andrea’s legacy to her family will certainly be her profound love, kindness, compassion, humor and wit, gifts that will be treasured. As it was noted in the moving obituary, “13 years ago, after her first experience with lymphoma, Andrea’s focus shifted toward personal and community wellness. She viewed this time as an opportunity to keep learning and growing... She was also deeply involved in the Hebron Historical Society, which combined her love of history with her interest in genealogy. In

Connecticut excels in many areas of child protection. The state has taken strong stances on child marriage, abuse by authority figures and youth welfare more broadly. That is why this issue stands out so sharply to me. When a state that prides itself on safeguarding children allows legal sexual relationships between teenagers and much older adults, it invites scrutiny.

The question is not whether teenagers are sexual beings - they are. The question is whether the law should permit adults to engage sexually with minors simply because those minors are capable of saying “yes.” Legality should reflect not just capability, but vulnerability.

We do not allow 16-year-olds to sign binding contracts, buy alcohol or make many other life-altering decisions independently. We recognize that maturity is a process, not a switch that flips on a birthday. Sexual consent - especially with much older adults - should be treated with that same gravity.

Raising the age of consent to 18 would not be a moral judgment on teenagers. It would be an acknowledgment of reality: that informed consent requires context, development and the ability to fully understand consequences. On this issue, Connecticut has the opportunity to align its laws with the values it so often champions - protection, responsibility and care for its young people.

And for a state that gets so much right, that alignment matters.

addition, she worked to preserve the property at 17 Kinney Road.” As eloquently written, Andrea’s powerful legacy extends beyond her family to the Hebron community.

In the early efforts to preserve Kinney Road and protect the Raymond Brook Watershed, Andrea’s commitment to “community wellness” added a compelling voice. In the summer of 2022, Andrea was fundamental in the creation of a letter to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) inquiring about the details of the Phase 1 Archeological Survey of 17 Kinney Road. She courageously authored a Letter to the Editor to the *Rivereast* on Sept. 2, 2022, that remains strikingly important today. Quoting from a reply written by State Historic Preservation Officer, Jonathan Kinney, Andrea noted SHPO’s directive, “As relayed in prior correspondence; however, SHPO requests that a professional cultural resources survey be completed prior to any subsequent phases of development; additional research to substantiate an eligibility evaluation should be completed as part of future investigations.” SHPO specifically instructs the Town to complete a cultural resources survey PRIOR TO any subsequent phases of development. The timing is CRITICAL. The survey must be conducted and documented to prevent destroying or losing the historical-cultural aspects.” Thank you Andrea for providing this reminder at this time, which remains as critical as ever.

I hope someday the Hebron community will come together to realize Andrea’s dream and preserve 17 Kinney Road. My dream would be to someday plant the Andrea Lattanzi Memorial Garden in the fields of 17 Kinney Road, a living tribute to a shining light. I am grateful to have known Andrea and grateful for her legacy that extends beyond her family, and into the community.

Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri - Amston

Hebron DPWAC Update

To the Editor:

Happy New Year!

A lot is going on and coming together. We are getting quotes for townwide curbside trash pickup and we are still exploring other options. At our last meeting on December 15, 2025, we had 2 guests in person and one on line.

Chris Nardi from Silver, Petrucelli & Associates gave us updates on the progress of the project. These were that the well is able to handle all of the expected demands of our new facility including fire sprinkler systems, truck washing, dog kennel, restrooms and showers etc. All of the ground testing done showed that the subsoils can support all of the proposed structures and that the septic system can be built. The question was raised regarding one septic for both the dog kennel and the new DPW facility. The Architects were verifying that a permit through Chatham Health is obtainable, based on site inspections during the perk tests. The plans went out to estimating and we now have a number as to the cost of the complete tear-down and rebuild of the Old Colchester Road site. Total construction cost is 27,800,501.00. This number will change as designs are firmed up and finalized by referendum time.

This is for abatement of all hazardous materials currently on site, complete demolition of all structures on the site and construct an all-new facility on the existing site. This is what the majority of residents that participated in the town wide survey wanted.

Members of the DPWAC along with Town Council members will be having informational sessions starting in the new year with various town organizations. This is to get all of our residents on board and prepared for the upcoming

referendum in the early spring of 2026. Please come to an informational meeting prior to the referendum to learn the facts regarding this important project! Please stay tuned for when and where these will be. I will include them here as I am made aware of meeting times and places. This is a major project that has been kicked down the road for almost 15 years, it’s time to get this built! As always please email me at: thabicht@hebronct.gov and don’t forget to check the Town of Hebron’s website at: www.hebronct.com for the most recent FAQs. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 1/20/26 at the Hebron town hall, 6:30 p.m.

Todd Habicht - Hebron
DPWAC Vice Chairman

Thank You East Hampton Food Bank

To the Editor:

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the East Hampton Food Bank for their continued dedication to our community.

While their daily efforts sustain so many, I want to specifically highlight their recent generosity in providing Stop & Shop gift cards to our East Hampton Housing Authority tenants. These cards offer more than just financial relief; they provide our residents the dignity of choice and the ability to purchase exactly what they need.

The food bank is a vital resource for people of all ages and circumstances in East Hampton. On behalf of myself as well as the tenants I represent at The East Hampton Housing Authority, we thank the staff and volunteers for your kindness and for making sure our neighbors feel supported and seen.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!
F. David McGovern Jr - East Hampton
Connecticut Housing Authority
Tenant Commissioner

Friends, Neighbors in East Hampton, East Haddam, Salem

To the Editor:

I had planned on announcing my intention to run for State Representative after the holidays, but you may have seen an article recently written by a CT Mirror reporter and shared in the Hartford Courant. Yes, it is true—I hope to become your State Representative again in 2026.

For the past several years, I’ve watched with growing frustration as taxpayer dollars have been spent by politicians in Hartford without accountability, as the fiscal safeguards I helped create in 2017 have eroded, and as the legislative process itself has lost its seriousness—with state senators and representatives voting from their cars. Meanwhile, it has only become more expensive to live and do business in Connecticut. Families and employers alike are struggling under the weight of rising property taxes, shocking utility bills, and the cumulative burden of policies adopted at the state Capitol. For these reasons and more, I have decided to step back into the political arena.

Public service has always been central to who I am. In full transparency, if elected, I intend to give up my current full-time position as a budget analyst and senior advisor in state government—a role that has given me a front-row seat to troubling trends, but also the opportunity to work on solutions that would make our state more affordable and fiscally sound. In November of 2025, I was elected to the East Haddam Board of Education, a role that keeps me grounded in issues that are important to our communities.

Though I last served in the legislature nearly a decade ago, my core values have not changed. I remain a direct, results-driven leader committed to working across the aisle. What has changed is my depth of knowledge and understanding of our state budget system, still in need of reform and increased transparency.

I look forward to connecting with residents across all three of our unique small towns. Please feel free to reach out at melissa@melissaziobron.com or 860-470-6662. Of course, you can find me on social media, too! I look forward to hearing about what issues are important to you and our communities.

Cheers to 2026,
Melissa Ziobron

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★ Top 25 Sports Moments, cont. from page 1
Lynch averaged 19 points, five rebounds, and three assists per game as he was named all-state by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association. The prolific guard was also selected All-SLC first-team for the third straight season. He closed his career at EHHS as the leading a scorer in program history, finishing with 1,597 points.

7. Burroughs Six Scores Sink Rival
Bacon Academy's starting quarterback Riddick Burroughs saved his best performance for his last on the local fields. Playing his final football game, the senior signal caller totaled six touchdowns as the Bobcats beat RHAM High School, 46-28, at Bacon Academy on Nov. 22. Burroughs dazzled the home crowd from the opening whistle to the last, rushing for 148 yards and three touchdowns and throwing for 178 yards and three scoring strikes - all to fellow senior Joey Gignac. It was the second straight year that the Bobcats won the annual "Battle for the Rail", blanking the Raptors 23-0 in last year's showdown at East Hartford High School.

8. Burke Brothers Blaze Trail
Breckin and Hayden Burke, twin brothers from Portland High School, placed first and second at the Shoreline Championship (SLC) championships on Oct. 16. Racing at Hammonasset Beach State Park, Breckin won the conference clash with a time of 16:13 and was followed by Hayden with a time of 16:20. At the Class S Division Championships on Oct. 25, Breckin placed 2nd and Hayden was 4th. It was a similar finish at the State Open as Breckin (26th) and Hayden (28th) crossed the finish line within a few seconds of each other. Prior to the championship season, Hayden won both the Harry Geraghty Invite and the Wickham Invite, while Breckin placed as the runner-up in both races.

9. Conference Repeat for Raptors Lax
For the second straight spring, RHAM High School boys lacrosse was crowned the kings of the conference, beating Farmington, 15-11 on May 29. Ben Zigmund scored five goals and dished out four assists to lead an offense, while senior goalie Thomas Packer made 20 saves on the back end. James Celio also scored five goals and added an assist in the win, surpassing the 200-career point mark along the way.

After securing consecutive conference crowns, Zigmund, Celio, and Liam Tresser were named Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) All-State. The trio also joined Packer, Thiago Delacruz, and Garrett Levesque on the all-conference team.

10. Hageman Honored, Bobcats Top Conference
Mia Hageman, a senior at Bacon Academy, was named the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Player of the Year after helping the Bobcats win the conference championship for the second straight season. Hageman was one of a half dozen Bobcats to be named All-ECC first-team, joining Alyssa Blanchette, Quinn Guntulis, Lanie McIlduff, Arianna Elliott, and Isabel Faber.

On Oct. 27, Bacon Academy wrapped up a repeat as a conference championship with a 1-0 victory over Stonington behind a goal from Blanchette.

11. Banner Year for EH Youth Football and Cheer
East Hampton Youth Football and Cheer (EHYFC) wrapped up a season to remember in the fall. Hawks football made their first ever championship appearance, while the Hawks cheerleading squads posted multiple first place finishes and brought home various awards as the local programs celebrated their most successful season to date.

The Hawks B squad (consisting of 21 football players from grades 5-7) made the championship game, marking the first time in program history that a team has made it to the big dance. After finishing the season with a record of 4-3, the Hawks defeated Coginchaug, 13-6, in the quarterfinals and Vernon, 26-7, in the semifinals to reach the championship game at Veterans Memorial Stadium in New Britain.

