

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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## Dinner to Benefit Woman Fighting Lung Cancer



The Knights of Columbus is holding a pasta dinner fundraiser on Feb. 6 to support Portland resident and new mom Courtney Fitzkee, who is battling stage four lung cancer. Fitzkee is pictured with her husband Mike and daughter Isla.

By Anne Lilburn

Courtney Fitzkee is used to helping others — as Portland’s Youth and Family Services administrator, she has worked to provide families with the support they need — but now a cancer diagnosis has put Fitzkee herself on the receiving end of community support.

“My profession has always been helping,” she said. “I’m usually the one helping, so it was a little strange to ask for help and support.”

Fitzkee first noticed something was off in June when she found herself with a dry cough that wasn’t going away. She was 33 years old at the time, with a young baby at home, and said she chalked up any fatigue to late nights nursing her daughter. Her doctor suspected the cough might be due to her acid reflux, and upped the dose on her reflux medication.

Six weeks later, though, at her annual physical, she mentioned that the cough hadn’t gone away. What’s more, she was now experiencing shortness of breath. A chest X-ray led to a trip to the emergency room, which led to a CT scan, and eventually a lung cancer diagnosis. She also found out that the cancer had spread to bones in her hip and back as well.

Fitzkee was diagnosed with stage four EGFR-positive lung cancer. She’d never smoked, but the type of lung cancer that Fitzkee has, which is marked by errors in a gene that is involved in promoting cell growth, is typically found in non-smokers. Roughly 10-15% of lung cancers in the United States are EGFR-positive, according to the American Lung Association.

Quickly, Fitzkee began treatment for her cancer, which involved both chemotherapy infusions and a daily pill, called Tagrisso, that is a targeted therapy for her specific cancer type. The drug works by blocking the activity of the EGFR protein, helping to keep the cancer in check, but typically, over months or years, the cancer eventually acquires resistance to the drug.

That’s why Fitzkee is also continuing maintenance chemotherapy every three weeks, in addition to the daily pill. The chemotherapy is not without side effects, but she’s currently responding well to the treatments, with her lung tumors shrinking and bone lesions healing. She’s considered “stable” and said she hoped to reach the point where she could say she reached the “no evidence of disease” stage, which is the best-case scenario for her.

While she is doing well, life is hard for her right now. On her Caring Bridge page, Fitzkee wrote of the challenge of “time toxicity,” the time that cancer treatment demands from patients, all while they are dealing with the fatigue, side effects and other physical challenges that cancer (and its treatment) can cause.

Fitzkee is currently taking family medical leave away from her job, both to spend more time with her 14-month-old daughter and also to allow time to rest. She experiences fatigue in the days after a chemotherapy infusion, and often needs help around the house. She is also experiencing other side effects from the treatment, including memory fog and skin rashes. Despite this, Fitzkee somehow manages to look on the bright side.

“I mean, my option is, die of cancer or have these side effects,” she said. “I know I have a dark sense of humor,” she added.

Fitzkee doesn’t know if or when she’ll be able to return to work, and her husband has also had to take time off from his job to go to doctor’s appointments or help care for her and their daughter. Both of their families live several hours away

*See Benefit Dinner, page 8*

## Proposed Blight Ordinance Rankles Residents

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton’s Town Council met Jan. 13 for its first meeting of the new year – and both the elected officials and members of the public came ready to engage.

Many members of the public came to voice their concerns about the proposed amendments to the town’s blight and ordinance code. Several townspeople expressed concerns that the ordinance could be weaponized and used by neighbors to attack one other. Some even shared stories involving incidences like that that they said had already happened to them, and said they were concerned that they would be harassed in the future.

Public commenters remained calm, but some used strong language, with resident Jesse Brunson worrying that East Hampton was losing its rural character and turning into “South

South Glastonbury.” He expressed concerns that residents like him who keep and repair old cars could be subject to fines. Another went so far as to voice concern that the town would become overrun by a “secret police” type system where police sought excuses to target people for fines.

“It echoes what you learn in school about the soviet secret police when they would say ‘show me the man, I’ll show you the crime,’” said Chris Bitel. “Now I don’t think anyone in the town is going to throw you in a gulag but this is very much ‘show me the resident, I’ll show you the zoning violation.’”

Council member Ted Hintz Jr., a Republican, described himself as “100 percent” opposed to the ordinance, adding that he “agree[d] with every comment that was said tonight.” He took issue with the ordinance’s specific definitions of

“dilapidated” and “debris.”

“Debris,” he said. “Are you talking garbage? Are you talking lawn art? Are you talking a tree that happened to fall in a storm? Doesn’t say.”

Hintz maintained that if a dangerous condition existed, the Health Department still maintained the ability to take action, and asserted that that was enough.

Town Manager David Cox pointed out that some of the language Hintz took issue with was actually already in the existing town ordinance that is “in our code today,” and not part of a new revision. He also reiterated that the enforcement typically provided warnings and opportunities for residents to challenge citations and to take action to clean things up.

Council member Karen Wanat, a Democrat, *See Blight Ordinance, page 15*

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# Selectmen Examine School Project, Grant Funding

By Toriana Williams

The extensive and detailed discussion during the Jan. 12 meeting of the Andover Board of Selectmen centered on concerns regarding the procurement process for a proposed school bathroom renovation project, including the role of engineering firm Fuss & O’Neil, the absence of competitive subcontractor bidding and conflicting contract structures.

During the discussion, board members reviewed how the project evolved from an engineering design proposal into what was later described as a design-build contract. First Selectman Jeffrey Maguire, a Democrat, stated that “the project was going to have engineering drawings and then those drawings were going to go out to bid for construction services.”

Concerns were raised when that process changed. Maguire explained, “We pivoted ... and then started talking about in August and September that this was a design build project, which means that Fuss & O’Neil was going to get paid for the design work and then be the general contractor on the project.”

The financial scope of the project was outlined, including a proposed design-build contract valued at \$390,000 and a separate \$48,000 agreement for design services that remain in progress. Concerns were raised that the coexistence of both agreements could represent overlapping contractual obligations.

As a result, Maguire stated the final payment on the remaining balance of the design services contract would be withheld until the discrepancy between the two proposals is resolved, explaining, “I’m not releasing the money to Fuss & O’Neil because we have potentially two different proposals.”

Board members also questioned whether the project complied with town and Board of Education purchasing policies, particularly regarding competitive bidding requirements for subcontractors. Board member Vice First Selectman Jeffrey Murray, a Republican, expressed concerns that subcontractors were selected based on prior working relationships rather than through a formal bidding process, raising questions about transparency and cost control.

Selectwoman Anne Cremé, a Democrat, said the Board of Education picked Fuss & O’Neil “because that contractor works with schools a lot.”

Murray responded that he understood, “but what they should have done is they should have reached out to three or four electrical firms and got the best pricing. What they did is they just reached out to people they were familiar with and got quotes.”

The discussion also highlighted uncertainty over which board or committee held final authority over procurement decisions, contributing to confusion about oversight and accountability.

No vote was taken on the bathroom project during the meeting, but several members emphasized the importance of issuing a formal request for proposals to clarify the scope of work, ensure competitive pricing and align the project with established purchasing procedures before construction moves forward.

### Hop River Homes Tax Abatement

Another significant discussion involved the multi-year tax abatement agreement with Hop River Homes. The current contract, originally approved in September 2022, is set to expire this

September.

Board members noted that the abatement was originally tied to town use of a field owned by Hop River Homes. Maguire shared that the town has not been using the field, and “we haven’t used the field in six, seven years.”

The board discussed the financial effect of the Hop River Homes tax abatement, noting that the agreement limits the organization’s annual tax payment to \$12,000. Selectwoman Carol Lee, a Republican, described it as “a substantial cash amount.”

It was later explained that the abatement functions as a 50% reduction in assessed taxes. As an example, Lee stated that if the full tax obligation were \$30,000 in a given year, the abatement would reduce the payment to \$12,000, resulting in an \$18,000 annual tax savings for Hop River Homes.

Board members also questioned whether Andover residents receive any housing waitlist priority in exchange for the abatement. Selectman Scott Person, a Democrat, reported, “I called down there and asked if ... residents of our town get any priority. They said no.”

No action was taken, but the board agreed

additional documentation was needed, including confirmation of nonprofit status and tenant income structure. The matter will return for future discussion before the contract expiration.

### Grant for Wastewater Infrastructure

During the Town Administrator’s report, a major federal funding award was confirmed. The town received a \$273,000 USDA “earmark grant” for infrastructure improvements.

Administrator Jim Bellano added that while the funding is approved, the formal grant process is still underway. He clarified that earmarks function differently from traditional grants, noting, “you have the money, but you got to ... start at step one and do the application.”

### Bridge Project Update

The Long Hill Road Bridge project was also addressed, with officials noting that the Connecticut Department of Transportation requested a delay in the bid opening from Jan. 8 to Jan. 22. According to the report, the delay allows temporary traffic signalization for Hendee Road to be included directly in the base bid, potentially reducing costs.

The project is still anticipated to begin construction in the spring.

## ‘Soup for Seniors’ Potluck Dinner

There will be a ‘Soup for Seniors’ gathering Friday, Jan. 23, from 6-8 p.m., at the Andover Community and Senior Center, located at 25 School Rd. All are invited.

Bring your crockpot full of homemade soup with the list of ingredients. We will share a meal then freeze soup into single servings for local 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 if needed, at 860-498-2326.

## Preschool Openings

Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center is accepting applications for preschool students for the 2026-27 school year. Andover’s preschool program is full day. Before and after-school care is available.

Children who will be age 3 on or before Dec. 31, 2026, are eligible to attend at the start of the year.

The Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center receives funding for reduced tuition rates from two state grants: Early Start CT and the Smart Start Grant.

Call Taylor Parker for more information or contact the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet. You may also download one from [www.andoverelementaryct.org](http://www.andoverelementaryct.org).

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Congregational Church News

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

**Children's Church:** Is provided. **Choir:** At 9

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.andover-connecticut.org](http://www.andover-connecticut.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.

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

**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 a.m. Shop Willimantic 1/27, and shop in Manchester 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.

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.

**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., Jan. 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.

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

**Chair Massage with Linda:** Wednesday, Jan. 21, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Cost is \$32. Relax with a chair massage. Appointments are 30 minutes. Sign-up is required—call Linda Derick at 860-655-4409.

**Open Sew & Stitch:** Thursdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Whether you quilt, knit, crochet or cross-stitch, all are welcome. Bring your own supplies and a snack. Transportation is available.

**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:** Fridays, 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. Supplies provided. For more information, contact Haley. 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!

Kindergarten Registration

Andover Elementary School is registering kindergarten students for the 2026-27 school year. Andover's kindergarten program is full-day.

Parents of children who will be age 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2026, are asked to contact the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet or access it at [www.andoverelementaryct.org](http://www.andoverelementaryct.org).

Parents choosing to have their child attend an alternative kindergarten, not attend school until the following year, or who will be home-schooling are asked to inform the school of this decision.

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From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

You talked – and we listened!

Over the past couple of weeks, we’ve heard some complaints from readers about the recent dip in quality of the weekly crossword puzzle. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we had switched vendors and, well, the new crossword just wasn’t cutting it.

We know how much many of you look forward to the crossword puzzle each week, and we didn’t want to disappoint – so we found a new vendor. Look for a new and improved crossword puzzle starting this week, on page 22 .

\*\*\*

Longtime *Rivereast* readers may remember a reporter by the name of Geeta Schrayter. Geeta covered Andover and Hebron for several years in the 2010s, before moving on to start a family. I’m happy to report she’s now the mother of three adorable children – and she also has a new book out!

Geeta, as some of you may know, was already a published author, having released the novel *Reaching Riverdale* in 2013. Well, late last fall she released another novel, entitled *Planning on Christmas*.

I wasn’t surprised in the slightest that Geeta employed a Christmas theme for her latest book. She was always a big fan of the holiday. For the six years she worked here, as soon as Thanksgiving was in the books she always took great care to deck out her desk in garland, flashing lights, and other Christmas decorations. It made for a nice little corner of cheer in the office.

In *Planning for Christmas*, a mid-December snowstorm strands Charity Evans – a newly single, determined, go-getting event planner

– in the small New England town of Auburn Falls, while she’s traveling to her company’s biggest event of the year. Unable to reach the event, and with no work to do, Evans ditches her usual to-do list for a Christmas-themed list compiled by Auburn Falls’ alluring councilman Kyle Morrison.

Charity then comes to question the carefully laid planning that has guided her life up to that point.