Additionally, a trio of Cheerleading squads (A, B, and C) all placed first at the CTYFL Cheer Competition

12. Rabbitt Powers RHAM Golf
On June 5, RHAM High School's Conner Rabbitt tied atop the leaderboard as the Raptors won a Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) championship as a team. Competing at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain, Rabbitt shot a one-under 70, draining birdies on three holes to tie Joey Pikiell of Bris-

tol Central for the top spot. As a team, RHAM finished three strokes ahead of runner-up East Catholic. The following week (June 9) -- Rabbitt, Logan Giannelli, Conor Sullivan, Sean Fenton, and Caden Bellmore combined to secure a state golf championship in their back woods as the Raptors shot a 309 at a team to capture the Division II State Championship, besting Tolland by 10 strokes and ahead of the other 16 teams that competed Tallwood Country Club in Hebron. Rabbitt shot a team-best (+3) 75 to finish tied for second overall individually at the state championships.

13. LaMalfa Tops New England
Sam LaMalfa, of Portland High School, completed the trifecta of outdoor track and field championships by winning the 400 Meters at the Class S, State Open, and New England Regionals in June. LaMalfa also won a Class S state championship in the 200 meters to helped the Highlanders placed as the runner-up at the divisional championships.

The 2025 PHS graduate is now in the beginning stages of his freshman year with the Bulldogs track and field program at Bryant University.

14. Calhoun Sets College Records
On Feb. 16, Liam Calhoun — a 2022 RHAM



East Hampton youth football had a historic 2025. The Hawks B squad became the first team in the history of the program to advance to the championship game.

High School graduate who now competes for the Cardinals running teams at Wesleyan University — broke the school record in the 3,000 meters that had stood for 41 years. Competing at the Boston University David Hemery Valen-

tine Invitational on Feb. 16, Calhoun crossed the finish line with a new program record time of 8:18.01, besting his previous time by nearly four seconds. Jeff Messer (8:22.09) had held the

See Top 25 Sports Moments , page 10

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Portland Library News & Notes

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

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., - Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. **Holiday Closings:** The library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Inclement Weather Procedure: If Portland Public Schools have a delayed opening or are closed for the day due to inclement weather, the library will not run morning storytimes. Afternoon and evening programs will be decided on an individual basis that day, and registered participants will be contacted through email as soon as possible if the program will be canceled. Call the library if you have any questions on whether programs will be held.

Children's Programs: Winter Reading is AFOOT! Friday, Jan. 2 - Saturday, Feb. 28. Visit the library on or after Jan. 2 and you'll find a series of challenges. Register with the Library to become an official detective and check out the bulletin board each time you visit to see what mysteries are in need of solving. Complete the challenge and update your badge. If you complete at least three of the six challenges, you'll receive a small prize.

Family Craft Night: Yarn Snowmen. Monday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Create your own unique snowmen using Styrofoam balls, yarn, and a variety of decorative accessories. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Registration is required and opens on Monday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. Space is limited.

Write Like a Founding Father: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 15, 22, 29. Grades 3-7. Join the library for a three-week program to learn cursive. This program is designed to teach the basics of cursive writing. The library will provide take-home practice sheets each week and end the program with a craft to bring home. Registration is required and opens on Monday, Jan. 5, at 10 a.m.

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition: Saturday, Jan. 24 from 10:30 a.m.—12 p.m. The library is looking for teams of 2-4 people to compete in their third annual Jigsaw Puzzle competition! Team

up with friends and family to solve a 500 piece puzzle, and reserve your spot in this relaxed morning event. Registration is limited to seven teams. Coffee, tea and hot cocoa will be available. Registration opens on Monday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. Space is limited to 7 teams so register early.

Teen Program: Escape from the Oval Office: Monday, Jan. 25 at 3:30 p.m. The President of the United States accidentally left a copy of his White House speech on his desk in the Oval Office. As a White House intern, it's your job to bring it to him. Except when you get to the Oval Office, the door locks behind you. Can you find the secret codes you need to unlock the office and get out in time to bring the President his speech? Registration is required and opens on Monday, Jan. 5, at 10 a.m.

Adult Programs: Winter Reading Is Afoot: Visit the library on or after Jan. 2 and the library will give you some magnifying glasses to fill in with the books you read. Once you've read 6 books, you will have completed the challenge and will win a small prize. Everyone who completes the challenge will be entered into a drawing. The winner will select a book (up to a \$40 value) to be added to the library's collection.

Adult Crash Course Cooking—Pasta from Scratch: Wednesday, Jan. 14, 6:00 p.m. Matt Yanarella from MyProductionsCT will walk attendees through making their own pasta from scratch. Learn how to mix, knead, roll, and cut the dough, cook some tasty sauces and enjoy some delicious food. Registration is required and opens on Monday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. Space is limited. Snow date is Monday, Jan. 26, 6 p.m.

Art Exhibit – Museum Seen by Dan Castelli: A series of Black & White candid photographs of people reacting to art in museums that will run through Jan. 9.

Solidarity Committee Art & Craft Supply Swap: On Saturday, Jan. 17, 1 p.m., bring unwanted, gently used craft or art supplies and "shop" for FREE new-to-you supplies. You do not need to donate in order to "shop", and you may donate without picking anything new up. Registration is not required but is strongly encouraged. Co-Sponsored by the Committee on Solidarity's Pride Workgroup, and the Portland Public Library.

Weekly Knifty Knitters Group: Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Adults of all experience levels are welcome. No registration required; simply drop in. Come chat with the crafters who created the flock of emotional support chickens that were auctioned off this month to benefit the Friends of the Library.

Book Clubs: Talk About Books: Tuesday, Jan. 6, 1 p.m. *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m. *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson will be discussed.

Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1:00 p.m. *The Twyford Code* by Janice Hallett will be discussed.

Movie: Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1 p.m. *Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale* (2025; rated PG) will be shown. Run time is 123 minutes.



Real Talk...Portland resident Sarah Elliott-Caratasios poses with her books. Her most recent book is about caregiving and is titled “When Love Becomes Care: Real Talk for the Sandwich Generation.”

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.

Service Projects: This season, the community is collecting monetary donations to assemble gift bags filled with goodies and a gift card for older children in DCF care. The church is also gathering diapers in support of

the Episcopal Church in Connecticut's annual diaper drive.

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.

Town of Portland Parking Ban

A parking ban will be in effect for all storms this winter season to allow our highway crews to properly clear and treat our roads to make travel safe. Due to ever-changing forecasts, the ban will be in effect for any amount of accumulating ice or snow. Please make sure your vehicles are moved off the roadway at least two hours before a storm has been forecasted and is expected to start. Vehicles are to remain off the roadway for at least four hours after the storm has ended or until crews have completed their final plowing. Vehicles not moved may be towed at the owner's expense.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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★ **25 Top Sports Moments, cont. from page 7**
mark since 1984.
Then, on May 10, Calhoun set the program record in the 5000 meters, running a 14:14.96 to surpass Evan Bieder's mark of 14:24.69 from 2015.

Calhoun, of Hebron, was also a record holder as a three-season runner at RHAM. He is currently in the middle of his senior year on the trails and tracks at the college in Middletown.

15. Bellringers Runner Become Blue Devil
Following a terrific three-season running career at East Hampton High School, Evan LoPresti is now a freshman on the Blue Devils running program at Central Connecticut State University.

LoPresti left his mark in Belltown by winning the Shoreline Conference cross-country championship with a personal-best mark of 15:19.

His success bled over into the winter season where he placed as the runner-up in the 1,000 meters at both the SLC championships and Class S finals, where he ran a personal-best 2:31.43. LoPresti then placed fifth at the State Open, qualifying him for the New England Championships in Boston, Mass. He closed the winter season by competing in the 800 meters at the New Balance Nationals in New York.

During spring's outdoor season, LoPresti continued to excel in the 800 meters as he won the Class S state championship in the event, qualifying him for the State Open where he ran a personal-best 1:56.11 on June 7.

16. Novak's Big Year
Along with being a senior captain for a Bacon Academy basketball team that won a state championship in 2025, Katelyn Novak eclipsed 1,000 career points in her final home game when she scored a career-high 27 points as the Bobcats eliminated Wilcox Tech in the state quarterfinals.

She was the Bobcats leading scorer last season, setting the program record for three-pointers, and was named Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) for a second straight season as the Bobcats also won a conference championship in 2025.

Following four season locally, Novak is now starting her first collegiate season for the Warriors of Eastern Connecticut State University.

17. Bellringer Named Cheerleader of Year
East Hampton High School's Madelyn Daniels was named the Shoreline Conference Cheerleader of the Year, heading a Bellring-

ers team that placed second overall at the SLC championships on Feb. 8 at Westbrook High School.

Daniels was joined on the All-SLC first team by fellow junior Mikah Levenduski. Senior Samantha Yorker was named All-SLC second-team, while head coach Alexa Paddock was named the SLC Coach of the Year.

18. Lavoie Crowned State Champ
Eddie Lavoie, of Hebron, won a Class LL wrestling championship by pinning Victor Velez of Danbury in the 138-lbs. title match at Trumbull High School on Feb. 22.

Lavoie, who attended Norwich Free Academy, fell behind in the championship bout before rallying on the scoreboard and eventually pinning Velez with just 36 seconds left in the match to secure the state championship and earn a spot in the State Open.

A week earlier, Lavoie was coming off a triumph in the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) championship where he defeated top-seeded Brady Zadora of Killingly for the 138-lbs. conference clincher.

Lavoie is now a freshman wrestling at Springfield College.

19. Pingree MVP, Bobcats Baseball Wins Conference

Mason Pingree was named the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II Tournament Most Valuable Player after leading the way as the Bobcats won the Conference championships, defeating Montville 3-1 at Dodd Stadium on May 30.

Pingree, a senior captain, contributed from the plate as Bacon won three consecutive games in the conference tourney to bring the ECC championship banner back to Colchester. He was also the winning pitcher of the ECC semifinals where he struck out seven and allowed only three hits and one run over six innings of work as the No. 5 Bobcats took down No. 1 seed Stonington 4-3 on May 29.

Along with the tourney MVP, Pingree was named All-ECC first team. Eli Chiaverini (1st team) and Ethan Cruetz (honorable mention) were also selected all-conference.

20. Highlander Named Goalie of the Year

Gracie DeRing, a goalie for the girls soccer team at Portland High School, 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



In addition to powering a Raptors volleyball program to a state championship, RHAM High School senior Meredith Weir topped 1,000 career kills and broke the program record for aces this past year.

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.

21. Sweeney Wins Shot Put
On June 1, Bacon Academy's Liam Sweeney won the shot put and placed second in the discus at the Class M championship at Willow Brook Park in New Britain.

Sweeney blew away the competition in the shot put, covering a distance of 52' 8.5", well ahead of runner-up Trevor Dixon (47' 10") to take home gold in the event. He also earned silver with a throw of 153' 3" in the discus as he advanced to the State Open in both events.