“This was so fun to write, and I sprinkled it with cheer like powdered sugar on a snowball cookie,” Geeta wrote on the social media platform Threads following the release of *Planning for Christmas* in November. “One of my fave early comments: ‘It’s like Hallmark but with the foul language and dirty thoughts they’re missing.’”

In addition to having a following on Threads, fans have also been able to keep up with Geeta’s latest projects on her Instagram page, geetawrites. It was on her Instagram page where followers were treated to fun little glimpses of her latest novel in the run-up to its release – including out-of-context quotes taken directly from the book.

*Planning on Christmas* is now available on Amazon and wherever books are sold. Local readers can also get a signed copy by reaching out to Geeta directly via social media.

Congratulations on the new book, Geeta!

\*\*\*

I know it’s winter right now, and the weather hasn’t exactly been super accommodating when it comes to getting out and going on trips, but don’t forget – we still want to see where you’ve been!

Editor’s Desk continued on page 6

Bulletin Board

The other day one of my show-off friends sent me a winking Smiley Face in response to one of my insightful text messages. My sons tell me this is called an emoji and it’s just one of thousands of variations available on my cell phone should I want to get fancy and express a visual response to a text message without actually going to the trouble of typing a reply. They include weepy faces, winking faces, thumbs up symbols and so on and so forth. Pick one out that suits your mood, click a button and move on. Simple enough for a dinosaur to use, they informed me. (Boy, do I have an emoji for them and it ain’t a thumbs-up.)

I presume this emoji epidemic evolved from the wildly popular Smiley Face, which appeared in the 1960s and has haunted us ever since. Don’t get me wrong, I have nothing against happiness, and I certainly prefer friendly people to rude ones. But there is something disturbing about Smiley Face—a sort of vacant-eyed menace that makes me uneasy. He (I refer to this apparently genderless creature as “he” only as a matter of convenience) strikes me as the sort of innocuous overnight guest who appears in your bedroom in the wee hours of the morning smiling from ear to ear and holding a meat cleaver.

I am not the only one to sense some ambivalence in Mr. Smiley Face. A friend once told me that in Vietnam his unit used to leave Smiley Face stickers on the other side’s dead people. As someone who lost his innocence early on, he still saw some dark humor in this messaging, though he admitted that he sometimes felt a little unsettled when confronted with the assortment of Smiley Face keychains and “Have a Nice Day” decals at drug store checkout counters.

Then, of course, you may have had your own run-ins with people who sport Smiley Face decals on their cars or vans and who apparently consider this display of good humor a license to run you off the road, cut you off at intersections and pass you in no passing zones. I realize this behavior isn’t limited to folks with Smiley Face stickers on their cars, but the grinning little SOB does tend to make the experience more memorable, particularly when a bunch of scowling kids in the back seat are waving at you with one finger.

I also seem to recall a period when employees over at the state Department of Motor Vehicles all wore Smiley Face buttons, though I cannot swear to this and am willing to concede it might be part of those sporadic DMV nightmares I have about trying to register a new car and not being able to communicate with the bureaucrats in charge because I am unable to speak Troll.

History tells us that Harvey R. Ball (1921-2001), who owned an advertising and public relations firm in Worcester, Massachusetts, created the Smiley Face in 1963 to ease the bad feeling following the merger of two insurance companies. A company officer ordered a “friendship campaign” to help stop the bickering. Mr. Ball came up with the Smiley Face, knocking it off in about ten minutes. It would be amusing (to me, at least) to see a bunch of people in coats and ties, Smiley Face buttons on their lapels, rolling around on the office floor beating the living crap out of each other, but apparently this did not occur. Whether Mr. Smiley Face worked some magic or folks decided their jobs were more important than picking fights with fellow employees, the crisis was averted.

Then it happened. Smiley Face somehow turned into a sensation. The first order was for 100 buttons. Within weeks, the damn things were being made by the thousands and within months they were selling by the millions. In 1971 alone more than 50 million Smiley Face buttons were sold.

Ironically, considering the insane popularity of his creation, Mr. Ball was paid only \$45 for his artwork by State Mutual Life Assurance Companies of America. He never applied for trademark or copyright protection on Smiley and never expressed any regret that the grinning little blob would quite probably have made him a multi-millionaire had he pressed the issue.

“He was not a money-driven guy,” his son Charles once remarked. “He used to say, ‘Hey, I can only eat one steak at a time, drive one car at a time.’ He’d get letters from all over the world thanking him for Smiley. How do you put a price on that?”

I’m sure almost any lawyer could have given him the answer to that one—no doubt accompanied by a big old predatory smile (or, these days, maybe a grinning shark emoji).

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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).



Donation for Meals... Kim Talarczyk, co-founder of Colchester Cares, presents Leanne Ranheim (right), District Nutrition Program Coordinator/Cafeteria Manager, and Lory Faille (left), of Colchester Food Services, a check for \$1,900 for the CPS-Meal Account. This was one of the three donation recipients from Colchester Cares’ fourth-quarter donations.

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Correction

In the Jan. 9 edition of the *Rivereast*, in the article entitled “Convicted Killer Appeals to Supreme Court,” it was reported that the Glastonbury street where Jini Barnum’s remains were discovered was Wickham Road. The street in fact was Windham Road.

The *Rivereast* regrets the error.

He Does It Again...

To the Editor:

As many of you know by now, Waterbury has recently been having lots of street flooding because of pipe failures. It has been reported that these failing pipes are over 100 years old. Our governor has a solution...we’ll have the state pay for those pipe failures.

If Waterbury is like other towns and cities in Connecticut, residents pay monthly or quarterly for water and sewage. The town takes this money to supply water, remove sewage and maintain their facilities. If they fail to maintain their facilities, eventually they are going to fail. This is what has happened.

Because the city of Waterbury failed to main-

tain their piping and spent their taxpayer money for other things that is simply poor management. There is no reason that other Connecticut residents should pay for Waterbury’s poor management.

Our governor has said that he would look into state and federal funding to get their piping problems fixed. That is wrong! Waterbury was paid to avoid this type of problems. Let the city of

Waterbury pay for their repairs!

Frank Blume  
Colchester

Creating a Civics Experience

To the Editor:

I believe Portland high school students are required to “earn” a certain number of “community service” credit hours to be eligible for graduation.

In this time of political misunderstanding, I think attendance at Republican or Democratic Town Committee meetings should be given credit.

It is a small step toward enhancing knowledge and respect for our remarkable system of governance.

Elwin Guild  
Portland

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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**Filled with Gratitude**  
To the Editor:  
As the holiday season comes to a close, Bacon Academy Project Graduation is filled with gratitude for all the supporters of its December “31 Days of Giving” fundraiser. We especially want to thank the local businesses that provided goods or services to our raffle: A.I. Borenko Plumbing, Angelo’s Bakery, Big Y, Broadway Wine & Spirits, Colchester Pizza, Dream Vacations, Enchanted Vine, Essex Steam Train, Folklore & Fable, Foxwoods Casino, Fresca Tequila Bar & Grill, Gano’s, Gung Ho, Ichiban, Inishmor, Jersey Mike’s, Louie’s Seafood, Maria’s Pizza, Mark’s United Auto Parts, Noel’s Market, Ooh La La Boutique, Papa Z’s, Professional Therapeutic Massage, Red Rose Cafe, Smarter Appliance, Starbucks, Stonewall Kitchen, Sweet Aroma Coffeehouse & Bakery, Trader Joe’s, Twisted Dog Yoga, Wendy Kane Photography.  
Without your support, we would not be able to fulfill our mission of providing safe and healthy graduation events for all of our Bacon Academy seniors.

**Sincerely,  
31 Days of Giving Committee  
Bacon Academy Project Graduation  
Colchester**

**Probate Update**  
To the Editor:  
Happy New Year! After serving for 16 years as your probate judge, 2026 will be my last year. After my “retirement” at the end of my term, I intend to practice probate law with a reduced schedule at a private law firm. An election will be held in November 2026 to elect a new probate judge for Region 14. Any Connecticut attorneys who reside in East Hampton, East Had-dam, Marlborough or Portland may seek to become a candidate.  
The Region 14 Probate Court has jurisdiction over a variety of legal matters including decedents’ estates, trusts, conservatorships, guardianships for persons with intellectual disability, name changes and certain types of children’s matters.  
The court is located at 9 Austin Drive, Suite 211 (2nd floor) in Marlborough. We always welcome your telephone call at 860-295-6239 or come visit us in person. Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The statewide website for the Connecticut Probate Courts is at www.ctprobate.gov.  
For children’s matters, you can also call or visit the Central Connecticut Regional Children’s Probate Court in Meriden or call them at 203-235-1014.  
Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

**Sincerely,  
Judge Jennifer L. Berkenstock  
Region 14 Probate District**

**Resetting the Tone for 2026**  
To the Editor:  
Last week, Portland’s Committee on Solidarity wrote a column with a really grim and cynical outlook for 2026 and our nation’s 250th anniversary. The unnamed author suggested we reflect on 9/11 and mass shootings, which was a particularly unhinged take, and also suggested we lament our loss of collective compassion for one another.  
Except six months ago, this town rallied and raised over \$10,000 for the town’s 250 Committee. That committee has had Democrats and Republicans working hand in hand to honor the historical milestone that is upon us. We’ve even strategically planned events, such as our upcoming home decorating contest, specifically to cultivate a tone of patriotism and celebration around town. Your grim, cynical and politically charged opinions did us no favors. And to be frank, mass shootings and 9/11 don’t even pertain to solidarity as much as they are progressive talking points. I suggest you stick to your charter.  
So let me reset the tone, and tell residents that your town’s 250 Committee is approaching America’s 250th birthday with reverence and appreciation. We are utilizing this milestone to bring the community together, establish new traditions, and make core memories for the youth in town. And we are working hard to make sure we have really enjoyable and memorable events for all involved. If you’d like to volunteer and help us celebrate 250 we would be glad to have you, and may I correctly set the tone for 2026, America’s semiquincentennial, as the best year yet – because we chose to make it that way.

**Sam Newsom  
Portland 250 Committee Secretary**

**\$28M DPW – Clarification**  
To the Editor:  
Just to be clear, in my last letter to the editor, there was some confusion in the way a portion was worded in the final text. In regard to costing of the new DPW Facility being constructed at the Old Colchester Road (OCR) site for \$27,800,501 as estimated by the architects, the following holds true:  
• Included was the new septic and well water systems.  
• Not included was the needed temporary relocation of the DPW functions for the next 1 ½ to 2 years during the reconstruction of the entire OCR site, nor the cost of the townwide curbside collection of the trash, recyclables and bulky waste, for the same period, that will be made temporarily unavailable at the site.  
In any event, it still remains that the town must provide for an alternative Plan B for this out-of-control project, for the townwide referendum promised for this spring. Several years ago, we paid \$600,000 for the land at 17 Kinney Rd. for town use for such a facility. The site is shovel-ready and the construction of the new DPW at this site would not impact in any way the daily operation of the current town’s DPW and nor would it close the town Transfer Station or Bulky Waste facility, thus eliminating the need for townwide curbside collection.  
We should demand the Town Council retract the previous Board of Selectmen’s directives and have the architects revisit the 2018 Plan B, 17 Kinney Road Site, previously designed, and re-work the estimate as a comparison for the referendum.

**David Foster, AIA  
Hebron**

**Support Athletic Fields, Bacon Academy Roof Project**  
To the Editor:  
It is past time to repair the athletic fields and Bacon Academy’s roof. I moved here more than a decade ago, and this has been a known and documented issue for the entire time I have lived in this town. Continued delay has not made the problem smaller or cheaper – it has only deferred responsibility.  
The first selectman and the Board of Selectmen have taken a careful, measured, and responsible approach by appointing a committee of community members to study the issue and develop recommendations. Those volunteers invested significant time and effort over the past year to evaluate options and propose a solution. That process has now run its course.  
At some point, the continued catering to ‘no’ votes has to stop. A reflexive resistance to action – regardless of the proposal – has repeatedly stalled necessary investments in our town’s infrastructure. That approach does not represent fiscal responsibility; it represents avoidance, and it comes at a real cost to our community.  
Moving this project forward will make our school, athletic fields, and town recreation facilities safer for our children, reduce the town’s liability exposure, and protect assets we already own. Delaying action only increases risk, cost, and deterioration.  
I appreciate the residents who stepped forward to do the work asked of them. Now it is time for town leadership to move this forward to the voters. I urge you to vote yes, put this project before the voters via referendum, and allow the town to decide. Let’s stop deferring and fix the fields and roof.

**Jeremy M. McKenzie  
Colchester**



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**Portland Veterans Say Thank You**  
To the Editor:  
On behalf of the Portland American Legion Ormont Post 69, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered, or helped in any way to support Portland’s Veterans Day Events included the Veterans Breakfast, Wreath Laying Ceremony, and Veterans Dinner.  
A very special ‘Thank You’ goes to Sebby Milardo and his family and staff at Melilli Caffé and Grill for generously donating and cooking all of the food for the Veterans Day Dinner.  
Additionally, I’d like to thank Del Printing, for once again providing tickets for the Veterans Dinner; First Selectman Michael Pelton and the custodial staff at the Portland High School, for hosting the Veterans Dinner, and to all of the members of the Portland Veterans Affairs Committee and the Portland American Legion Ormont Post 69, who volunteered their time to ensure these Veterans events are held to recognize and support these true heroes.  
Finally, if you know of any Portland veteran who might be interested in joining the local American Legion Post, please have them contact me, the American Legion Post Commander, Tim Dickerson, at ormontpost69@gmail.com.  
**Timothy E. Dickerson, Post Commander  
American Legion Ormont Post 69**

**Hebron 250: Celebration Versus Preservation?**  
To the Editor:  
It’s a shame that Hebron will commemorate the 250th Declaration of Independence anniversary with wholly ephemeral events without preserving Hebron’s historic landmarks. The flaw of this approach is that once an event ends, nothing physically remains for future generations.  
Hebron has a long history of publicly celebrating historic events and then destroying historic landmarks. Hebron’s 1958 celebration was followed by destroying the Town Green. After 1976, the town destroyed the historic Horton house barn, burned the mid-19th century Ruth-Coolidge House, and replaced the 18th-19th century Ous House with a parking lot. Hebron’s Tercentennial was followed by the town bulldozing the land at Burnt Hill Park with its 10,000-year history!  
The 2019 town-sponsored “We are Hebron” seminar described the selectmen/council members’ responsibilities as “stewards of the town and agents of the people ... preserving our rural historic character”. Logically, all town agencies should follow this same mandate. Will Hebron’s 250 plans do so?  
Recently, an interesting document surfaced—a 1778 Hebron selectmen’s warrant to confiscate Jonathan Peters property (Burnt Hill Park). Of the hundreds of Connecticut confiscation cases, there are only two confiscations for Hebron and only 17 cases in all of eastern Connecticut. This

is significant. Jonathan Peters died on the same day that the confiscation order was written. The Hebron selectmen were taking action to evict Jonathan’s family, his mother, his brother Bemsee’s family (including then 6-year-old Governor Peters) and most probably the enslaved families of Pomp Mundo and Cesar Peters as winter approached. This is not the Revolutionary War history I learned about at RHAM!  
In acquiring Burnt Hill Park, the town stipulated that part of the structure should be used as museum space. Wouldn’t the above narrative along with Burnt Hill’s 10,000-year history be a fitting legacy for Hebron 250?  
Governor Peters’ farm (17 Kinney Rd.) is one of the oldest land preservation efforts in the country. It’s overgrown with invasive species but, wouldn’t restoring the environment of a historic rural historic landscape be a worthy Hebron 250 initiative?  
Hebron has a half-dozen unpublished town histories, shouldn’t these be preserved and published so that future Hebron citizens have a greater understanding of the past?  
Celebrating the past is fine, but not when it’s at the expense of preserving history itself. “They’ve paved paradise and put up a parking lot” should not be the theme of Hebron 250!

**John Baron  
Hebron**

**\$12 Million**  
To the Editor:  
In response to a recent editorial, it would be great if Hebron’s Public Works facility could cost \$12 million. Unfortunately, even in 2023, Hebron speculated the costs would be \$18-20 million. See Estimated DPW Building Project Costs, 5/26/23. (hebronct.com)  
Secondly, the DPW Action Committee remains fully committed to the Public and to Old Colchester Road. Likewise, Hebron’s Town Council recently voted, unanimously, in favor of OCR.  
Third, there are numerous hidden costs associated with a PW facility on the Horton property:  
A. Permits for a DPW on this watershed.  
B. Building a road from John Horton Blvd over, or through, wetlands that come with a conservation easement. See Hebron Village Green District. Meanwhile, new roads, particularly those affecting wetlands, run into multiple millions of dollars depending on environmental engineering, regulatory demands and soil stability. See Hebron Center Fire Department garage extension project.  
C. Due to the wet nature of this property, extensive drainage and storm drains would be required. Knocking the top off a domed, stony, cornfield could easily cause the surrounding wetland waters to shift downwards and sideways towards the building site. Reference Hebron wetland and topography maps. Regardless of the wetlands, this property is famous for having wet land with an average water table of 18”

*See Letters, page 6*

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

to 30". Standing water is not uncommon.

D. Lawyers to decipher the Conservation Easement. While the easement gives Hebron a Right of Way, according to this easement, pollution, soil disturbances and more are not permitted on these wetlands. Lawyers, again, to defend the town from lawsuits. See Town Survey 2023 where one resident warns they will sue Hebron should their home's water be contaminated by development on this property.

E. Money to cover residential well water remediation from any development. See CT Statute 22a-471 and read expert testimony at Save-HebronCenter Facebook.

F. Water bills for the facility. Will they have a well? Town water? Can the aquifer at St. Peter's church support new housing, businesses in Hebron Center, a PW and our neighborhoods' replacement water? Where are these answers?

Given the complex nature of the groundwater, wetlands, bedrock fractures and adjacent wells, the old Horton property, a.k.a. 17 Kinney Rd., could easily cost taxpayers more money now and in the future. Reevaluating this property only increases town expenditures for this ongoing project while postponing the construction of a safer facility for Hebron's DPW workers. #save17

Jean Tulimieri  
Amston

Dementia Talks No. 45

To the Editor:

Recently, I posted a picture from several years ago. It was a picture of my mom sitting at a table at one of my husband's favorite breakfast spots. In front of her was a plate overrun by blueberry pancakes and Mom had her fork in one hand and a knife in the other; she was very animated as she looked at the plate of pancakes with the intent to dig in! And yes, she did finish everything on the plate.

I am reminded of moments like this often; alongside the realization that intentional animation will never "be" again.

The journey has become harder and harder in recent weeks.

Eyes that look about with confusion, and at times, fear. It is the complete opposite of the look in a someone's eyes at the wonders of life – like a plate of pancakes.

The world is interpreted differently now.

There is a new world that has been born of a brain that is shrinking. A world made up of pieces of memory, experience, likes, dislikes, landscapes that blend mountains with landfills.

A world caught in a mind like a small globe on a chain around someone's neck.

A world I try to navigate without a map. Fully undiscovered and changing at every instant.

Alzheimer's is a horrible disease. The worst? Yes, it is for me because it is the disease I know,

am experiencing, am watching as it sucks the life from my mom. I work hard to learn how to engage with her at this later stage of the disease. I work hard to meet her where she is and not tell her what to do; or how to do it; or that what she is doing is wrong – but rather, it is right and let it be; let it go. And embrace all that she is now teaching me about what I don't know.

2026 is full of hope, and for Mom...I carry her hope. Hope for something I can't describe and I can't translate – I just know.

My hope for 2026 is that she will still take my hand when it is offered so that our touch will connect us through love.

Thank you for reading and know that you are not alone.

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

Portland Charter

To the Editor:

Town ordinance sec. 1408 states "A review of the provisions of this charter shall be made by the Board of Selectmen not less than once every (5) five years". The last amendment revision was completed in 2004.

At the Jan. 7 BOS meeting, the board decided to remove the line item "charter revision" permanently from future meeting agendas and may consider opening the charter this summer. Over the past few years, the date to open and revise the town charter has being delayed as voices in town and members of the BOS call for revisions.

Since the November election, concerns from the public escalated as the pool of qualified First Selectman candidates has diminished, and just from watching the BOS meetings, it seems the duties assigned to the first selectman have shifted to other individuals, and unpaid board members to fulfill responsibilities to keep the town operating and out of legal troubles.

One of the issues to address is shifting administration duties assigned to the first selectman to an experienced qualified town manager working along with a full finance board. A town manager's primary duties would include administrative and finance duties assigned under

a revised charter. The BOS would remain with a board-elected chair, and would be responsible for other assigned duties under the charter.

Citizens are concerned that without charter revisions to leadership, town committees and departments will not have the resources needed to implement ideas that revitalize Main Street, our river front, or the Route 66 corridor, to attract businesses and provide a pedestrian safe Main Street. The "small town character" appears to be a memory with a walk down Main Street. A town's Main Street is the heart of every community and must be revived with changes made today.

As we move into 2026, Portland voices are moving to petition for an immediate appointment of an independent bipartisan charter commission to be appointed in accordance with town ordinance sec. 1408 and General Statutes 99. Over the years residents have seen less "Coming on Over" and more people exiting town for shopping, education, employment, and services.

Time to open the town charter and put Portland over Politics.

Rose Aletta  
Portland

COA Backs Senior Center Staff Needs

To the Editor:

In the past year, needs for Senior Center (SC) services have been growing. Director Holly Marrero initiated several new programs, the SC added 295 members, the Town Council opened membership to 55- to 59-year olds (who have different program requests), and the population aged 60 and over is expanding.

For the past eight years, as the SC has grown in membership and programs, the director has requested a second full-time employee, in addition to a part-time staff of four – but those requests have been denied. At its December meeting, the Commission on Aging unanimously voted to support this SC request.

The SC director and four part-time staff are having a difficult time keeping up with the growing demands. Staff members run programs, provide services to members, oversee safety, and stay busy. Our SC is small, and its few rooms must have multiple uses. As the number and diversity of programs increases, this creates a lot of extra staff work simply breaking down and moving tables and chairs from one room to another, so a lunch room can become an exercise room, then a meeting room. When the director is off, that impairs continuity of member services by the part-timers, and services can get fragmented – solvable with a second full-time staff member.

Another full-time employee would also enable the SC to offer expanded hours. The Center is only open on weekdays until 4 pm. Younger working members want evening hours. This "quick fix" identified by the Senior Center and Services Task Force, can be implemented using the current building and contents, while longer term solutions are being formulated.

Note: The Senior Center potentially serves 3,400 adults in town aged 55 or older, with a budget that is less than 0.5% of the town budget.

Thank you,  
Eric Rosenberg, MD  
Chair, East Hampton Commission on Aging

DPW Thoughts From The Inside

To the Editor:

Fellow residents, I joined the DPWAC to truly educate myself on all of the idiosyncrasies of rebuilding, or building a new DPW facility. Initially I was incensed that the land we voted to purchase for future town expansion at a town meeting was not being utilized as laid out by the town planner, zoning and wetlands. 92 residents participated, the vote was 69 'yay' and 23 'nay.' That's 75% for, 25% against!

At that time, the Kinney Road residents were opposed to the purchase, several spoke at length about not buying the land. We bought it but now can't use it. I know that we, as a town, lost the narrative to the small group of residents wishing to not use the Town property as intended.

I have been involved in all aspects of the DPW project, from hiring the architects, permitting, sewer, septic, electrical, site development, space requirements, well water testing and so much more. It has been a daunting task to write letters not favoring one site over another based on my initial feelings.

I have come to realize that there are pluses and minuses to both sites (OCR and the Horton property). Whether we haul sewage or use a sewer pipe, we still have to pay. The existing well at OCR exceeds the anticipated needs is potable.

See Letters, page 12

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

Our "Where in the World is the *Rivereast News Bulletin*?" feature continues year-round, so next time you're out and about, don't forget to bring along the paper!

It doesn't matter where you're going, really. If you have it in the budget to escape the cold and head down to Hawaii or Disney World, that's great, but if you're traveling closer to home, that's fine too!

Hitting the slopes in Vermont? Bring along the *Rivereast*! Exploring "the wonder of it all" at Foxwoods? Bring along the *Rivereast*! Going out to dinner with friends? Bring along

the.....well, you get the idea.

And speaking of dining out, if your picture is featured in "Where in the World," you get a gift certificate to Campagna Restaurant in Portland. I've eaten the several times over the years, and I can tell you, it's great Italian food.

So next time you're going, well, anywhere – even if it's to build snowmen with your kids after the next big storm – bring along the *Rivereast*, snap a picture with it, and send it in to bulletin@glcitizen.com. Join the fun!

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See you next week.

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**The Vermont Girls...** The Vermont girls returned to Vermont last fall – and this time they brought along the *Rivereast*! The girls have been going to Vermont yearly for more than 20 years. Pictured from left are Elaine Laufer, Lissa Peltier, Gayle McGuinness, Diane Clark, Jane Fox, Maryellen Addy, and Grace Camalucci. Missing (though actually taking the picture) is Corliss Walsh, the founder of the yearly get-togethers.