He is now in the middle of his senior year with the Bobcats track and field programs that are competing this winter and spring.

22. Sobieralski Nets Game-Winner
On Jan. 3, Isabelle Sobieralski drained the game-winning shot in the final seconds as the RHAM High School girls basketball celebrated a dramatic 39-38 victory over Hall.

Sobieralski finished the game with 11 points and played a key role on defensive end in the victory.

She is currently in the beginning stages of her senior season on the courts at RHAM.

23. Holloway Does It All
Bennett Holloway, a 2025 graduate of Bacon Academy, was a multi-sport star locally and is now on the fencing and track and field teams at the University of Detroit Mercy.

During his senior year at Bacon, the all-state fencer helped the Bobcats Epee team to a near perfect season with just one loss and he posted a personal record of 41-7 overall.

On Feb. 22, Holloway took 1st place in the Epee at Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC)

fencing championships held at Griswold High School and, a week later, he claimed 6th Place in the men's Epee division at the Connecticut High School Fencing Association state tournament.

Holloway, who was also a cross-country runner and two-time all-conference javelin thrower in Colchester, is now competing with the Titans teams in Michigan.

24. Bacon Hall of Fame Finalized
With a vast history of athletic achievements and beyond, the Bacon Academy Hall of Fame was established this past year to celebrate those who have left a lasting legacy in Colchester.

Nominations are currently being accepted through Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, with the inaugural class set to be inducted in the spring of next year. Visit ba.colchesterct.org to nominate.

The goal is to recognize contributions to athletics, academics, associated student body activities (the arts, student government, clubs), and community service in Colchester.

25. Freshman Wins Conference
On March 7, Beckett Krajewski — a freshman from RHAM High School who swims for the Manchester co-op — won a conference title, taking gold in the 100 Breaststroke at the Central Connecticut Conference - North Championships that took place at Wethersfield High School.

The first-year high school swimmer finished the event in 1:01.80, beating second place Jack Simmons of Wethersfield by over three seconds and coming up just shy of setting a new meet record (1:01.42). His older brother, Will Krajewski (a sophomore), won a silver at the conference finals, taking home second place in the 100 Individual Medley with a time of 2:09.12.

The Krajewski brothers are now back for their sophomore and junior years with the Red Hawks swimming team this winter.



Luke Stennett, a 2024 graduate of Portland High School, has excelled on the links at the University of Rhode Island. Stennett was named the Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Year and made all-conference for the college program in 2025.



Katlyn Novak celebrates after Bacon Academy girls basketball won a state championship at Mohegan Sun Arena in March. Along with being a team captain, Novak also topped 1,000 career points and broke the program record for three-pointers in 2025.



A Volcanic Anniversary!... Andrea and Herman Kranc of Colchester celebrated their 30th anniversary by visiting the Arenal Volcano in Costa Rica!



From Colchester to Kenya... Colleen Phillips of Colchester recently visited Kenya and Tanzania! Here she is with the Rivereast at the Nairobi Military Stone in Kenya.

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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



Sunny Sedona... After attending the NASCAR championship race in Phoenix, Kathy and Randy Mund of Hebron and Peggy and Rob Gasper of Andover brought the Rivereast on vacation in Sedona, Ariz.



'Penn' Pals... Willa Eckersley of Cromwell and Jane Muskatallo & Jeanne Bishop, both of Portland, recently joined a group from the East Hampton Senior Center and traveled to Pennsylvania to see NOAH at the Sight & Sound Theater.

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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: 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. There is also a brief meeting for pre-service prayer on Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Men's and Women's Breakfast: Meets monthly on Saturdays at 8 a.m. The men meet the first Saturday of the month, and the Women meet the third Saturday of the month.

Children's Church: Meets Sunday mornings after worship service.

Call the church office at 860-537-3082 for more information, questions, or even if you just need prayer. You can also visit [AbundantL.com](#).

Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner

The ocean state is known for seafood. It also happens to be a chicken-dinner country. One of the biggest restaurants on earth, Wright's Farm, serves a classic Chicken Dinner family-style, all you can eat. Your meal consists of dinner rolls, salad with the farm's classic Italian dressing, pasta with red sauce, Wright's french fries, and of course Wright's tender and juicy baked chicken. Leave room for ice cream for dessert. After time in the gift shop, we will keep your winning streak going with a visit to Bally's Twin River Casino. It will be held on Thursday, April 16, 10:15 a.m. and the cost is \$115 per person. This includes transportation and lunch; it does not include a casino bonus at this time. Space is limited.

Trips are available to Colchester 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. Payment for programs is accepted in the form of cash or checks only.



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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.

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.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane, has announced the following. Unless noted, registration is required for all programs. Credit Cards are currently not accepted. For full descriptions of programs 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, Jan. 5: 9 a.m. Making Memories; 9 a.m. Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m. Sittercize; 11 a.m. Learn to Sign; 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Fitness Orientation by appointment; 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg; 12:30 p.m. Bridge; 12:30 p.m. Set Back.

Tuesday, Jan. 6: 9 a.m. Making Memories; 9:45 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. Unleash Your Joy; 12:30 p.m. Pinochle; 12:30 p.m. Choices Counseling; 1 p.m. Cornhole; 1:15 p.m. BINGO; 4-8 p.m. Wellness Nights.

Wednesday, Jan. 7: 9 a.m. Making Memories; 9 a.m. Walking Group; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Reflexology; 10 a.m. Adult Coloring; 10 a.m. Hand and Foot Card Game; 10:30 a.m. Life Review; 10 a.m. Sit & Be Fit Video; 1 p.m. sew-cial Timed; 1:30 p.m. Cardio Drumming; 2:30 p.m. Cardio Drumming

Thursday, Jan. 8: 9 a.m. Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m. Sittercize; 10 a.m. Wii Bowling; 11 a.m. Yoga; 11 a.m. Bacon Academy Athlete Visit; 12 p.m. Sr. Benefits Counseling; 12:05 p.m. Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m. Dominoes; 12:30-1 p.m. Knit & Crochet; 1:30 p.m. Vision Board; 4-8 p.m. Wellness nights

Friday, Jan. 9: 9 a.m. Social Service Hours; 9 a.m. Open Art Studio; 10 a.m. Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m. Choral Group; 10:45 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic; 1 a.m. Yoga; 11:15 a.m. Chatham Health Education Program; 1:15 p.m. BINGO.

Inspired By Art - Vincent Van Gogh: Monday, Jan. 12, 10 a.m. Back by popular demand is the center's Inspired by Art Series. Each month they will look at an artist and/or a style of art and use their work as inspiration to create an art piece of their own. The cost is \$10 per person, Registration is required.

Living Your Best Life Now Presentation: Thursday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m. Join the center for a discussion on healthy aging with Lori Orlor from Middlesex Hospital. She will be sharing tips to empower healthcare choices and answer questions on how to maintain independence, doctor's visits, maintaining health, determining goals of care, and learning about health resources in your community. This is a free program.

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Colchester BOS Formalize Emergency Response Partnership

By Toriana Williams

The Colchester Board of Selectmen held its regular meeting on Dec. 18 and addressed several consequential policy matters following an executive session, including the formalization of a regional emergency response agreement and authorization to change the town's health insurance broker. Both items passed unanimously after detailed discussion.

Agreement Formalizes Regional Cooperation

One of the most substantive discussions of the evening centered on a proposed mutual aid agreement with Eastern Connecticut to establish participation in a Joint Emergency Response Special Operations Team. Fire Chief Steve Hoffmann explained that the agreement is connected to Emergency Support Function 9, a regional emergency structure coordinated through the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in Region 4.

“What this basically does is a conglomerate of resources to work together for emergency responses, trench rescue, confined space rescue, high angle rescue, active shooter responses,” Hoffmann said. He added that the agreement allows participating towns to share both operational and training resources across the region.

Board members raised concerns about potential costs associated with training and staffing, particularly whether specialized responses could lead to overtime expenses or require additional personnel coverage back in town. Selectman Art Shilosky, a Republican, questioned the agreement's destination as “no cost,” and stated, “I get nervous when I see that on a piece of paper on agreement.”

Hoffmann responded by describing recent mutual aid responses, including a high-angle rescue in North Stonington, where volunteer staffing was used to maintain coverage locally. He emphasized that the responses are not routine emergencies but specialized incidents re-

quiring advanced skills and coordination.

The Board also clarified that while the program has existed regionally, Colchester had not previously signed a formal agreement. “This is new,” Hoffmann said, explaining that the agreement formalizes practices already in place under new leadership within ESF 9. Following discussion, a motion to approve the agreement was passed unanimously.

Health Insurance Broker Change, Waiver of Purchasing Policy

The Board next considered signing an agent-of-record letter appointing USI Insurance Services as the town's new health insurance broker, replacing the current broker.

First Selectman Bernie Dennler, a Democrat, explained that the town did not use a sealed bid process, instead inviting several firms to submit proposals and participate in interviews conducted by a joint committee representing the town, Board of Finance and Board of Education.

“Our purchasing policy requires for a contract of this size for us to have a sealed bid process unless we waive the process,” Dennler said. He explained that the waiver was sought to allow for interviews, noting that brokers “all provide their services in different ways.”

Finance Director Marina Pandolfi described persistent communication challenges with the current broker and stated, “There was just literally no communication from the broker at all.” She cited difficulties during open enrollment and a lack of support during changes to the town's stop-loss insurance coverage.

Pandolfi said USI stood out during interviews because of its understanding of the town's financial position and its approach to long-term planning. “They really dug into the insurance fund and had our budget numbers,” she said, referencing a claims-projection tool that could help forecast costs over multiple years.

Pandolfi continued, describing inefficiencies

in the town's enrollment platform and uncertainty over services being paid for. “Nobody can give us an answer of what they do for us,” Pandolfi said of the existing system.

USI's proposal came in approximately \$1,000 higher than the current broker's fee, a difference board members said was justified given the scale of health insurance costs and the anticipated improvements in service.

After confirming there would be no penalty for terminating the existing broker, the Board voted unanimously to sign the agent-of-record letter and formally waive the sealed bid requirement.

Citizen Comments Highlight Turf Field Debate

Earlier in the meeting, public comment focused largely on the proposed installation of turn fields at Bacon Academy, an ongoing and popular discussion. Brian Martin, a teacher, spoke in support of the project, citing deteriorating athletic facilities and limitations on field use due to weather.

“We need a durable, usable field that can withstand the conditions the weather in the Northeast brings,” Martin said.