## 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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com) and, if printed, you'll receive a gift card to Campagna Restaurant in Portland! Further details are listed below. Happy travels!



**Mangia!...** Suzanne and Jeff Burgess of Portland along with Diane and Glenn Ballinger, formerly of Portland, and Bob Willett recently enjoyed a pesto-making class in the home of pesto – Genoa, Italy!



**Lovely Key West...** Colchester residents Alphonse Letendre and Cheryl Letendre hold a copy of the *Rivereast* News Bulletin taken in Key West, Fla.



**The Big – and Chilly! – Apple...** Beth Gould-Ruitto and Faith Fraulino from Portland bundled up for a fun time admiring the holiday decorations in New York City.

# Where in the World?

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

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★ *Benefit Dinner, cont. from page 1*

and visit regularly, but Fitzkee said they have to manage a lot on their own.

On top of it all, they are managing considerable health care costs. Both Fitzkee and her husband have high-deductible insurance plans, and her treatments can be very expensive. She also has child care costs to consider: she can't bring her daughter, who attends day care, into an oncologist's office for her appointments.

Fitzkee said people have been incredibly helpful, but she has had to adjust her mindset to be open to receiving help.

"I met a great oncology social worker," she said, "and she said, you know, people are going to want to help you, and you need to let them help you."

To that point, word was spreading around town recently about Fitzkee's diagnosis, particularly among town employees. Portland Food Bank manager Kevin Backman mentioned her situation to Mike Melluzzo, a food bank volunteer who is active in the local Knights of Columbus chapter. Melluzzo said he was moved by Fitzkee's story and knew she faced mounting costs as her treatments continued. He shared her story with the other Knights of Columbus chapter members and they decided to organize a fundraiser pasta dinner, to be held Friday, Feb. 6 at St. Mary Church.

While the Knights of Columbus Council 7 is affiliated with Saint Mary, Melluzzo said he doesn't believe that Fitzkee and her family are church members there. Melluzzo said that wasn't important to him.

"It doesn't matter," he said. "That's not what Knights of Columbus is. It's to support your community, not [just] the church."

Melluzzo said he hopes the community will show up at the dinner to support Fitzkee. Tickets are \$15 per plate, or \$30 for a family of four. Members of the Portland Board of Selectmen will be there serving as waiters, and people can either dine in or take out to show their support.

In addition, those wishing to donate separately can do so. A QR code is available on the posters and advertisements for the event, or people can find the event page at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/portland-benefit-dinner>. Anyone wishing to donate in other ways can contact Melluzzo at 860-977-0616.

Fitzkee herself still manages to stay optimistic. She said she wants to spend as much time with her family as she can, and she is hopeful that new treatments will become available.

"My hope is that the research is keeps progressing the way it is," she said, "and, you know, they're constantly finding new things to help people." ★ *Senior Center , cont. from page 8*

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### Benefit Dinner for Fitzkee Family

Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus is hosting a dinner to support the Fitzkee family on Friday, Feb. 6, from 4-8 p.m., in the hall at the Church of Saint Mary on Freestone Avenue in Portland.

Dinners can be ordered to-go or dine-in, and will include pasta, meatballs, sausage and peppers, garlic bread, and sala. Tickets are \$15 and \$30 for a family of four. Contributions can be sent to Freestone Council, PO

Box 7, Portland CT 06480. Your tickets will be held for you at the door.

Tickets are also available at Town Hall, St Mary Church, and many local Portland businesses.

The dinner will benefit the family of Courtney Fitzkee, who was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer at 33, less than a year after her daughter Isla was born.

### VITA Seeks Volunteers

Since 2009, the Middlesex VITA Coalition has helped thousands in Middlesex County file their taxes at no cost. As part of the IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, the coalition is seeking volunteers to help continue the mission.

Middlesex VITA specializes in maximizing tax credits for families and individuals with incomes under \$70,000. No prior tax preparation

experience is required, as training is provided. You will collaboratively prepare client returns, ensuring you're never working alone.

Middlesex County includes the *Rivereast* towns of Portland and East Hampton.

Training begins in early January. If interested in volunteering, email [MiddlesexCT.Vita@gmail.com](mailto:MiddlesexCT.Vita@gmail.com), or connect on Facebook at "Middlesex CT VITA."

### Mahjong Practice Group

A meet-up for learning and practicing Mahjong meets weekly on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St, Portland.

All player levels, including novice, are welcome. The game is played by NMJL rules.

For more information, contact Ginger LaBella at [gingerlabella@gmail.com](mailto:gingerlabella@gmail.com) or 860-759-0935. Novices requiring instruction should notify LaBella before attending so she can plan accordingly.

### Exchange Club Bingo Night

The Portland Exchange Club will hold its next Bingo Night Thursday, Jan. 22, at Concentric Brewing, located at 91 Main St. Card sales start at 6 p.m., and the games start at 7 p.m.

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

Portland Fuel Bank.

For more information, go to [www.portland-exchange.org](http://www.portland-exchange.org).

### President's List

Portland residents James Amodio, Brooke DeFrance and Ashley Leclerc made the fall 2025 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University.

### Dean's List

The following Portland students made the fall 2025 Dean's List at Western Connecticut State University:

Dylan C. Jensen, who is majoring in music, emphasis audio and music production; and Javen Elishah Levesque, who is majoring in musical theatre.

### Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School has announced kindergarten registration for the 2026-27 school year.

Parents/guardians whose children will be five years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2026, should: contact Valley View School at [kregistration@portlandct.us](mailto:kregistration@portlandct.us) to indicate if you will be registering your child for kindergarten. Please provide your child's full name, date of birth, phone number, address, and parent's names.

Further information regarding kindergarten registration will be provided once you contact the school.

### Parking Ban During Storms

The town has announced a parking ban will be in effect for all storms this winter season to allow highway crews to properly clear and treat the roads.

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 forecast 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.

### KoC Basketball Free-Throw Contest

The Portland Knights of Columbus Freestone Council 7 will hold its annual youth basketball free-throw contest on Friday, Jan. 30, at the Brownstone Intermediate School gymnasium, located at 314 Main St.

Girls and boys ages 9 through 14 can participate in the event. Registration opens at 6:45 p.m. and the contest begins at 7 p.m.

Scoring will be kept for age and gender groups based on most baskets made from 15 free-throw attempts. The top finishers for each gender and age groups are eligible to participate in the Knights of Columbus state finals in February.

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Friday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> "Karismics"  
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# Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winner

All winning posters on the county level will be exhibited at the State Capitol during October. The county winners will be awarded a \$150

Sajdak thanked all teachers for their assistance with the contest. Thanks were also given to all of the fourth-grade students for their participation in this Connecticut Fire Prevention Awareness Program.



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The event will also feature a basket raffle with

Munkittrick's talk will present a selection of historic houses of the Connecticut River Valley inspired by castle architecture, including Wil-

The Portland town offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19, in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to World Central Kitchen, a not-for-profit organization that provides meals in response to humanitarian and climate crises.

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

New members may join until Feb. 3.  
You do not need any affiliation with Middlesex Health to become a member. For more info, visit [vocalchords20.org](http://vocalchords20.org) or call 860-342-3120.

For more details, visit [portland-river-valley-garden-club.blogspot.com](http://portland-river-valley-garden-club.blogspot.com).

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# Standout Athletes of the Week

**By Josh Howard**  
**Evan Brown - Portland High School (Ice Hockey):** Brown netted a hat trick, scoring three goals and adding an assist as the Thunderbirds beat North Milford 10-9 on Dec. 30. Brown, a senior from Portland that plays for North Branford/PHS co-op, also scored the winning goal to end the wild game as the team earned their first win of the season.  
**Reese Montstream - RHAM High School (Track & Field):** Montstream completed the triple crown at the Greater Hartford invitational on Jan. 10, qualifying for the state meet in the long jump, 55-meter dash, and as part of the Raptors' Sprint Medley Relay (SMR) team. Montstream, a senior, placed first in the long jump with a distance of 15' 02" and her 55-meter dash time (8.00) was a personal record, putting her 10th on the all-time leaderboard at RHAM. The SMR squad of Montstream, Audrey Eckert, Liana Fox and Rian Calhoun posted a time of 4:45.51 to win the race and qualify for states.  
**Troy Johnson - Bacon Academy (Basketball):** Johnson scored a career-high 25 points as the Bobcats defeated Tourtellotte 64-41 on

Jan 6. Johnson, a senior, led all scorers as Bacon Academy jumped out to a 31-18 lead at the half before cruising to victory in the second half. Ty Wissler and Jack Hiegel each chipped in 10 points, while Joey Papale added eight. Along with his success on the courts, Johnson is also an all-state soccer player at the school.  
**Hadley Fazekas - East Hampton High School (Track & Field):** Fazekas won the high jump and placed second in the shot put at the Shoreline Conference League Meet in Floyd Little Athletic Centers on Jan. 7. Fazekas, a sophomore, posted a personal record on 4' 4" to win the high jump and then had a toss of 24' 8.5" to place second in the shot put. Her efforts, along with a first place showing from junior Kaylan Sullivan in the pole vault, helped the Bellringers finish as the runner-up as a team — behind only Old Saybrook — during the conference clash that featured 13 total programs.  
*To nominate an athlete as a Standout of the Week, email joshhowardsports@gmail.com. Please include as many details about the athlete or performance as possible.*



**Portland High School's Evan Brown tallied four points to help his ice hockey team earn their first victory of the season.**

### Radon Test Kits Available

January is Radon Awareness Month, and the Chatham Health District has acquired a limited number of radon test kits from the state Department of Health. Kits will be available to residents while supplies 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.


The Chatham Health District covers the *Rivereast* towns of Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland.

### Needleman to Seek Fifth Term

Seeking his fifth term in the State Senate, State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) announced Monday he is seeking a fifth term in office.

The 12-town 33rd District includes Colchester, East Hampton and Portland, as well as Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook and Westbrook. Needleman was first elected to the district seat in 2018.

"In uncertain times, we need common sense and strong leadership to guide us forward. For my career in the Senate, I have stood by those principles in supporting our communities and making steady progress in Hartford, and they are why I am again running to represent our region," said Needleman.



**Needleman**

He continued, "There are a number of issues that continue to impact the residents of our great district as well as communities throughout our state. I am constantly working to resolve them, from collaboration alongside my colleagues on the Energy and Technology Committee and Planning and Development Committee regarding the state's energy grid and individual town needs to working on the Commerce, Finance and Revenue and Transportation committees with an eye on budgets, roads and best investments."

Needleman added, "Our region deserves a leader who makes tough choices and isn't afraid to speak his mind. That's why I'm running again."

In addition to his work as state senator, Needleman is also first selectman of Essex, and is currently in his seventh term in the role. He is also the founder and CEO of Tower Laboratories, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company in Essex.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 6*

Electrical solutions are available. The existing salt shed, transfer station and fueling station are already permitted. Plus, residents already know where it is and how to utilize it.

Yes, the sewer, water, and three-phase power can be run to the Horton property. The cost for a road with underground utilities from Colebrook Village to Kinney Road is not free. I think we should use the land that we bought for future town expansion. A new elementary school, a great lawn for hosting concerts, a new fire safety complex as the need arises. Otherwise, we should sell it to #save 17 for them to do with it as they wish.

Concerns regarding curbside pick-up have been raised. The committee is concerned too. Our town DPW staff will be inconvenienced, working out of a job trailer with equipment scattered about our town. We as residents must come together for the greater good of all to make this project a reality.

Please support of the upcoming referendum. Waiting will only cost us more.

this historic celebration and a wide variety of vibrant historical figures associated with that special parcel of land. This included the sixty Hebron men that grabbed their muskets and powder and marched to Lexington and Concord to face the Red Coats. The letter recognized that 17 Kinney Rd. is the largest surviving stretch of Revolutionary War landscape in Hebron. It is remarkable to be able to experience the same farm fields and the same stone wall laneways experienced by our patriotic community 250 years ago. This unique landscape survives as living history and an irreplaceable cultural inheritance. It is a treasure that I know many residents appreciate and wish to preserve.

A second letter included outdated information and excluded all mention of the historic and environmental impact a Public Works would have on the Kinney Road property and neighborhood. I appreciate the difficulty in digesting the \$27.8 million cost for the new Public Works. It is a lot of money and a major investment. However, spreading misinformation based solely on conjecture undermines the substantial efforts already made at the current Public Works site on Old Colchester Road.