Jeff Mattson, a known opponent of the proposed turf fields, raised environmental concerns related to stormwater runoff, referencing

a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection report. He questioned why stormwater treatment measures had not been implemented and expressed concern about runoff entering waterways connected to local wells. Dennler said he would follow up with the Building Committee.

Executive Session and Additional Reports

The Board entered executive session to interview two candidates for the position of Manager of Human Resources. No votes were taken following the interviews.

Liaison reports included updates from the Conservation Commission, which held a public hearing on a proposed sewer line extension affecting wetlands, and from the Chatham Health District, which approved its 2025 audit and advanced a new fee schedule to public hearing. Planning and Zoning officials reported amendments to land-use regulations and a preliminary review of a proposed O'Reilly Auto Parts location.

In his closing report, Dennler highlighted the one-year anniversary of the Colchester Senior Center, ongoing environmental remediation at Norton Park, progress at the Youth Center renovation and the near-completion of a Freedom of Information request involving election ballots.

Veterans Honor Guard Seeks New Members

The Colchester Honor Squad meets the first and third Tuesday of every month from 7 to 8 p.m. at the American Legion Post Headquarters at 95 Norwich Avenue (old Colchester Senior Center). The twenty plus member squad is actively looking for new members so that they can continue to provide funeral honors to all departed veterans.

Most funeral honors are performed between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday to Saturday. If you are a veteran that can give a few hours during the week or on weekends, the guard would be happy to have you stop by and visit during their Tuesday meetings.

Contact Al Letendre at letendrej@sbcglobal.net or 860-537-6516 for more information.

Recycling Project

Boy Scout 72 is continuing to accept recyclable containers from local residents. You can drop bags of recyclable containers on the left hand side of the pavilion at the St. Joseph's 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 and enjoy other camping activities that they might have to miss due to a family's ability to afford issues.

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.

Ahavath Achim Schedule

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

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

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

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

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.

Donuts with Don: Is back Fridays at 10 a.m. It's an open discussion on the theme: How does God fit in this thing called life?



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Chicken Marsala Sautéed with mushrooms, shallots in a marsala wine sauce

Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing served over spinach

Balkan Meatballs Beef meatballs sautéed with scallions, roasted red peppers, grape tomatoes in a marsala cream sauce

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Working Hard or Hardly Working?... 91-year-old Rita Milardo started going to the gym a little over a year ago and encourages others to commit to fitness.

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, monthly men's and women's groups, and more.

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

Quilting Group: Mondays, 9 a.m. Quilters bring their own projects and guide each other as needed. New members are welcome!

Mexican Train Dominoes: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. New members welcome.

ASL Social Conversations: Mondays, 11:30 a.m. Participants in the American Sign Language classes can practice their skills in ASL during this informal get together.

Bible Study: Tuesdays, 1 p.m. This non-denominational group shares and studies scripture.

Mahjong: Mondays, 1 p.m. and Fridays, 10 a.m. in person. New members welcome. Call if you are interested in putting your name on a list to learn how to play.

Setback: Mondays, 1-3 p.m. and Thursdays at 1-3 p.m., in person. Please call in advance to register.

Wii Bowling Returns!: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. Please call the Senior Center and let them know you are coming.

BINGO: Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m. in person.

Learn to Knit and Crochet: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Are you interested in learning how to knit or crochet, have a project you need help with or just want to brush up on your skills? Drop in for a free hands-on session with senior center member Wendy Latuch! Please call the Senior Center so Wendy knows you will be participating.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: Two groups, Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., or every other Thursday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Lead Elizabeth Thomas. If you would like to sharpen your pencil and your brain with creative writing, this is the opportunity for you.

Textile Group: Fridays, 1 p.m. This group brings in their own quilting, knitting or crochet projects. New members welcome!

Cribbage Anyone?: Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m. Let the center know if you are able to join in advance. Myactivecenter.com or register at the front desk.

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

Mighty Magnificent Men's Group: Meets every second and fourth Monday at 10 a.m. Join the center for a social hour of fun facts, sharing activities and snacks.

Trailblazers Walking Group: Monday, Jan. 5, at 9 a.m. Air Line State Park, 69 Smith Street, East Hampton. All paces welcome!

Linefit: Monday, Jan. 5, at 2 p.m. A fun, low-impact line dancing class that gets your body moving and your heart pumping to the rhythm of great music. Instructor is Mariana Sigleski. Fee is \$3 per class.

Community Care Connection Program: Tuesdays starting Jan. 6 from 2-6 p.m. with Ria Irons, a certified community health worker, who will provide services on help with medication, communicating with healthcare providers, understanding care instructions and connecting with local resources. Health insurance will be billed for this service when possible. Call for an appointment – 860-267-4426.

Sit Flex and Flow: Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. starting on Jan. 8, A new 6-week series. Activities include chair exercises, balance work, playful movement, and—when appropriate—ground exercises. All levels welcome. Equipment is provided. Cost is \$20 for the six-week session.

Medicare Information: Thursday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m. with France Stephanos. Ask questions and enroll in plans.

Tai Chi with Ming: Fridays, 2 p.m. through March 6. Join instructor Ming Zhao for this new session. Tai Chi is a Chinese mind-body practice that combines gentle form of moving meditation that combines slow, flowing movements, deep breathing and focused awareness. Cost is \$20.

Trips: Lunch for Seniors at Windham Tech: Wednesday, Jan. 14 leaving the Senior Center at 10 a.m. for an 11 a.m. seating. Enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by Windham Tech Culinary students. Cost is \$19 and includes lunch and transportation.

Friendship Tours Irish Celebration with Andy Cooney: March 10, at the Danversport Yacht Club, Danvers, Mass. Depart from Stop & Shop at 7:30 a.m. Enjoy the sounds of Ireland with Andy Cooney, special guest comedian George Casey, the Guinness Irish Band and Emerald Fire Irish Dance. Choice of Scrod or corned beef. Cost is \$185.

Friendship Tours Fairytale Lunch: Held at Pickity Place, Mason, N.H., on May 7. Visit the 1786 cottage for lunch followed by time to stroll the grounds and shop. You can also visit the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, N.H., for a guided tour. Cost is \$167.

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.

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Seniors Bowl and “Let The Good Times Roll”

By Anne Lilburn

In the past few years in East Hampton, there has been a new wave of activities for active seniors, and there's one man at the center of it: East Hampton resident Jack Anderson.

When Anderson and his wife Linda moved back to Connecticut from Florida during the pandemic, they were happy to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren but sad to be leaving behind the wealth of active senior activities that they left behind.

“There were over 3000 clubs [where we lived in Florida]. I was on two softball teams, my wife was on a dragon boat team,” he said. “I mean, there was so much to do, but then coming back here in 2020, it was like, there's nothing here for seniors.”

Anderson decided to do something about it. He called up the Kick Back n Bowl bowling alley to ask if they had a league for seniors, and when they said they didn't, he asked then-owner Jim Spadorcia if he could start one. Spadorcia said he told Anderson that as long as Anderson handled all the work of promoting it and organizing it, he was happy to have his lanes play host.

All that was three years ago, and what started as a one-afternoon-a-week bowling league has since expanded to three 55-plus bowling leagues on three different days. Anderson said he has also started a golf league that runs in the spring and the fall, as well as a mahjong group and his newest activity, a dart league.

Anderson currently has over 100 people signed up for bowling for this coming round, which starts Jan. 5. In addition to the original 1 p.m. Wednesday group, he also now has a Monday morning group that meets at 10 a.m., and a Friday morning group at 10 a.m. He said he still has a few spots open for those who might want to join a team, but he also emphasized that people are always welcome to sign up as substitutes, since they always need fill-ins.

East Hampton resident Tom Swimm said he and his wife Rosemary had been part of the bowling league since the beginning, and it means a lot to them.

“What started out small has grown into a group that not only enjoys the sport, but also shares a special camaraderie,” he said, adding that they've grown closer with the community and made new friends as a result.

Swimm is such a fan of the league that he

even wrote a song, called “Kick Back n Bowl,” that the group sometimes plays while they bowl.

“Kick back and bowl, let the good times roll,” go the lyrics. “We're senior strikers with a heart and soul. Our hips might crack and our knees might groan, but we knock down pins like we're in the zone!”

Mark Laraia bowls on a team on Wednesdays and as a sub on Fridays. He said he started bowling with the group in 2023 after retiring from teaching and seeing Anderson's ad on Facebook.

“I told him I wasn't a bowler, and he said it didn't matter,” said Laraia. “It has been a total blast!” He added that “the people who play are not only fun to be with but some incredible bowlers.”

Anderson said his wife now calls him the “unofficial social director for seniors,” and he has definitely grown into his unofficial role. Not long after starting his bowling league, he launched a golf league, The Belltown Senior Golf League. The teams golf at Portland West golf course in Portland, in both the spring and the fall.

Anderson is also currently very excited about the dart league he's started at Kick Back n Bowl. It takes place on Monday mornings at 10 a.m., the same time as the Monday bowling group. Anderson said dart players don't need to sign up in advance but can just drop in and pay the \$5 fee.

Colchester resident Dan Kowalchik said he “signs up for everything” that Anderson offers. He said he truly appreciated all that both Jack and Linda Anderson do for the senior community, adding that before they started up these leagues, there wasn't anything like this around. He said he believed Jack, a retired engineer, and Linda were both natural organizers.

“You know how there's always someone in a group of friends who when you go on a trip, they plan everything? That's them,” he said, adding that they do a lot of work so that everyone else can just relax. “They just make it fun for everybody.”

Bowling league member Teresa Tacinelli said she appreciated the work the Andersons had done.

“Jack has been a tremendous help for seniors in East Hampton,” she said. “He has all these leagues and people that have lived here are now getting out and mingling, because each time



East Hampton residents Jack and Linda Anderson organize activities for local seniors, including a bowling league and darts league.

you bowl, it's against a different group of five people.”

Spadorcia sold the Kick Back N Bowl last year to one of his former employees, who continues to host the senior leagues, but he stays close to both the alley and the bowling league. He said the energy of the seniors is inspiring for him.

“They're such great people,” he said, adding that watching them bowl and enjoy themselves “warms the cockles of my heart.”

He also added that, since he's over 55, he may even join a league one of these days so he can join in the fun and become a part of what he helped get started.

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Brass Meets Roses...East Hampton High School Graduate Tori Kelpen poses with a trombone and will march in the Band Director’s Band in this year’s Rose Parade.

Quilt Show Save the Date

Save the date for the 37th annual Haddam Neck Congregational Church Quilt Show, coming up April 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 12, from noon to 4 p.m. at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck. Submit a patriotic-themed or red white and blue quilt for the show, to celebrate the coun-

try’s 250th year. Donations of fabric and notions are being accepted for the show’s Bits and Pieces sale. Tea room, raffles and dozens of handmade quilts featured. Suggested donation is \$8. Call 860-993-5311 for more information, or email mapionzio@comcast.net.