The detailed work by the engineering firm Silver Petrucelli + Associates required for a comprehensive estimate of construction costs has taken many months and taxpayers have already paid over \$100,000. In fact, the efforts of Silver Petrucelli have been of such high quality that they were awarded a 2025 Distinguished Service Award from the Connecticut Association of Street and Highway Officials for their work at Old Colchester Road, recognizing the project as a significant contribution to the state's infrastructure. In addition to this tremendous effort, the Town Council has already stated unanimously that there will not be a cost comparison at referendum. That is not how referendums are presented and the Public Works facility should be no different.

It is vital for residents and town officials alike to offer information that reflects reality and is based on the available facts. I urge the residents of Hebron to come together and support the DPW project as presented by the Department of Public Works Action Committee.

**Sincerely,**  
**Todd Habicht**  
**Hebron**

*Note: Habicht is vice chairman of the Hebron DPWAC, but said he is speaking as a resident.*

### Hebron Perspectives

To the Editor:

The letters to the editor in last week's *Rivereast* offered an interesting view on two different perspectives existing in Hebron.

One letter focused on facts and captured the significance of America's 250 celebration and the unique assets found at 17 Kinney Rd. An important connection was made between

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Enzo Vertefeuille, left, and Danille King-Watkins, right, are the overall male and female winners of this year’s Resolution Run 5K.



### Resolution Run Held New Year’s Day

Colchester Youth and Social Services has announced this year’s Resolution Run 5K – a community tradition held New Year’s Day to support local youth – was another resounding success.

This race serves as a fundraiser for Colchester Youth Services, with all proceeds directly supporting youth programming and the Youth Services Scholarship Fund.

Leading up to race day this year, organizers closely monitored weather conditions as snow-fall threatened the event. Despite the uncertainty, the community showed up, with 140 runners registered for the 2025 Resolution Run.

Thanks to the generosity of the runners and community sponsors, CYSS raised just over \$3,000, ensuring continued access to prevention programming, enrichment opportunities, and scholarships for Colchester youth and families.

This year’s Overall Male Winner was Enzo Vertefeuille, with a time of 18 minutes and 22 seconds, and this year’s Overall Female Winner was Danille King-Watkins, with a time of 24 minutes and 5 seconds.

CYSS thanked all runners, event volunteers, and community sponsors – and reminded people to look for next year’s Resolution Run 5K, planned for Jan. 1, 2027!

### 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](mailto:csc@colchesterct.gov), or for a full list of activities, visit [www.colchesterct.gov/colchester-senior-center](http://www.colchesterct.gov/colchester-senior-center).

**Movie Time - Mamma Mia:** Tuesday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m. A Mother, A Daughter, Three Possible Fathers. A trip down the aisle you’ll never forget. Join the center for this movie featuring the music of ABBA. Popcorn will be provided. This is a free program.

**Tips for Managing Uncertainty:** Thursday, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m. This program will provide information and tips to manage uncertainty, followed by discussion with questions from audience members. Presented by Dr. Wendy Hurwitz, a graduate of Yale University School of Medicine and a former medical researcher for ABC News. Funding for this program provided by Brightstar Care of Central CT. This is a free program. Registration is Required.

**Healthy Food Series - Healthy Brownie Bites:** Tuesday, Jan. 27, 10:30 a.m. The center is excited to offer a new Healthy Food series to their list of programs. Each month they will explore and focus on various topics of healthy eating and recipes through food demonstrations, cooking classes, and presentations by senior center members, staff and community partners. Member Diane Lavallee will walk participants through the process of making their own small batch of brownie bites to take home. The cost is \$5 per person. Space is limited.

**Elder Law Presentation:** Wednesday, Jan. 28, 10:30 a.m. Elder Law is a specialized legal field focusing on the unique needs of older adults,

their families, and caregivers. Sheila Horvitz and Attorney Mark Pancrazio of the Safe Futures Elder Abuse and Elder Law Committee will lead a learning and discussion session on the planning issues needed to work on- financial, legal, and medical. This is a free program and open to all members and their family members. Registration is required.

**New Evening Programs: Homemade Soap:** Tuesday, Jan. 20, 6-7 p.m. Come make a bar (or two) of homemade soap which you can keep for yourself or give as a gift! The cost is \$5 and registration is required.

**Tech Time with Harry:** Thursday, Jan. 22, 4-7 p.m. Please sign up for a 30-minute one-on-one session. Bring your device and Harry will assist with any technical help you need. Registration is required.

**Documentary: Audrey** (2020, TV-14, 1h 40m) will be shown Thursday, Jan. 22, from 6-7:30 p.m. With rare footage and intimate interviews, this Netflix documentary examines the life, career and humanitarian mission of late Hollywood legend Audrey Hepburn. There is no cost. Registration is required. Snacks will be provided.

**Pizza & A Movie:** Tuesday, Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m. *Dog* is a comedy about an Army Ranger seeking a second chance and agrees to take an unruly Belgian Malinois named Lulu on a long road trip to her handler’s funeral. From 2022, the movie is rated PG-13 and runs 1 hour, 41 minutes. The cost is \$7.00, and registration is required.

**Ultimate Bingo:** Thursday, Jan. 29, 6 p.m. Space is limited for this monthly game, where you pay to play and the prizes are bigger. The cost is \$10, and registration is required.

### Colchester Cares Meets Next Week

Colchester Cares, a giving group that supports various causes in Colchester, will next meet Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

At the group’s meetings, members who commit to donating \$100 a quarter present current needs in town and then vote online over the next few days after the meeting on where to send the group’s collective donations. The group

### Colchester Federated Church News

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

**Worship:** Sundays at 9 a.m. The service is also broadcast via Facebook Live. Worship videos are at [www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org](http://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

### Dean’s List

Colchester residents Samantha Kinsey and Nicole Palmer made the fall 2025 President’s List at Southern New Hampshire University.

### Military Veteran Coffee House

The next Colchester Military Veteran Coffee House will be held Saturday, Jan. 17, from 10 a.m.-noon, at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

Please contact Mary Gura at 860-537-2921 with any questions or suggestions for presenters.

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# Proposed \$14.56M Athletic Complex Reviewed

By Toriana Williams

The most significant issue discussed at the Jan. 7 meeting of the Athletic Complex Building Committee was proposed referendum totaling \$14,562,400 for athletic facility improvements at Bacon Academy and the Town Recreation Complex, alongside discussion of a separate but related \$5 million Bacon Academy roof replacement, which has been an ongoing concern voiced by many residents and board members. Together, officials framed the projects as part of a broader \$19.5 million capital outlook for near-term infrastructure needs.

### Cost Breakdown

According to a presentation shown by the Director of Design and Construction for FieldTurf -- Chris Hulk -- at the meeting, approximately 20% of the \$14.56 million proposal would fund improvements at the Town Rec Plex, with the remainder directed to Bacon Academy athletic facilities. The projected tax impact was described in detail by the First Selectman Bernie Dennler, a Democrat. Using current assessment data, Dennler said the proposal would equal a 0.18 mill increase, translating to approximately “\$37 a year, about \$3.10 per month,” for the average homeowner. This estimate does not include future reserve savings for turf replacement, which some speakers alleged could effectively raise the long-term cost.

Resident Mike Dubreuil cautioned that when long-term turf replacement savings are considered, “that \$37 a year really turns into \$75 a year,” emphasizing the importance of responsible budgeting beyond the bond period. Committee members responded that FieldTurf had recommended setting aside approximately \$50,000 annually for long-term maintenance and partial replacement, not full field recon-

struction.

Vice Committee Chair Matt Parsons also tentatively suggested that a “pay-to-play” format, where families would pay fees for their children to participate in school sports, could be incorporated to offset additional tax increases on residents.

“That would mitigate those costs and push it right back on the users and not just the whole tax base,” he shared.

### Bacon Academy Roof Replacement

The roof at Bacon Academy emerged as one of the most urgent issues. Officials cited an estimated \$5 million replacement cost, acknowledging that the figure was based on limited evaluations and not a full engineering survey. Dubreuil stated that a prior roof survey in 2021 had indicated replacement was needed by 2023, but that the work was not completed.

Dennler explained that the town expects to pursue state funding through the DAS non-priority list, a specific type of state grant primarily for Connecticut school construction projects, by forming a dedicated building committee. Referring to the roof estimate, Dennler said, “When we look at that \$5 million number ... we think that there’s a pretty good shot of getting some significant financing for the roof repairs at Bacon.”

Officials also clarified that the project was not eligible for STEAP funding, as it was not “shovel-ready” during the last application cycle.

### Environmental, Health Consideration

Environmental impact, particularly stormwater runoff and drinking water safety, generated extended discussion. Hulk stated that water would filter through turf, sand backing and multiple stone layers before reaching drainage

systems, with most stormwater infiltrating into the ground.

Committee Chair Dave Emery cited multiple studies reviewed by the Recreation Needs Committee and ACBC. Emery stated that existing research showed “pretty much limited to no health risks” and referenced findings that injury rates on synthetic turf and natural grass are comparable, including NFL data.

A more recent Connecticut study conducted by Quinnipiac University was cited regarding PFAS concerns. Officials reported that testing upstream and downstream of turf fields found no exceedances of state or EPA drinking water standards, although elevated zinc levels were observed in some samples without posing a drinking water risk.

Some residents expressed skepticism. Resident Aaron Jones questioned why extensive filtration would be required if the materials were fully safe and raised concerns about wetlands exposure.

### Maintenance Responsibilities, Long-Term Use

Questions were raised about long-term maintenance responsibility. Parsons clarified that the Town Public Works Department would continue maintaining all school and recreation fields under an agreement established in the early 2000s. Training and grooming equipment for

turf maintenance are included in the referendum cost.

Hulk emphasized that synthetic turf would reduce -- but not eliminate -- maintenance demands and would allow for significantly increased field usage. He stated that a single turf field can support usage equivalent to approximately “three and a half grass fields.”

### Public Comment

Public comment reflected a mix of urgency, personal experience and caution. Several residents spoke about how current field conditions and building deficiencies affect students, families and town programming, citing canceled practices, limited field availability and challenges hosting regional events. Parents and community members emphasized that poor drainage and deteriorating surfaces have created safety concerns and reduced opportunities for youth athletics.

At the same time, some speakers urged the committee to carefully weigh long-term financial obligations, environmental considerations and future maintenance costs before advancing the proposal. Committee members acknowledged the range of perspectives and noted that public feedback would inform future deliberations as the project moved toward potential referendum consideration.

## Senior Center Upcoming Trip

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

Majestic Cities of Central & Eastern Eu-

## CCT Presents Sister Act Next Month

Colchester Community Theatre (CCT) will present *Sister Act* through special arrangements with Music Theatre International, on Friday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 14, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 15, at 2 p.m. All shows will be at the Bacon Academy auditorium, 611 Norwich Ave.

When disco diva Deloris Van Cartier witnesses a murder, she is put into protective custody in the most unexpected of places: a convent! Disguised as a nun, she finds herself at odds with both the rigid lifestyle and uptight Mother Superior. Using her unique disco moves and singing talent to inspire the choir, Deloris breathes new life into the church and community but, in doing so, blows her cover. Soon, the gang is giving chase, only to find them up against Deloris and the power of her newly found sisterhood.

Based on the hit Broadway musical, which was in turn adapted from the hit 1992 movie starring Whoopi Goldberg, features music by Tony- and eight-time Oscar-winner Alan Menken.

### Polish Dinner Jan. 30

The St. Joseph's Polish Society is hosting a polish dinner Friday, Jan. 30, from 4:30-6 p.m., to raise funds for the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard.

The polish dinner will include pierogi, golumpki, kielbasa, kapusta, rye bread, and dessert. Tickets are a \$25 donation. Dinner is takeout or dine-in while listening to The St Joe's Polka Pals featuring Polka Hall of Famers Dennis Polisky and Rich Bernier.

Tickets will be sold in advance only. For tickets, stop by the club, located at 395 S. Main St., during regular business hours: Monday-Friday after 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from noon-10 p.m.

## Historical Society Calendars Available

The Colchester Historical Society's 2026 calendars are now available.

The 2026 calendar presents a monthly historical overview of Colchester's Town Green and surrounding landmarks through photographs and descriptions, highlighting changes in the landscape, buildings, and community activities over time.

Calendars cost \$12 each and can be purchased at the Colchester History Museum on Sundays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., or at Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques, 168 Main St., Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

To purchase or learn more, contact the society at 860-537-3240 or [mail@colchesterhistory.org](mailto:mail@colchesterhistory.org).

## 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 20+-member squad is actively looking for new members so the squad 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](mailto:letendrej@sbcglobal.net) or 860-537-6516 for more information.

## 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 Fri-

days, 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](http://AbundantL.com).