Project Grad Seeks Members

East Hampton Project Graduation is looking for new members! Do you have a future grad of any age? If so, you are invited to attend the monthly meetings to share your ideas and opinions. Meetings occur the first Wednesday of every month during the academic year, at 6:30 p.m. in the East Hampton High School media center.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands is open again on the first and third Saturdays of each month, from 9-11 a.m., at 27 Skinner St. Helping Hands offers free clothing, household items, toys, books etc. to anyone in need. Donations are only accepted on the Saturdays Helping Hands is open, from 9-11 a.m., and on the Thursdays of the week it is open, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information, call Beth Cunningham at 860-365-1054.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Bible Study: Contact Bobette Reed Kahn at bobette@khan.com if you are interested in participating. **Clothing Donations:** The church is collecting clothing for the area unhoused in conjunction with FOOD4LIVES. Please check your closet for surplus warm clothing in good condition; adult sizes only. A box will be placed in the Parish Hall for donations. **Information/Assistance:** Contact Senior Warden Donna Hryb at 860-633-0472 or donnadubehryb@gmail.com for more information. **Returnable Bottles and Cans:** Are collected in cans by the shed.

St. Patrick Church News & Notes

St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., is a member of St. John Paul II Parish, along with St. Bridget Church in Moodus. Masses are celebrated Saturdays at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick and 5:30 p.m. at St. Bridget, and on Sundays at 7 and 11:30 a.m. at St. Bridget and 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at St. Patrick. During the week, Masses are celebrated at 8 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Patrick, and on Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Bridget.

Congregational Church News & Notes

East Hampton Congregational Church, located at 59 Main St., will share the annual all-church Christmas pageant Sunday, Dec. 21, at 10 a.m., along with Christmas carols to be sung. After the pageant there will be a luncheon for all to enjoy downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and the telephone number for church is 860-267-4959. Pastor Robin Blundon is usually available at that time for anyone’s needs. **Calendar:** Sunday, 7 p.m., AA Meeting; Monday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Cub Scouts; Tuesday, 7-8 p.m., Scouts.

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.

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

Free Radon Kit

January is Radon Awareness Month. If you would like a free radon kit, the Chatham Health District has acquired a limited number of radon test kits from the Connecticut State Health Department, while they last. One test kit is available per residence for those living within the district. Once the test is complete, you will need to mail the kit in for analysis at no charge to you. The results will be sent to you and will not be public information. Please ONLY take a test kit if you are committed to following the directions and mailing it out. If you are interested in a test kit, please call 860-365-0884.

A Night of Doo-Wop

East Hampton Project Graduation is sponsoring “A Night of Doo-Wop & Rock n’ Roll,” featuring Tom Austin’s Royal Teens, Jukebox45 Show Band and Back in Time, on Saturday, April 25, in the East Hampton High School auditorium. Tickets can be purchased online at ehsprojectgraduation.ludus.com. Choose premium seats with limited VIP add-ons and meet & greet for \$40, or choose general admission for \$25. All proceeds benefit East Hampton Project graduation to provide a safe and amazing after graduation celebration.

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Cabin Fever History Series Celebrating America 250

As the nation continues to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the East Hampton Public Library and the Chatham Historical Society announce annual Cabin Fever History Series with "True Tales of New England," a storytelling performance by historian and storyteller Monica Peterson on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 11 a.m. at the East Hampton Public Library.

The East Hampton Public Library and the Chatham Historical Society invite community members to explore the people, events, and ideas that shaped both their local story and the broader American story, fostering reflection, conversation, and a deeper sense of shared heritage.

The opening program in the series, "True Tales of New England," features true historical stories of bravery, foolishness, love, and a touch of the supernatural. Audiences will journey back in time to: meet a courageous heroine of the American Revolution, encounter the legendary Ghost Ship of New Haven and laugh at the true story of a town's "battle" against an army of bullfrogs.

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: Stop by the library during regular hours for a pop-up makers market featuring locally made soaps, simmer pot kits, fire starters and woven runners, placemats and tea towels. You may also fill a free bag with used books.

Featured Artist for December: Phil Barlow, a watercolor artist.

Book Talk: Sunday, Jan. 4, 2 p.m. *Hartford Courant* columnist Dom Amore will give a talk

We would like to thank the families that supported our Christmas tree farm this season. We hope you enjoyed your visit and hope you are having a great Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

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East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

Teen Programs: Magic: the Gathering (Grades 7-12): Saturday, Jan. 3, 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 decks.

Snack Lab: (Grades 6-12): Wednesday, Jan. 7, 3-5 p.m. Learn how to make microwave treats perfect for after school, movie nights, or when you just need something fun to eat!

Crochet with Keri: (Grades 5-12): Tuesday, Jan. 13, 6 p.m. Gather together in the Teen Space each month to create a tiny crochet project. All supplies and basic instruction included.

Children's Programs: LEGO at the Library: (Grades K-6): Tuesday, Jan. 6, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Come join the library as they build with LEGO! All materials provided.

STEM Storytime: (Ages 3-5 Years): Friday, Jan. 9, 10:30 a.m. Join the library for a story followed by some messy and fun science experiments. Please wear clothes you don't mind getting messy.

DIY Days for Grades K-8: Saturday, Jan. 10, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Children and families in grades K-8 are invited to create a different toy, game, or treat together. No registration required, just drop in.

STEMtastic: Arctic Adaptations for Grades 1-5: Monday, Jan. 12, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Test the adaptations of various arctic animals!

Read to a Therapy Dog: (Grades K-3): Tuesday, Jan. 13, 4:30 p.m. Readers will be assigned a 15-minute time slot to read to Jovie, a certified therapy dog. This is a great opportunity to read aloud in a comfortable environment, which can help improve comprehension and confidence.

The Library hosts several storytimes for ages 0-5 years each week! Please see the calendar on their website for more details.

Adult Programs: Cookbook Club: Tuesday, Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m. This month's theme is Citrus Celebration. Bring a prepared dish, 12 copies of the recipe to share, and come hungry! Food should arrive ready to eat; we'll provide the plates and forks. Register or drop in.

Tech Help: Thursday, Jan. 8, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. Drop by the Library during their dedicated Tech Help times and let them lend a hand in figuring it all out. No registration required, just bring your device with you.

Cabin Fever History Series: True Tales of New England with Monica Peterson: Saturday, Jan. 10, 11 a.m. Travel back in time to meet a heroine of the American Revolution, see the Ghost Ship of New Haven, and laugh at the antics of a town's battle against a bunch of bullfrogs. An America250 program.

LibrarYoga: Tuesday, Jan. 13, 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.

Belltown Book Brunch: Friday, Jan. 16, 11 a.m. Join the library at Belltown Book Brunch for a different kind of book club. Talk about what everyone is currently reading while enjoying coffee, tea, and a breakfast treat. Perfect for avid readers or anyone seeking recommendations. Register or drop in.

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.

Wolf Pack Tickets Now Available: At PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford (formerly XL Center) on Saturday, Jan. 10, from 6-8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each and are in the lower level, Section 109. Register online.

Belltown Motors

Tire & Service Center



Winter Driving Tips from Belltown Motors

As the outside temperature drops, so does tire inflation pressure. Make sure each tire is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure, which is in your owner's manual and on a label located on the driver's side door frame. Do not inflate your tires to the pressure listed on the tire itself. That number is the maximum pressure the tire can hold, not the recommended pressure for the your vehicle.

Some Other Helpful Tips:

- ❑ Inspect your tires at least once a month and before long road trips.
- ❑ It's best to check the tires when they're cold, meaning that they have not been driven on for at least three hours.
- ❑ Check each tire's age. Some vehicle manufacturers recommend replacing tires every six years regardless of use. Consider purchasing snow tires from Belltown this season! Tests show us that winter tires provide superior traction, braking, and cornering in all cold-weather driving conditions compared to an all-season tire. We're talking better traction whether the road surface is snow-covered, icy, wet, or even dry.



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Gone Fishin’... Marlborough residents will do anything for a good catch, and that includes setting up shop on a frozen Lake Terramuggus. Photo contributed by Tom Dugdale.

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.gov.

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

Note: All events not regularly scheduled will require a RSVP.

Events: **ClearCaptions Free Phone:** Tuesday, Jan. 6, 11 a.m.-noon. Made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act, ClearCaptions provides caption telephones and the captioning service nationwide at no cost to those with hearing loss. Internet service is required. There are also apps for iPhones and iPads, and soon for Android phones.

Coffee with a Cop: Monday, Jan. 12, 11 a.m.-noon. All are invited to welcome officer Mike Rhodes into his new role as director of public safety. A light brunch will be served.

Cookbook Club: Meets the first Monday of each month at the senior center from 6-8 p.m. Visit Richmond Library to pick your recipe from the month's cookbook and then bring your dish. Open to all ages 18+. Must RSVP through the Senior Center. Upcoming dates: Jan. 5, Feb. 2, March 2.

Intergenerational Music Making: Tuesday, Jan. 13, from 1-1:30 p.m., and Wednesday, Jan. 14, from 2:20-2:50. Relive the joy of music making with 5- and 6-year-olds at Marlborough Elementary School. No musical experience required. Must call the senior center to register.

Learn Mahjongg: In collaboration with East Hampton Senior Center. Lessons are on Thursdays, Jan.15-Feb. 26 in E Hampton. Fee is \$5. Transportation provided.

Grief Lecture: The center welcomes back Dr. Wendy Hurwitz on 01/23 11: a.m.-12 p.m. for a lecture on grief.

Arbor’s of Hop Brook: Arbors is an independent retirement, assisted living and respite care community. Join the center for a tour and lunch on Thursday, Jan. 29. Bus leaves at 10:30 a.m. You are welcome to meet the center there, however please still register.

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 www.marlboroughct.gov for the complete transportation policy. There will be no transportation Dec. 22, 23 and 29.

Regularly Scheduled Programs: For full descriptions, call the senior center. **Billiards:** Mondays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-noon; **Bingo:** Mondays, 1-2 p.m. Each card costs \$1 and additional cards after are 50 cents; **Cards:** Monday, 2-3:30 p.m.; Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-3:30 p.m.; **Chair Massage:** No appointments in December.

Blood Pressure Checks and Chatham Health Education Presentation: Second Monday of each month. BP checks from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and presentation from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

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

Not Just Quilters: Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Parkinson’s Exercise: Visit www.beatpdto-day.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.