## 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](http://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:** Knit-

ting 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](http://westchesterconchurch.org), email [westconchurch@gmail.com](mailto:westconchurch@gmail.com) or call the church at 860-267-6711. Pastor Ron Lake can be reached at 860-428-3460.



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★ *Blight Ordinance, cont. from page 1*

said that she shared Hintz’s concerns, adding that, in her opinion, the “wording suggestions that had been made, the changes, don’t really substantially change the document.”

Wanat had previously expressed concerns at a prior meeting over the proposed ordinance’s language. She said she worried about the ordinance being used “in a retaliatory manner” against residents, and said that she had been subject to that in the past.

In the end, the council voted to table the agenda item so that the council could consider it further at a later date.

**Water Project**

The council also considered an amended agreement with property owner Global Portland II to explore the site for consideration for a well to develop as a future town water source. Council member Jack Solomon, a Democrat, once again reiterated his support for the project.

“If the wells we drill are as productive and as clean as we expect, this water source will be valuable, far beyond the cost of the land purchase,” he said.

Council Chair Dean Markham and councilor Richard Knotek, both Democrats, agreed, with Markham making the case that it was an important asset to have for the future.

“For a small price,” he said, “even if we don’t develop the water source in the very near future, it gives our children and grandchildren and great grandchildren an asset that can be at the right time if necessary.”

Hintz worried that exploring a new water source might lead to future development, just due to the source being available.

“I am not supporting anything that is going down that road that could put the town in a spot where we would be forced by the state of Connecticut [to allow development],” he said. “I understand that we have a need for current water in the town. My concern is the future uses.”

The council voted five to one in favor of moving forward with the agreement to explore the site, with Hintz voting against the motion.

The council also voted to approve the purchase of a vacant parcel on West High Street for use by the Joint Facilities Administration, which operates the water treatment plant that is shared between East Hampton and Colchester. The purchase will be funded by the Joint Facilities, whose revenue comes from rate payers in five communities.

Once again, Hintz worried that any future expansion of water or sewer services could lead to future development.

“The purchase of this land would allow you to expand the sewer facilities, correct?” he asked Tony DeSimone, the Public Utilities Administrator for the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA).

“We do not have any plans to expand our capacity,” said DiSimone, but he added that they did need to expand in order to meet more stringent nutrient treatment requirements and “we are up against our ability to treat those.”

When pushed by Hintz, DeSimone conceded

that the land acquisition would give the authority to expand the system, but once again emphasized that there were no plans to do that.

“Today,” countered Hintz.

“Correct,” said DiSimone, “probably not for the next hundred years.”

Later, the council heard from Town Planner Juliet Hodge, who talked about the town’s upcoming revision to its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Hodge shared a survey which she helped develop, in cooperation with the POCD Steering Committee.

Hintz expressed concern that he had not had ample time to review the survey, which he said he had not read through yet because he had not had time. Other members of the council countered that they had reviewed the survey, and complimented the overall POCD revision process and its thoroughness.

In response to Hintz’s concerns, Cox noted that the survey copy had been delivered electronically to council members on the Friday prior to the Tuesday night meeting. Hintz argued that this was not enough time.

“I do not work on the weekend, that is correct,” he said. “Nor should I have to.”

In the end, the council voted to approve the survey by a vote of five to one. Hodge said that the survey would be available for people to take online, via Survey Monkey, but would also be available in print form for at public places like the library those who preferred a non-digital version.

The POCD Steering Committee will also hold community input sessions. The next one will be Jan. 20 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall and via Zoom.

The next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting will be held on Jan. 27.



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AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has announced the following items of interest. For more information or to register, visit [ahmyouth.recdesk.com](http://ahmyouth.recdesk.com).

**Prevention Survey:** AHM’s Coalition for a Healthy Empowered Community (CHEC) is asking adults who live or work in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia to complete a brief survey related to youth and adult behavioral health and wellness. The data collected from this survey will inform prevention programs for AHM Youth & Family Services and will be included in grant applications that aim to provide enhanced support for the community. All information collected will be anonymous, as

an outside company will compile the data. The more input received, the better they can serve the residents. To access the survey, go to [www.research.net/r/AHMCommunitySurvey](http://www.research.net/r/AHMCommunitySurvey)

**Winter/Early Spring Programs:** AHM’s winter and early spring programs are underway, and are open to residents of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough or Columbia. There is a variety of classes for all ages including Yoga, Macrame, and Art with Audrey. To sign up and for more information, visit [ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Program](http://ahmyouth.recdesk.com/Community/Program). Printed programs are also available in the AHM offices, located at AHM 25 Pendleton Drive, Hebron.

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East Hampton Revolutionary War Veterans

The East Hampton Cemetery Board, in conjunction with the America 250 Committee, is planning an activity to honor the Revolutionary War soldiers buried in all the East Hampton cemeteries in 2026, the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

The board plans to place a marker on the graves of these soldiers to recognize their commitment to the Fight for Independence. The board has identified the names of many of those soldiers and now wants to identify the locations of the graves to place the marker. The board is asking for information on these locations.

If you want to assist in this effort, or have questions about it, contact Terry Latimer at tlatimer.cemeteryboard@gmail.com.

PTO Meets Monthly

All are invited to attend the monthly East Hampton Elementary PTO meetings. Meetings are on Mondays at 5:30 p.m., and childcare is provided. The schedule for the 2025-26 school year is: 2/9, Center School; 3/16, Memorial School; 4/20, Center School; 5/18, Memorial School.

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

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

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 ehhsprojectgraduation.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.

Kindergarten Registration and Screening Dates

Memorial Elementary School is accepting applications for all children eligible to enter kindergarten in September.

Per legislation, any child who is five years old on or before Sept. 1 is eligible to register for Memorial's kindergarten program. If your child will not be 5 by this date but will be 5 by Jan. 1, 2027, and you would like them to attend kindergarten in the 2026-27 school year, you must submit a request for early entry by March 15.

Registration packets will be available beginning Monday, Feb. 2, in the Memorial School lobby, at the East Hampton Public Library, and on the EHPS website at www.easthamptonps.org. Completed registration forms are due to the Memorial School office by Friday, March 13, along with a full-size copy of the child's birth certificate and proof of residency in East Hampton. In addition, a current CT Health Assessment form must be on file with the school nurse's office by Friday, Aug. 7. Students may not begin kindergarten until current vaccination records have been submitted.

Once all completed registration paperwork is returned to Memorial, you will be contacted to schedule a screening appointment for your child. The following dates have been reserved for screening appointments: Tuesday, April 21; Friday, April 24; and Monday, April 27. Appointments will be scheduled for half-hour time blocks between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. If you have requested early entry to kindergarten for your 4-year-old, you will be also scheduled for an additional assessment on Monday, May 4.

Call the Memorial School office at 860-365-4020 if you have questions regarding the registration process.

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.

Summer Cultural Trip to France for Students

This is an opportunity for high school students from East Hampton to participate in a nine-day guided educational tour to Southern France and Paris from June 22 to June 30. It is run by Jumpstreet Tours and chaperoned by certified Connecticut teachers.

If interested, email Scott Minnick at tripto-france26@gmail.com ASAP to get more information and a detailed itinerary.

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Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

**Bible Study:** Contact Bobette Reed Kahn at [bobette@khan.com](mailto:bobette@khan.com) if you are interested in par-

ticipating.

**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.

**Cobalt Lodge Service:** The monthly Cobalt Lodge Service will be held directly after church on Jan. 18.

**Information/Assistance:** Contact Senior Warden Donna Hryb at 860-633-0472 or [donnaadubehryb@gmail.com](mailto:donnaadubehryb@gmail.com) for more information.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

The Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Road, Middle Haddam has announced the following. To register or for more information on any program, email [middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com), visit [middlehaddamlibrary.com](http://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.

**Featured Artist for the Month:** January's featured artist is William R. McDonald, from East Hampton. His watercolor landscapes and seascapes are on display during regular library hours. An artist's reception will be held on Friday, Jan. 23, from 4-6 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.

**Open Mic Night:** Friday, Jan. 16, 4-6 p.m. If interested in performing, call the library at 860-267-9093.

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

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

**Yoga with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga:** Mondays and Saturdays at 9 a.m., and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost is a \$15 drop-in fee. Register at [ten-summitst@gmail.com](mailto:ten-summitst@gmail.com).

**Chair Yoga with Kathleen:** This 'gentle yoga' program is held Fridays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$15 per class. Register by emailing [zenlotus860@yahoo.com](mailto:zenlotus860@yahoo.com) or calling 860-638-9097.

Dean's List

Jillian V. Lockwood of East Hampton, a student in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Haven, made the fall 2025 Dean's List.

Lockwood is working on a Bachelor of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in graphic design and photography. She will be graduating in May.

Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

The Knights of Columbus, St John Paul II Council 6190 at St. Patrick Church will hold its second semi-annual spaghetti and meatball dinner on Friday, Jan. 23, from 4:30-7:15 p.m., at the church parish center, located at 47 West High Street. Takeout and dine-in meals will be offered.

Meal prices are \$15 for adults and \$14 for seniors. Children six and under eat for free. The meal will include a salad, bread, dessert,

coffee or tea and a punch drink. Canned soda and bottled water will be available for \$1.

Proceeds will support local charitable programs. The Knights of Columbus will also collect non-perishable food items for the East Hampton Food Bank.

There will be musical entertainment at the dinner, by local singer John Moore.

Contact Jim Pedersen at 860-716-9629 for more information.

Belltown Garden Club to Meet

On Monday, Jan. 26, the Belltown Garden Club will meet in the East Hampton Library community room at 6:30 p.m. All are invited.

Club members and newcomers will craft nesting balls using dried grass, small twigs, leaves, moss, pine needles, plant fluff (cattail, cottonwood), bark strips and feathers. Please bring any of these materials if you are able.

The club said it would love to meet some new folks interested in gardening and related topics. If interested in attending, call Donna at 860-267-2853 to register. The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of CT and National Garden Clubs.



**Eric VanOstrand**  
MANAGING PARTNER  
**860-913-4563**  
[eric.vanostrand@protonmail.com](mailto:eric.vanostrand@protonmail.com)  
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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. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Jan. 19, due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**Adult Programs: 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.

**Book Club:** Wednesday, Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m. Come together to discuss the monthly selection with other avid readers. This month's book is *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon.

**Leaf & Lit: A Silent Book Club:** Tuesday, Jan. 27, 6:00 p.m. Bring your current read to the library, get cozy, sip tea, and enjoy the quiet company of other readers.

**Tech Help:** Thursday, Jan. 29, 2-4 p.m. Basic technology help for phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers. No registration required; just bring your device with you.

**Teen Programs: Magic: the Gathering** (Grades 7-12): Saturday, Jan. 24, 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.

**Exam Prep & Plan:** Tuesday, Jan. 20, 3-8 p.m. East Hampton High School students are preparing for exams and the library will have snacks, supplies and self-care kits (prepared by the Teen Advisory Board) while supplies last. Sponsored by Teen Advisory Board.

**Teen Advisory Board: Grades 8-12:** Tuesday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m. Teens are invited to help plan programs, improve the Teen Space, and make a real impact.

**Snack Lab: Grades 6-12:** Wednesday, Jan. 21, 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.

**Children's Programs: LEGO at the Library: Grades K-6:** Tuesday, Feb. 3, 4:30-5:30 p.m. All materials provided.

**Take Your Child to the Library Day:** Saturday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Master awesome moves, conquer the superhero obstacle course, then come from noon-1 p.m. for a superhero meet and greet. Superhero costumes encouraged. There will also be superhero crafts, a scavenger hunt, raffle, book giveaways, and more. Sponsored by Friends of the East Hampton Public Library.

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## EHMS Volleyball Registration

East Hampton Middle School student/athletes in grades 7 or 8 who are interested in playing for the boys or girls volleyball teams can register at [arbitersports.com](http://arbitersports.com).

Athletes must have a physical within a 13-month period in order to participate. Registration is limited to the first 60 girls registered.

Deadline for registration is on Sunday, Jan. 25. For more information, call EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

## 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 country'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](mailto:mapionzio@comcast.net).

## Troop 57 Bottle Drive

Troop 57 is having its next bottle drive Saturday, Jan. 17. Bring clean cans, plastics and glass to the American Distilling Parking lot (31 East High St., Route 66) from 9 a.m. to noon.

All redeemable containers are accepted; the only exception is milk containers. If you have any questions, contact Annette Kowalczyk at 860-267-2962.

## Valentine's Day Cordon Bleu Dinner

The Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, located at 52 Middle Haddam Rd., will sponsor a takeout dinner Saturday, Feb. 14, from 4-5 p.m.