Sweet Picks – Free Bakery Items: Monday and Tuesday mornings, local grocery stores donate bakery items (breads, desserts, etc.); delivery is between 8:30 and 9 a.m., Come take a look and take, in moderation, what you need. For senior center members only

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.

Energy Assistance and Eversource Discounts: Income-based. Contact the center for an appointment.

Marlborough Preservation Society

The Marlborough Preservation Society has released the 2026 Calendar marking the America 250 Celebration by commemorating the Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in Marlborough’s historic cemeteries.

The cost is \$25 and can be purchased at the Richmond Memorial Library. All proceeds go to the America 250 Celebration planned for 2026. For more information, please visit their website at www.marlboroughhistory.org.

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Country Line Dancing Fundraiser

There will be a Country Line Dancing Fundraiser Friday, Jan. 9 from 6-9 p.m. at the Marlborough American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd.

Aric Lemeux of Sound Train Music will DJ and lead country line dancing. Cost is \$15, which includes a buffet and dancing. Open to the public.

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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.

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.

Parks and Rec. Programs

Marlborough Parks & Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit www.marlboroughct.gov. For more information, call 860-295-6203. Note: Don't wait until the last minute to register! Most classes require a minimum registration and if that requirement is not fulfilled by a certain date, the program may be canceled.

Netto Indoor Soccer: Indoor soccer for fifth- and sixth-graders. Games will begin Jan. 7, and will be played from the end of school until 4:30 p.m. at Marlborough Elementary School. Fee for this program is \$75 and participants will receive a T-shirt.

Tiny Twirlers Dance Class: For ages 2-3 with caregiver. Tuesdays, Jan. 6 and March 24, from 5-5:30 p.m., or Saturdays, Jan. 10-March 28, 9:30-10 a.m. Children will be introduced to basic dance moves, work on their motor skills, and develop a sense of music. Class is held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Registration fee is \$150.

Sparkling Spinners: For ages 3-6. Thursdays, 4:30-5 p.m., Jan. 8-March 26. Classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Registration fee is \$150.

Kids Klub: For ages 4-7. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Jan. 10-March 28. If your child has an interest in a variety of dance styles, movement, and the arts, this is the ideal class for them. Class is held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Registration fee is \$150.

Kids & Family Sewing (Microwaveable Lovey): For ages 7 and up. Thursday, Jan. 29, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Participants will create a stuffed animal with flax seed and lavender that you can warm up for aches and pains. Registration fee is \$55/resident and \$60/non-resident.

Crayola Imagine Art Academy – World of Design: Think It, Draw It, Make It!: For grades K-6. Tuesdays, Feb. 3-March 17, 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES. Experiment with Crayola products and many art techniques like sculpting, storyboarding, collage, and mixed media. Discover design, careers like graphic design, universal design, urban design, and produce design. Fee is \$142/resident, \$147/non-resident.

Lego – Winter Wonderland Engineering: For grades K-4. Wednesdays, Feb. 4-March 11, 3:15-4:45 p.m., at MES. Explore your snowiest ideas and learn STEM concept, with the guidance of an experienced Play-Well instructor. Fee is \$139/resident/\$144/non-resident.

Mad Science – Ready STEM Go!: For grades K-6. Thursdays, Feb. 5-March 12, 3:15- 4:15 p.m., at MES. Kids make mixtures and explore

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: The shop is closed until Friday, Feb. 6. Visit the shop through Facebook at Second Blessings Thrift Shop, Marlborough CT. The shop sells year-round through eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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. Donations can also be made through the church website, or mailed to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447. 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.

the science of motion and energy. Fee is \$142/resident, \$147/non-resident.

Kids & Family Sewing (Pet Snuffle): Ages 7 and up, Thursday, Feb. 12, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Participants will create a pet snuffle stuffed animal. Fee is \$45/resident, \$50/non-resident.

Safe Sitter: For grades 6-8. Saturday, Feb. 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. This class is designed to help students learn to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. Fee: \$140/resident, \$145/non-resident.

Kids & Family Sewing (Reusable Bunny Bag Shaped Gift Bag): For ages 7 and up. Thursday, March 5, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

Safe at Home: For grades 4-6. Tuesday, March 17, 5-6:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Participants will learn skills to prepare them to be safe when home alone. Fee is \$65/resident, \$70/non-resident.

Adult Programs: Adult Ballet: For ages 18 and up. Tuesdays, Jan. 6-March 24, 6:30-7:15 p.m., at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee is \$200.

Adult Tap: For ages 18 and up. Thursdays, Jan. 8-March 26, 8-8:45 p.m., at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee is \$200.

Beginner and Intermediate Tai Chi: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

Beginner Tai Chi: Mondays, 6-7 p.m., beginning in January, at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

Zumba: Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee is \$50/resident, \$55/non-resident, or a \$10 drop-in fee. Class instruction provided by Anna Boose.

Adult Drop-In Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. Fee is \$5 per week. Session runs until June.

Adult Drop-In Basketball: Sundays, 8-10 a.m., at MES. Fee is \$5 per week. Sessions run until the end of April.



All Smiles... This house in Marlborough is unmistakably the happiest house on the block. Photo contributed by Saige Sanderson.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. George S. Mukuka, Bill Gilles is deacon John McKaig is senior deacon retired. Heather Mancini is church secretary and can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via email at stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com. The church website is www.stjfchurch.org.

Regular Liturgical Celebrations: Week-end 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. 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; 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. 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. 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.stjfcchurch.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

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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.

Minds in Motion – Future Architects: Unleash your inner architect as you work on and take home your very own Architectural Design kit! After school program at Hebron Elementary. Tuesdays, Jan. 20 – March 3. Dismissal until 4:20 p.m.

Training for Greatness Volleyball: Hebron Parks and Recreation will be offering a winter training program under the direction of RHAM High School coach Tim Guernsey. This high

school program will run Wednesday evenings from 5-7 p.m. at RHAM Middle School. The program will start Wednesday, Feb. 4, and run through Wednesday, April 8.

Hatha Yoga: Start the new year with a Gentle Hatha Yoga Series with Shea including one Yoga and Sound Healing session with LB Healing. Tuesdays, 1/6-2/10. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Gilead Hill School, Activity Room.

Karate: Join for instruction in traditional Martial Arts. While Karate is mainly for self-defense, one that trains in Karate will build confidence, self-respect, and discipline. 6-week ongoing sessions. Ages 6+. Mondays and Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m. Gilead Hill School.

Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

A special program and discussion will be held in Hebron to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Sunday, Jan. 18, from 3-6 p.m. The event is sponsored by Sanctuary Performing Arts and the Coalition on Diversity & Equity (CoDE) and will be held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

The program highlights a tragic 48 hours in US history – when the largest number of enslaved men, women and children were sold. It is based on the novel, *Day of Tears* by Julius Lester, who granted his permission for this

adaptation.

A reception will follow the program in St. Peter's parish hall. It will feature hors d'oeuvres and a discussion with the Day of Tears director and cast.

Registration is requested since a larger than normal attendance is expected. To reserve your seat, use this link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/day-of-tears-mlk-event>. Ticket costs are \$20 for adults and \$5 for youth.

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. People unable to attend services in person can participate online at www.facebook.com/clchebron/live.

Bible Study: Sundays at 10:30 a.m., following service and fellowship time. All are welcome. A new **Men's Bible Study** will begin in January, focused on "Seven Rules All Good Christians Should Break."

Early Childhood Center (Daycare): Offers childcare, preschool, and before/after school care, and is open to all faiths. For more information, call director Jennifer Johnson at 860-228-5134. Application forms are at www.clec-chebron.org.

Caring Shepherds Social Ministry Group: Open food pantry days held to distribute food staples, household and hygiene items as well as Bibles and prayers. All are welcome. For more information about donating or participating in food pantry days, call the church at 860-228-1152.

St. Peter's News & Notes

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

Sunday Worship: Services are at 8 a.m. (Traditional Rite 1) and 10 a.m. (Rite 2 with music and choir). A coffee hour is held following each service. Sunday School is offered at the 10 a.m. service.

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

Women's Club "Craft-a-month": Will be held in the parish hall on Jan. 25, at 1 p.m. All women are invited to attend and help us create crafts for sale at our community events.

S'mores and More Parish wide evening social: Join the church on Friday, Jan. 16, and enjoy s'mores by their fire pit. The church will also have games, music and snacks in Phelps Hall. Adults and children are welcome! See the Connect team for more information or contact the

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.

RHAM Bingo: Monday, Jan. 12, 2:30-4:00 p.m., FREE BINGO. 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. Come support the students, meet some new friends, and have some fun. Upcoming dates are Feb. 9 and March 2.

Weekly Shopping Trips: Pre- registration is required by noon the day before the trip. Please call 860-228-1700. Friday, Jan. 2 Stop & Shop (pick-ups start at 11 a.m.), Friday, Jan. 9, Walmart (11 a.m. pick-up), Jan. 16, Big Y (11 a.m. pick-up), Jan. 23, Stop & Shop (11 a.m. pick-up), Jan. 30, Walmart (11 a.m. pick-up), Feb. 6, Big Y (11 a.m. pick-up).

Yoga - The month of January the class will be Tuesday and Thursdays. 9-10 a.m., Jan. 6 to Jan. 29, 8 sessions, \$24. Drop-in fee is \$5 per class. Instructor, Laurie Pasteryak, has extensive teaching experience in yoga. Her classes will be suitable for both the experienced and beginner yogis who can do their practice on either the floor or in a chair. To register, call 860-228-1700.

Exercise Class: Starting Jan. 14 - FABBS/ Flexibility, Agility, Better Balance and Strength. Join this exercise class that uses chairs, weights and exercise bands. It also incorporates integrated movements from body building, Yoga, Taijiquan, Ballet Stretch and Strength Training. Instructor: Hilary Celentano, who also teaches the Tai Chi class. New classes will be Wednesdays and Fridays 10:45-11:45 a.m. beginning Jan. 14 - Jan. 30, 6 classes for \$18.

AARP Income Tax Preparation - Certified AARP Tax Preparation volunteers will be at the Hebron Senior Center to prepare basic Federal and State tax returns on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (first appointment at 9 a.m., last appointment at noon) on the following dates; Febru-

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Due to new vendor, we will have new crossword puzzles in 2026. Answers for last week's puzzle are unavailable. Sorry for any inconvenience.