The church is selling cordon bleu, baked potato, vegetable, roll, and chocolate cherry cake. Price is \$14 per dinner.

Please call or text Geri at 860-682-2067 to reserve your dinners. Please leave your name, phone number and dinner order. Reservations will be confirmed with a call back by Wednesday, Feb. 11

## Bingo at VFW Post

All are invited to bingo every Thursday at VFW Cobra Post 5095, located at 20 North Maple St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Early Bird Bonanza will be at 6:20 p.m., with regular game play starting at 6:30 p.m. There will be a progressive jackpot and cash prizes.

The Auxiliary Café will be open before games and during intermission, offering hot snacks.

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# Help Steer the Future of East Hampton

By Anne Lilburn

East Hampton is working to update its Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and the process of community involvement is underway, with community information sessions planned and an upcoming community survey on its way in the near future.

The POCD is a planning document that every municipality in Connecticut is required to develop by the state every 10 years. It is a “a statement of policies, goals and standards for the physical and economic development of the municipality,” according to the state law, and serves as a blueprint for planning decisions. The East Hampton town website describes it as “a roadmap that will guide local growth, land use, infrastructure, and environmental preservation for the next decade.”

According to a POCD Steering Committee document submitted to the Town Council, the

POCD is required to address “land use, housing, economic development, transportation, natural resources, infrastructure, and community facilities, and to base that plan on meaningful public input.”

The steering committee is planning on holding several community sessions to both inform the public and allow discussion and input around various topics. The community sessions will emphasize community input and are an opportunity for residents to voice their concerns. The first of these sessions concerns economic development and will be held Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 5:30 p.m., in the town hall and via Zoom, while a later session on housing will be held on Thursday, Jan. 29.

In an email, Town Council member and POCD Steering Committee member Karen Wanat, a Democrat, emphasized that economic

development, which will be discussed at the first session, was important to all residents, adding that it directly affected residential taxes, while also making a difference to residents in terms of what job opportunities the community has and what businesses choose to operate in town.

“Thoughtful, appropriate commercial development helps broaden the tax base,” she wrote, “which can reduce reliance on residential taxes while supporting the services residents depend on.”

The Steering Committee has also prepared a community survey to allow residents to communicate their priorities, concerns and hopes. Town Planner Juliet Hodge told the town council at their most recent meeting that the survey will be available both online and on paper in public

places or by request. It should take 15 minutes or so to complete, but residents also have the option answer open-ended questions on the survey, which may add time. The results will then be summarized and presented at an eventual “visioning session,” to be held in the spring.

Wanat said she encouraged residents to attend in order to make their voices heard.

“The POCD is only effective if it reflects the priorities of the people who live here,” she wrote. “That requires residents to show up, listen, ask questions and share perspectives. Whether you own a business, work locally, are concerned about taxes, or simply care about East Hampton’s long-term future, your voice matters in this conversation.”

## 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. Communion will be served this Sunday. Refreshments are served after the service.

**Children’s Ministry:** Children’s Ministry, for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, is held in Fellowship Hall during worship. The theme is “Friends with God” and is taught through Bible stories where the characters are

friends with God. A toddler nursery is also available. All are welcome.

**Vocal Choir:** Rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. New members are always welcome.

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

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

## Taxes Due Jan. 1

The second installment of real estate, personal property, motor vehicle taxes over \$500, and supplemental motor vehicle taxes on the Grand List of Oct. 1, 2024 is due and payable on Jan. 1. Payments made or USPS-postmarked by Feb. 2 will be considered on time.

Real estate and personal property taxes are billed at 39.71 mills; motor vehicle and supplemental motor vehicle taxes are billed at the state-capped rate of 32.46 mills. Supplemental motor vehicle bills were mailed last month.

Late payments accrue 1.5% interest per month (18% annually) with a \$2 minimum, as required by state law. A \$20 returned-check fee

applies. Failure to receive a bill does not exempt taxpayers from payment or interest.

Checks should be made payable to Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to: Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Payments may also be made online at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov).

If dropping off in person, hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Email [taxcollector@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:taxcollector@easthamptonct.gov) with any questions or concerns.

## 2026 Old Home Days Logo Contest

Old Home Days will return this summer, and organizers are kicking off the countdown with a logo contest!

This year’s Old Home Days theme honors East Hampton’s local history and the 250th anniversary of America’s founding. The theme is: “Bells, Boats and Birth of a Nation.”

Designs must reflect the theme, include the classic Old Home Days icon/logo, and be submitted in one-color digital format (perfect for

shirts, signage, and promotional materials).

The winning artist will receive a \$100 gift card to the East Hampton business of their choice and will be recognized as the official 2026 logo designer.

Deadline to submit: Feb. 1. For more details and to submit your entry, visit [cgalink.com/ohdlogo](http://cgalink.com/ohdlogo).

For questions, email Carl Guild at [carl-guild@gmail.com](mailto:carl-guild@gmail.com).

## Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

The Friends of the East Hampton Public Library will host a Jigsaw Puzzle Competition Friday, Jan. 23, in the East Hampton Public Library Community Room, located at 105 Main St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and competition starts at 7 p.m.

Registration is required; only one registration per team please. Teams should be made up of 2-4 players, and the fee is \$10 per player. En-

try fees can be paid in cash or by check at the library’s front desk, or via PayPal or Venmo. All proceeds support the Friends of the Library Scholarship Fund, awarded annually to local students.

Register online at [www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org](http://www.EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org). Feel free to bring your own snacks to enjoy while you puzzle. Prizes will be awarded.

## Senior Center Upcoming Trips

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., is offering the following coach trips with Friendship Tours. Advance registration is required. For more information or to register, stop by the center or contact the center at 860-267-4426 or [seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov).

**Irish Celebration with Andy Cooney:** Tuesday, 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 and special guest comedian George Casey and the Guinness Irish Band and Emerald Fire Irish Dance. Choice of scrod or corned beef. Cost is \$185.

**Fairytale Lunch at Pickity Place, Mason, N.H.:** Thursday, May 7. Visit this 1786 cottage

for lunch followed by time to stroll the grounds and shop, explore the herb shop, gardens and greenhouse. Also, visit the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, N.H., for a guided tour. Explore the sanctuary, sacred spaces, monuments and burial grounds built as a memorial to those who have fallen in service to the nation. Cost is \$167.

**On the Hunt, Moose & Gems, Bethel, Maine:** May 27-29. Spend two nights at Sunday River Resort, and visit Maine Mineral and Gem Museum, Moose Safari, Conway Scenic Railway. Cost is \$769 double/triple occupancy.

**Haddam Neck in Pictures**

There will be a “Haddam Neck in Pictures” photo exhibit and talk with Elizabeth Hart Malloy, director of the Thankful Arnold House/Haddam Historical Society, on Sunday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m., at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Road, Haddam Neck.

## President’s List

East Hampton residents Jessica Grant and Jamie Naughton made the fall 2025 President’s List at Southern New Hampshire University.

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**Teen Open Stage...** Teens in grades seven and up are invited to Epoch Arts, 27 Skinner St., for its next Teen Open Stage Friday, Jan. 23, from 7-9 p.m. Come share your talent on stage, be it art, poetry, dance, music, improv, spoken word, or anything that inspires you. If you don't want to share, you're welcome to come and watch. There will be free food and drinks and art supplies. Admission is \$10. Pictured is Madi Stojak reciting an original poem at the last Open Stage.

Police News

1/3: After an investigation into a two-car motor vehicle accident on West High Street in which one of the drivers fled the scene, Victoriano Diaz, 40, of Cromwell, was issued a summons for evading responsibility and unsafe passing, East Hampton Police said.

1/5: Melissa Laribee, 33, of East Hampton, was issued a summons for criminal lockout, police said.

1/7: Zachary Russenberger, 30, of Colchester, was arrested and charged with violation of a restraining order and violation of a protective order, police said.

1/9: Matthew Maffuci, 40, of East Harford, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, operating an

unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

1/10: Wade Vogel, 33, of Southington, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and failure to maintain lane, police said.

1/10: Joseph Kwasnick, 47, of East Hampton, was issued a summons for speeding, police said.

1/10: Amy Porter, 50, of Hebron was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

From Jan. 5-11, officers responded to 17 medical calls, one motor vehicle crash and six alarms, police said, and made 19 traffic stops.

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.

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](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH) or [www.bethlehemeh.org](http://www.bethlehemeh.org).

Lions Collecting Silverware, Rolling Suitcases

The East Hampton Lions work very closely with the local food bank and the Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown, along with St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Lions have been asked to collect silverware and rolling suitcases.

Many of you may ask – what do they want with silverware and rolling suitcases?

Every day, meals are served in the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen. Plastic utensils are too expensive so the workers use silverware. The homeless are known to “borrow” the silverware, the Lions said, so kitchen staff frequently run low.

As for the rolling suitcases: Many of the clients at Amazing Grace walk to the food bank – and many are elderly and unable to carry their food to their homes, especially if they are given

milk, five pounds of potatoes, and other produce. The food pantry does have a few shopping carts that it lends out, but certainly not enough, the Lions said. Also, the items in the shopping cart are visible to all as they walk sometimes four or five blocks to their home, which the Lions said is not safe. Rolling suitcases feature multiple compartments, the contents are not visible, and they're easier to roll than shopping carts. The homeless may also store their belongings in them. Although they prefer not to have extra-large suitcases, since the main purpose of these suitcases is to transport their food.

For the next two weeks there will be a bin at Ace Hardware to drop off both your silverware and suitcases that you would like to donate.

If you have any questions, call Lion Mary Krogh at 860-977-5760.

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](http://myactivecenter.com) or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or [seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov](mailto: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](http://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.

**Holiday Closing:** The center will be closed Monday, Jan. 19, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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

**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.

**Community Care Connection Program:** Tuesdays from 2 to 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.

**Lunch and Learn:** Wednesday, Jan. 21, noon. This will be a discussion on how mental health changes as you get older. Learn the resources available, how to ask for help, and how to take better care of your mental health. Facilitated by Marlborough Healthcare. Free lunch provided.

**Tap Dance Returns!:** Thursdays at 11 a.m. Come dance with instructor Alicia Carrier. Cost is \$3 per class.

**Art with Karen:** Sunday, Jan. 25, 2 p.m. Create something beautiful with other art lovers. Cost is \$5 for supplies.

**Need Help Shopping?:** Do you or a loved one need assistance with grocery shopping? The East Hampton Senior Center has volunteers ready to help. Each week staff will consult with you on a shopping list and a volunteer will do the shopping and deliver it to your home. They'll even help put it away. All volunteers are vetted through the Town of East Hampton. Call 860-267-4426 to sign up.

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Ukrainian Egg-Decorating Workshop

The Marlborough Arts Center will offer a Ukranian Egg Decorating Workshop on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m.-12:30 pm., at the center, 231 N. Main St.

The instructor, Sharon Leonard from Newington, has been making hand written eggs for over 40 years. She was inspired by her Ukranian grandmother as a child and started perfecting the art form herself when in college. She has taught this amazing folk art to Girl Scouts, and privately at homes, libraries, and churches.

All supplies will be provided. This includes the stylist(kista), beeswax, candle, and hollow eggs and dyes. Everyone will be able to take

home a pysanki or decorated egg they have made. For those who want to do more after the workshop, Leonard will tell you where you can get supplies.

For more information and to register, go to [www.marlborougharts.org](http://www.marlborougharts.org). Online registration is preferred but mail in is also possible. The class cost is \$40.

This workshop is for ages 8 and above, but 8- to 12-year-olds should come with an adult.

For more information, call 860-467-6353.

RTC to Host Bingo

The Marlborough Republican Town Committee will host an evening of bingo Saturday, Jan. 24, at the American Legion, 128 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough. Doors open at 4 p.m. and bingo starts at 4:30 p.m.

There will be cash and gift prizes/Team Cup Raffles. Refreshments, snacks and pizza will be available. The RTC will also be collecting pet food and treats for the local animal shelter/rescue. Bring a can or bag!

Advance purchase: \$20 (includes six cards; more available for purchase). Cost is \$25 at the door.

Call or text Zina Planeta at 860-798-6038 to reserve your spots.

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# Marlborough Wrestler Dubbed ‘Most Outstanding’

By Josh Howard

Jackson Heslin of Marlborough was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the 2026 Bissell Invitational on Jan. 10.

Competing at Hill School in Pennsylvania, Heslin beat the top ranked wrestler in his division and then won a dramatic championship match to take home the title in the 126 lbs. weight class.