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Answers to this weeks puzzle, page 22

CLUES ACROSS

1. Lakes
6. Electromotive force
9. Invests in little enterprises
13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
14. Small sailboat
15. Actor Idris
16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
17. System that detects objects under water
18. Harsh, grating noise
19. Steward
21. A fencing sword
22. Infections
23. Actress Ryan
24. Sodium
25. Swedish castle
28. A lump of slime
29. African antelope
31. Insurance providers
33. Choosy
36. Ringworm

38. Unpolished
39. Drenches
41. Pant style
44. Son of Noah
45. Spiritual being
46. Upton Sinclair novel
48. Journalist Tarbell
49. Popular sports highlight show
51. Born of
52. Rich tapestry
54. S. China seaport
56. State of being unclothed
60. Surrounded by
61. Residue
62. Away from wind
63. Dried-up
64. Visionary
65. A very large body of water
66. Garden tools
67. Screen type
68. Ancient Scandinavian poet

CLUES DOWN

1. Millisecond
2. Spanish city
3. A sudden very loud sound
4. “The Indiana Jones of beer”
5. Tin
6. Sea eagles
7. Volcanic crater
8. Type of coat
9. Women’s apartments in Ottoman palace
10. Divulge a secret
11. Norwegian playwright
12. “It’s a Wonderful Life” director
14. Poisonous perennial plant
17. 18-year astronomical period
20. Clothes
21. Places to sit
23. Family of regulator genes
25. New York ballplayer
26. Impressive in size or scope
27. Jacques _____, French biologist

29. One from the Big Apple
30. Genus of woolly lemurs
32. Songs to one's beloved
34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
35. Supplemented with difficulty
37. Farewell
40. Investment account (abbr.)
42. One from Utah
43. Begets
47. A male child
49. Break apart
50. Brief appearance
52. Partner to "oohed"
53. A light informal meal
55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
56. One billionth of a second
57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
58. Close tightly
59. Mail out
61. Language
65. Computer characteristic

Obituaries

Portland

Kathleen Elaine May

Kathleen Elaine May, 81, of Portland, died in the early morning hours of Friday Dec. 5, 2025, from lung cancer.

She was born on Sunday, March 26, 1944, to Sidney May and Juanita (Chickering) May, in Ware, Mass. She graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School in 1962 and from the State College of Framingham (now Framingham State University).

Kathleen's work life consisted of various roles, including as a phlebotomist, teacher, and recreational director at a nursing home. As a phlebotomist, Kathleen worked at Saint Francis Hospital, in Connecticut, and then in a private laboratory. She then became a phlebotomy instructor at a community college.

Afterward, she returned to school at Middlesex Community College and graduated with highest honors in 1997 with a certificate in Therapeutic Recreation. She began working at a convalescent home where her tasks included coordinating casino trips for the elderly residents and creating variations of Bingo designed to evoke the elderly player's memories.

Kathleen was also passionate about grooming, breeding, and showing of West Highland Terriers (Westies). She was a dog groomer in a veterinary office and eventually started her own business as a traveling dog groomer. She owned and loved several Westies as pets in her lifetime, including Billy, Wendy, Joy, Arthur, Jake, Brianna, and others. Her final wishes were to be cremated and have her ashes mixed with those of all her Westies who predeceased her.

She had a witty sense of humor and appreciated sending and receiving funny or naughty birthday cards. She also had a big heart as she would always invite a lonely friend to celebrate the holidays with her at her cousin Skippie's house along with Skippie's family.

While Kathleen did not have children of her own, she created countless memories with her cousin Skippie's children and grandchildren, especially on Christmas Eve and Day. Among those memories were her annual reading aloud of The Night Before Christmas, heading a Yankee Swap game, singing of Christmas carols, and bringing them on trips to the movies during Christmas break.

Kathleen remained close to her cousins on both sides of her family. On her mom's side, she is survived by Gary Bennett, Marilyn (Skippie) Herrick, Ammie Palmer, Betty-Jane Chickering, Jeannie Heller, and Michael Mulvey and on her dad's side she is survived by several cousins, including Jim May. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother Douglas May, several aunts and uncles, Skippie's husband Richard Herrick, her friend Bev, and two cousins, James (Bud) Jackson and Diane (Dinny) Stirling, whom she was very close to and who died at the age of 28.

There will be no calling hours or services per Kathleen's request.



East Hampton

Janet (Hansen) Antilla

It is with heavy hearts that we, the family of Janet (Hansen) Antilla, age 64 of Old Saybrook, announce her passing on November 21.

Janet grew up in East Hampton. The beloved daughter of the late James and Carol Hansen. She was a 1979 graduate of East Hampton High School.

She is survived by her husband Christopher Antilla of Old Saybrook. Janet also leaves her four children, Haley Holbrook (Naples, FL), Hannah Sanches (Naples, FL), Cooper Holbrook (Danbury) and Parker Antilla (Old Saybrook). Also, her two grandchildren, Maya and Sebastian (Naples, FL). In addition, she is survived by her four siblings, Linda Shautt (Coventry), Cathy Saltus (East Hampton), James (Jay) Hansen (East Hampton), and Denise Hansen (East Hampton).

At the time of her passing she was the proprietor of Driftwood, a home décor/gift store on Main Street in Old Saybrook. Previously she and Chris owned the Rathskeller Restaurant for many years in Southbury. Often you could find Janet at the beach relaxing or reading her latest book. Janet was a kind and gentle soul who touched so many lives, often putting other people's need before her own. She will sorely be missed.

Burial was held on Friday, December 5th in Cypress Cemetery in Old Saybrook.



East Hampton

Natale D. Malatesta

Natale D. Malatesta, fondly known as Nino, 79, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, Dec. 21, with his family by his side. He was born on Sept. 3, 1946, in Pratola Peligna, Italy. He was the son of the late Ferdinando and Armida Malatesta.

Nino was a hardworking and successful business owner of Log Homes Inc., and in 1976 he started Post and Beam Homes Inc. Throughout his career he built beautiful homes, barns, additions, etc. In 1990 he was granted a United States Patent, an invention of connecting two shorter beams to create a longer beam called a scarf joint.

He enjoyed hobbies like golf, karate, tinkering in his wood shop, playing in a band in his youth, playing his guitar and spending time with his grandkids. Family and friends were very important to him.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Malatesta of 52 years and his three children and their spouses, Amy and Sean Peterson, Kelly and Jonathan Stangel and Nino and Sarah Malatesta, and the loves of his life, his six grandkids: Kellen, Alivia, Daniel, Sophia, Lillian and Julian. They brought him the greatest joy. He is from a family of four siblings. Mario Malatesta (Patty), Angela Fanelli (Steve), Lucy Malatesta (Lou), Mary McVay (Paul) and many other dear friends and family.

A special thank you to the wonderful caregivers who were there for him. Caroline, Henrietta, Jen and Rosanna, we thank you so much for your support.



He will be remembered for the words he lived by. "If it is to be, it is up to me!"

A celebration of life will be held at Terrazza's Restaurant at Quarry Ridge Golf Course, 9 Rose Hill Road, Portland, CT 06480 on Saturday, Jan. 17 at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to "Middlesex Health Hospice Program" c/o Middlesex Health, Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457. Give online atMiddlesexHealth.org/hospicedonation Give by phone at 860-358-6200. To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneral-homeinc.com.

Colchester

Kay C. Anttila

Kay C. Anttila, 88, of Colchester passed away peacefully on Christmas Eve, surrounded by her family members. Kay was born on Dec. 18, 1937 to the late William and Frances (Corson) Bettis in Malden, Mass.

Kay attended Orange High School in Orange Mass. She spent over 30 years working in the Insurance industry for Travelers and Connecticut Mutual.

Kay is survived by her husband, William Anttila; her three children, Laureen Scovish, Sherry Smith, and William Steadmen; two sisters, Susan Nault of Barre, MA and Nadine Trogden of Florida. She was predeceased by sweet daughter, Kimberly Ballek and her younger brother Norman Bettis of Hawaii. She also leaves behind nine grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.



LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF HEBRON
LOCAL 30 HEBRON
DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Notice is hereby given that the Contract between the Town of Hebron & the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 30 Hebron Town Department of Public Works covering the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028, is on file for public inspection in the office of the Town Clerk, 15 Gilead St, Hebron, CT.
Dated at Hebron, CT this 29th day of December 2025.
Francesca Villani,
Hebron Town Clerk

1TB 1/2

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF AGENT DECISION

Notice is hereby given that on December 29, 2025, the Duly Authorized Agent for the Colchester Conservation Commission made the following decision:
W2025-3133 - 6 Bull Hill Rd; Karen & James Kelley- Applicant/ Owner; Assessor's ID 06-16/033-001, Proposed 12' x 12' shed within 100' Upland Review Area. - **APPROVED WITH STANDARD CONDITIONS**
Dated December 29, 2025
Conservation Commission
Falk von Plachecki, Chair

1TB 1/2

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RE5-9-25

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www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

RE8-29-25

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the following public hearing
On Wednesday January 14, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street.
APPLICATION #ZBA-01-25 – Anne Amodeo (Applicant/Property Owner) 92 Lakeridge Drive - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 a Side Yard Setback, in order to construct a shed with a Front Yard Setback of 6.3 feet where 15 feet is required.
Interested parties can review the application materials in the Land Use/Building Department during normal Town Hall hours. Written testimony should be sent at least 24 hours ahead of the public hearing date to building@marlbroughct.gov, and oral testimony may be given during the public hearing.

2TB 1/2, 1/9

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE
COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:
The third installment of the Real Estate and Personal Property, and Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes listed on the October 1, 2024 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on January 1, 2026. Payments must be US postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by February 2, 2026 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting February 3, 2026 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of January 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.
View or pay taxes online at www.andoverct.org. Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Typical office hours during collection months are Monday 8:15am- 7pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:15 am-4pm. Please refer to www.andoverct.org for updated office hours.
Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.
If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.

3TB 12/26, 1/2, 2/6

Notice of Democratic Caucus

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of East Hampton, CT.
Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on January 8, 2026, at the Joseph N. Goff House Museum, 2 Barton Hill Road, East Hampton, CT at 7PM for the purpose of endorsing candidates for the East Hampton Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.
Kevin Reich, Chair

1TB 1/2

TOWN OF HEBRON
TAX COLLECTOR'S LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to SS 12-145 of the CT Statutes, the undersigned Tax Collector of the Town of Hebron gives notice that she will be ready to receive Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the second installment of Real Estate taxes due January 1, 2026 at the Tax Collector's office at Hebron Town Hall, 15 Gilead St, Hebron, CT on Mon-Wed 8:00-4, Thur 8:00-6 & Fri 8:00-1. Payments must be received or postmarked by 2/2/2026 to avoid interest.
All taxes remaining unpaid after February 2, 2026 will be charged an interest rate from January 1, 2026 at the rate of 1.5% for each month elapsing from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00 per installment. SS 12-146
Failure to send out or receive such bill does not relieve the taxpayer of his/her responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. SS 12-130
Dated at Hebron, CT this 3rd day of December 2025.
Brigit Tanganelli
Acting Tax Collector

3TB 12/19, 1/2, 1/23

Notice of Democratic Caucus

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town Portland, CT.
Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on Monday January 12, 2026 at 7:00pm at The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., Portland CT to endorse candidates for the Portland Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.
Dated at Portland, CT - December 29, 2025
Portland Democratic Town Committee
Andrea Alfano, Chair

1TB 1/2

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC
DISTRICT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, January 8, 2025
6:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL
LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:
Continued from December 18, 2025: Application 618 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Barbara Angelico of 1 Schoolhouse Lane, Middle Haddam, to replace two garage doors with two-sided steel sandwich doors with steel woodgrain face.
The foregoing application is available for public review at the East Hampton Town Hall. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

1TB 1/2

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE
COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:
The third installment of the Real Estate and Personal Property, and Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes listed on the October 1, 2024 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on January 1, 2026. Payments must be US postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by February 2, 2026 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting February 3, 2026 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of January 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.
View or pay taxes online at www.andoverct.org. Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Typical office hours during collection months are Monday 8:15am- 7pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:15 am-4pm. Please refer to www.andoverct.org for updated office hours.
Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.
If you have any questions, please contact the tax office at 860-742-4035 option 4.

3TB 12/26, 1/2, 2/6

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cov

★ *Marlborough BOS,, cont. from page 1*

Public comments reinforced the significance of the issue. Linda Georgiades commented on speed issues on North Main Street and stated that drivers tend to speed as they close in on crosswalks. She suggested stop signs be implemented to help mitigate potential accidents. Linda Earley raised concerns about speed cameras versus speed bumps, curious as to why speed bumps were not considered. Chair Susan McFarland, a Democrat, responded, saying that bumps can “present another issue” for emergency vehicles and other alternatives would have created more issues to consider. These comments reflected continued public concern but did not result in immediate policy changes.

Public Safety Commission Discussion

The Public Safety Commission emerged as both an agenda item and a subject of prior public debate. Earlier in the meeting, Jim Bernier had commented on Town Charter Section 7.9 regarding the commission, saying that it “doesn’t seem that the Public Safety Commission exists.” Later, under new business, Asklar asked Bernier to work with Porter to draft a mission statement for the Public Safety Commission for review by the BOS.

Pledge of Allegiance Debate

Although not listed as a formal agenda item, the Pledge of Allegiance continued to generate significant public discussion following actions taken at the Dec. 2 meeting. Multiple residents addressed the Board on this topic during both public comment periods. Robb Fraulino invited attendees “to join ... for the Pledge of Allegiance.” Afterward, presumably a resident could be heard exclaiming profanity.

Jean Wilson, who identified as a Quaker, stated that she viewed the Pledge of Allegiance

“as a religious issue,” and referenced a RHAM Board of Education member who received criticism “because he wouldn’t stand to say the pledge of allegiance.” Judy Kelly, speaking as an individual, noted that the previous vote held regarding the addition of the pledge was to make it optional and stated, “We’re not saying that anyone has to do this.” She explained that she respects decisions made by those who choose not to stand for the pledge, but that “The right to do it if we choose should be done.” Later in the meeting, Drew Golfin offered differing perspectives on the ongoing discussion surrounding the Pledge of Allegiance.

Golfin, speaking as an individual, recounted an incident involving a colleague who, due to a conscientious objection, chooses not to recite an oath but stands respectfully during the pledge. According to Golfin, that individual was later singled out in the Riverast for not participating and felt compelled to defend his position. Golfin said that placing the Pledge of Allegiance as a formal agenda item can draw undue attention to people who choose not to recite it, as well as characterized the routine inclusion of the pledge as “coercive and performative” and urged the Board to consider those implications.

No additional board action was taken during this meeting, but the volume of comments indicated that the issue remains unresolved in the community.

Grant Applications and Administrative Updates

The Board unanimously authorized the submission of two grant applications. Peter Hughes, Director of Planning and Development, reviewed the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trail Grant and discussed matching fund options. He also presented recommendations for the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program grant, proposing Jones Hollow Road and West Road projects. Both authorizations passed unanimously.

Porter also provided updates, commending Public Works for handling recent snow and ice events, reporting progress on South Buckboard Road construction and noting that ARPA funds must be spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

LEGAL NOTICE
Global Freestone LLC
244 Middletown Ave.
East Hampton, CT
860.267.6623

Will sell or otherwise dispose of such personal property on Saturday January 10th 2026 at 8:00 AM
Property previously owned by:
C Komondy

2TB 1/2, 1/9

Hebron Republican Town Committee
Caucus

Notice is hereby given that a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the Town of Hebron is being held on Wednesday, January 7th (Snow date - 1/12) at 7:00pm in the Town Meeting Room at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street (Route 85), Hebron, CT. The purpose of the caucus is to elect members of the Hebron Republican Town Committee (HRTC). All registered Republicans in Hebron are welcomed to attend. Anyone interested in Hebron Republican Town Committee membership is encouraged to contact HebronRepublicans@gmail.com.
Clifford Boyce, Treasurer HRTC

1TB 1/2

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall, 26 No Main Street
APPLICATION #Z-09-25 – 11 Old Cider Mill Ln, Jeffrey Popham and Jennifer Carini (Applicant/Owner) Lake Overlay Zone to construct a walkway and addition
Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building/Land Use Department at the Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.
ERIC COLANTONIO, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 12/26, 1/2

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

The East Hampton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30pm during the Regular Town Council Meeting in the East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. The Town Council will consider amendments to Chapter 171 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton regarding Blight and Nuisances.
A copy of the draft ordinance is available in the Town Clerk's Office.

EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
Dean Markham, Chairman
Jack Solomon, Vice Chairman
Timothy Feegel
Ted Hintz, Jr.
Richard Knotek
Joelyn Leon
Karen Wanat

1TB 1/2



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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

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Sudden extreme tooth pain may have several causes, but it is most often caused by a cavity or cracked tooth. Both expose the sensitive, inner layers of the tooth that are normally protected by enamel. As a cavity forms, you may experience sudden pain when eating or drinking. A cavity or crack can allow bacteria into the pulp of the tooth, where it can become infected and lead to an abscess or other problems. An old or loose filling can also expose nerves and cause tooth pain. Other causes may be eroding enamel and receding gums, the latter of which is often caused by gum disease. Both uncover the vulnerable layers of the inner tooth and can cause sudden pain.

Sudden tooth pain is your body sending a message that something is wrong and needs attention. Ignoring the pain means you also ignore the underlying problem, and treatment becomes a more serious undertaking. Be smart! For excellence in dental care from a caring staff committed to your comfort, well-being, and sunny smile, call us for an appointment. Emergencies are also welcome at our full-service, state-of-the-art dental office. We can make financial arrangements for extensive treatment plans.

P.S. A visit to the dentist for a cleaning, filling, or whitening treatment can sometimes make teeth more sensitive for a couple of weeks.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC

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RE1-2-26

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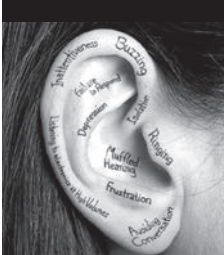
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Glastonbury, CT 06033-0373

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Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday Noon

Category (example: For Sale)

Classified Text: Please print one word per line. A word is anything with spaces around it. For example: Rd., 2BR, 6-cyl. are all one word each. A phone # is one word.

Additional words: (30¢ per word):

Email Your Classified Line Ad to admin@glcitizen.com and call with your credit card number.

Place Your Ad online: www.glcitizen.com

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☐ \$15.00 per week for 25 words or less in the Rivereast News Bulletin; 30¢ ea. add'l word

☐ \$24.00 per week combination rate, 30¢ ea. add'l word for insertion in both The Citizen & Rivereast

☐ \$35.00 per week combination rate, 30¢ ea. add'l word for insertion in The Citizen, Rivereast & Rare Reminder

Please make checks payable to: The Glastonbury Citizen.

LEGALS

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, January 15th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Public Library, 20 Freestone Avenue, to consider the following:
PZC Application #25-10; 125 Bartlett Street. Proposed 2 lot subdivision. Application of Bari Winner and property of Rhea DeBari. Map 49 Lot 57. Zone R-25.
Dated at Portland, CT this 22nd day of December 2025
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

2TB 1/2, 1/9

COLCHESTER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE

The Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 7:00 P.M., in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petition:
Certificate of Appropriateness- COA 2025-002 Future Assets LLC, 11 Hayward Ave – application for exterior work to include storm windows, signage, lighting and installing wood along an access ramp.
At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection in the Planning and Zoning Department at Colchester Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT 06415 and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday)
Historic District Commission
Ellen Sharon, Chair

1TB 1/2

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Hebron Democratic Caucus

To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of Hebron, CT.
Pursuant to the Rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on:
Monday January 12th, at 7:00PM at the Russell Mercier Senior Center
12 Stonecroft Dr., Hebron, Connecticut
To endorse candidates for Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Co-Treasurer, Secretary and members of the committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said Caucus.
Hebron Democratic Town Committee
Chair Cris Lawrence

1TB 1/2

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF HEBRON
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8

Notice is hereby given that copies of the following for Regional School District No. 8 for the year ending June 30, 2025, are on file in the Town Clerk's Office, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron CT
• State Audit
• Annual Financial Report
• Health & Medical Insurance Consortium Annual Financial Report
Dated at Hebron, CT this 30th December 2025
Francesca Villani
Hebron Town Clerk

1TB 1/2

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8
AUDIT REPORT

The audit of the financial statements of the Regional School District No. 8, Hebron, Connecticut, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, as prepared by PKF O'Connor Davies Accountants & Advisors, is on file and available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut.
Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut, this 23th day of December 2025
Lauren A. Griffin
Town Clerk

1TB 1/2

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7-3-2025

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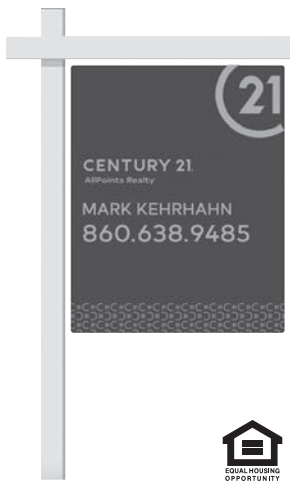
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1TB 1/2

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RE3-1E-24

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