“I felt prepared,” Heslin said about his first time participating at the annual invite. “I was confident and just excited to go out and wrestle.”

A week earlier, he competed at the Irvin S. Naylor New Year Duals in Maryland and, despite going undefeated and winning his bracket, Heslin was underwhelmed by his performance.

“I didn’t wrestle how I wanted to. The results were good, but it wasn’t the way I wanted to compete,” he explained. “So, this last week I went really hard in training, basically to exhaustion every day, and it made the difference.”

At the Bissell Invite, Heslin took down a trio of opponents, including the country’s No. 1 prep ranked wrestler in his weight class when he defeated Pennsylvania’s Jack Baran (Germantown Academy) in the semifinals round.

Heslin then outlasted Ohio’s Johnny Green (New York Military Academy) in triple overtime to secure the championship, scoring an escape in the third extra session to end the grueling title bout.

He noted that he was “super exhausted” following the final match, crediting his training both physically and mentally for his ability to outlast his opponent.

“When you get tired, you can switch your brain off and keep going for a little while until it is a physical thing,” said Heslin, who added he enjoys the challenge. “I haven’t had one of those matches in a long time -- it was really fun to compete.”

Heslin compared the sport to a “chess match,” saying he has learned when to make his moves during matches against elite competition, adding, “You have to pick and choose the shots you take to save your energy.”

The invite wins and honors are the latest in a long line of accomplishments for Heslin, who has gone from small-town wrestler to now making a name for himself on the national level.

## Parks and Rec. Programs

Marlborough Parks & Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, visit [www.marlbroughct.gov](http://www.marlbroughct.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.

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

**Kids & Family Sewing (Pet Snuffle):** Ages 7

As a freshman wrestler at Xavier High School in 2022, Heslin won his first state championships, capturing the State Open title in the 120 lbs. division. His sister, Emma Heslin (now wrestling at Northern Michigan), also won the state championship that year as the brother-sister duo became the first siblings to win State Open titles on the same day.

Following his success in Middletown, Heslin transferred to Green Farms Academy (GFA) in Westport and reclassified to the Class of 2026.

Now a senior at GFA, Heslin seeks a third straight individual regional championship as the Dragons of Westport are aiming for a fifth straight New England Prep School title.

Green Farm’s wrestling head coach Jack Conroy called Heslin “very fun to watch,” praising his growth over the last couple of years.

“He is enjoying the process more,” Conroy added. “As he is getting older, I think he is falling more in love with how wrestling fits into his life.”

Wrestling has now become a way of life for Heslin, who competed and finished as the runner-up in his weight class at the USA Wrestling Nationals in North Dakota during July of 2024.

In 2025, he was invited to join Team USA’s inaugural U20 Greco-Roman National Team, where he trained with the nation’s top grapplers in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“It was a cool experience,” stated Heslin. “I became friends with multiple time NCAA champions and people I grew up watching.”

Following his final high school season, Heslin will begin preparations for a return to Pennsylvania for college wrestling where he will be joining a Bison program at Bucknell University.

The Bison are a Division I wrestling team that competes in the Patriot League and are coached by Dan Wirmsberger, who has led the program for over two decades.

“It just checked all my boxes,” Heslin said of the private school in Lewisburg, Pa. “The coaches are similar to the coaches I have now and the community at Bucknell is very welcoming. It felt like home a little bit”

But before college, the Marlborough wrestling prodigy said he has some unfinished business on the high school mats where he is aiming for a national prep championship later this year.

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.

**Adult Programs: 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. Session runs until the end of April.



Marlborough’s Jackson Heslin was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler and defeated the top rank wrestler in his weight class at the Bissell Invitational in Pennsylvania last week.

## Taxes Due

The second installment of taxes for the Oct. 1, 2024 Grand List for Real Estate, Motor Vehicles and Personal Property are due and payable on Jan. 1, 2026, and will be delinquent on Feb. 2, 2026. Also due are the Motor Vehicle supplemental taxes for the Grand List of Oct. 1, 2024. Supplemental bills were mailed in December 2025.

Failure to pay on time will be subject to interest of one and one-half percent per month reverting to the due date or 18% per year. If you do not receive a bill, please check online at [www.marlbroughct.gov](http://www.marlbroughct.gov), bill look up (online tax payments), or contact the Tax Office

at 860-295-6205.

Tax payments can be mailed to Tax Collector, Town of Marlborough, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447; checks can be placed (no cash) in the drop box outside Town Hall; or payments can be made in person at Town Hall via cash or check only. (Credit card payments cannot be accepted in person.)

You may also pay online at [www.marlbroughct.gov](http://www.marlbroughct.gov) with Mastercard, Visa or ACH. Tax Collector hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

## Donations Sought for Tag Sale

Marlborough Arts Center is accepting donations for its Winter Tag Sale, which will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St. Snow date: Saturday, Feb. 14.

People are welcome to drop off past treasures, tools, trinkets, working household goods, etc. Please no books, TVs or clothes. Items may be left at the lower level next to the door.

Donations can be dropped off Saturdays, Jan.

17, 24, and 31, from 10-11:30 a.m., and Tuesdays: Jan. 13, 20, 27 and Feb. 3, from 6-7:30 p.m.

Donations to the tag sale will raise funds to support the Marlborough Arts Center, a non-profit regional center for the fine arts, performing arts, and fine crafts, and completely organized by volunteers.

For more information, email [info@marlbrougharts.org](mailto:info@marlbrougharts.org) or call 860-467-6353 and leave a message.

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RE1-16-26



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### Hierax Quartet Performing at Arts Center

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., will host the Hierax Quartet for the 4th Friday @ the Arts Café series on Friday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m.

The Hierax Quartet is a saxophone quartet formed in fall 2024, composed of graduate students (Prescott Brown, Ben Levesque, Ashtyn Wolph, and Evan Blitzer) from The Hartt School of Music in Hartford, under the direction of Professor Carrie Koffman.

The quartet said it is dedicated to redefining the role of the saxophone in the chamber music world. The group plans to play a collection of classical, contemporary, and popular songs.

Admission to this program is subsidized by a grant from the Marlborough Greater Together Community Fund of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. BYOW and nibbles to dine on. Other non-alcoholic beverages are available. There is ample parking, and the Marlborough Arts Center is fully accessible.

For more information, visit [www.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org), email [info@marlbrougharts.org](mailto:info@marlbrougharts.org) or call the center at 860-467-6353.

Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit regional center for the arts.

### Kindergarten Registration

Marlborough Elementary School will accept registration packets for kindergarten students for the 2026-27 school year on Tuesday, Feb. 3 (9-11 a.m., 1-2 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.) and Wednesday, Feb. 4 (9-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.). All completed kindergarten packets should be dropped off at the school's main office located at 25 School Drive.

Children are eligible for kindergarten if they will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2026. Registration packets have been sent home to prospective kindergarteners. If you have an eligible child and have not received a registration packet, please contact the school office at 860-295-6220.

If you receive a registration packet and do not plan to enroll your child, please notify the school as soon as possible.

### 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](mailto:stjohnfisher30@yahoo.com). The church website is [www.stjfishchurch.org](http://www.stjfishchurch.org).

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

**Faith Formation Programs:** Classes are underway for this season. 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.stjfishchurch.org](http://www.stjfishchurch.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

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Answers on page 21

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CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Neil Manausa

#### ACROSS

1 Confusion of tongues  
6 Official records  
10 Spur  
14 Address a crowd  
15 One not given to procrastination  
16 Dominique's dream  
17 Secret work  
19 Notion  
20 \_\_\_\_ the line  
21 Pane anagram  
22 Donny or Marie  
24 Shut in  
25 To one side  
26 A Salinger  
29 Sirens  
33 Immigrant island  
34 Water bird  
35 Auricular  
36 Grad  
37 Salmon, in Lincoln's cabinet  
38 Glass, in Segovia  
39 "Kiss Me \_\_\_\_"  
40 Sentry's stop  
41 Write anew  
42 Loudmouths?  
44 Composed  
45 "Exodus" author

#### DOWN

1 Stint or stretch  
2 Tuscany river  
3 Ordered  
4 Vacation time, in Vichy  
5 "My Fair Lady" lyricist and kin  
6 Take up  
7 Sheltered bay  
8 Three-way joint  
9 Appropriate  
10 Principal agents  
11 Decorate anew  
12 Bakery need  
13 Grateful rock group

18 Sugar or candy  
23 Sun. speech  
24 2, 3, 5 or 7, e.g.  
25 "\_\_\_\_ of golden daffodils"  
26 Pikes' and others  
27 \_\_\_\_ ease: nervous  
28 Remove material with a solvent  
29 Rake over the \_\_\_\_  
30 Day's military march  
31 Above the horizon  
32 Teacake  
34 Blackens  
37 Church singer  
41 Atomic pile  
43 Uno e due = \_\_\_\_  
44 Backtalk  
46 Billiard shot  
47 Theda, the vamp  
48 River to the Caspian  
49 Dancer/spy \_\_\_\_ Hari  
50 Retail complex  
51 Natural linen color  
52 Makes last, with out  
53 Existence: L.  
56 Biological quantifying tech.  
57 Time past

### 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@marlbroughct.gov](mailto:socialservices@marlbroughct.gov).

**Senior Center Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the senior center will be closed Monday, Jan. 19.

**Note:** As of Jan. 1, all events not regularly scheduled will require a RSVP.

**Events: Shopping Trips:** On the first Monday of the month, the bus will go to North Windham Walmart. Depart the senior center at 1:30 p.m. and return at 4 p.m. You will have 90 minutes to shop. Call to reserve.

**Learn Mahjongg:** In collaboration with East Hampton Senior Center. Lessons are Thursdays through Feb. 26, in East Hampton. Fee is \$5. Transportation provided.

**Grief Lecture:** The center welcomes back Dr. Wendy Hurwitz Friday, Jan. 23 from 11 a.m.-noon for a lecture on grief.

**Arbors 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.

**AARP Tax Prep:** Open to all Marlborough residents. Appointments on 02/12, 02/26, 03/12, 03/26. Call for appointment.

**Encore Club:** Feb. 11, noon-1:30 p.m. Join for Music by Bill Naughton Jr and light refreshments. Reminisce over the classic love songs

**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.marlbroughct.gov](http://www.marlbroughct.gov) for the complete transportation policy.

**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:** Mondays, 2-3:30 p.m., and Fridays, 1-3:30 p.m.; **Chair Massage:** Free 15-minute massages are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Appointment required.

**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: Feb. 2, March 2.

**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.

**Birthday Club:** Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1-2 p.m., with cake. Open to all friends and family. It does not have to be your birthday month to celebrate. However, if it is please RSVP.

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

**Parkinson's Exercise:** Visit [www.beatpdtoday.com/class-schedule](http://www.beatpdtoday.com/class-schedule) or call 860-918-9594 to register and for more information.

**Mahjong:** Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m., at Fire Station No. 2, 200 West Rd., and the second Friday of every month from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Marlborough Bakery, 8 Independence Drive.

**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.

**Energy Assistance and Eversource Discounts:** Income-based. Contact the center for an appointment. For energy assistance, the application deadline is May 29.

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### Discovery Zone learning Center



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**152 Hebron Rd. Marlborough**  
**860-295-8003**

**2 Orlando Dr. Columbia**  
**860-228-8885**

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# School Board Begins Budget Talks

**By Toriana Williams**  
The Hebron Board of Education opened its Jan. 8 meeting with a detailed presentation to board members of the district’s preliminary 2026-27 budget proposal, launching what administrators repeatedly described as the earliest and most transparent stage of a months-long budget process.

The initial proposal includes restructuring concepts, staffing changes and projected cost increases driven largely by special education expenses, health insurance and enrollment needs.

Last week’s meeting was just a preliminary look; a full budget presentation to the public – including the latest proposed dollar amounts – was held Thursday, after press time.

Superintendent of Schools Thomas Baird explained that the draft budget was distributed earlier than in prior years due to a new state requirement mandating that school budgets be posted online at least two days before formal presentation. He said the district also wanted the community to see potential restructuring ideas at the outset, rather than later in the process.

“We ... wanted to be very transparent and upfront right from the very beginning that these concepts were being discussed,” Baird said.

Administrators outlined that the proposal continued the district’s advancement plan while addressing enrollment trends, special education needs, academic supports, mental health services, technology and long-term facility maintenance. One of the primary capital priorities identified was the replacement of the fire panel at Hebron Elementary School, which Baird said is beyond its life expectancy and has experienced repeated sensor failures. He confirmed the request would be included in the town’s capital budget.

**Budget Growth, Special Education Pressures**

A recurring theme throughout the presentation was the growing cost of special education

paired with declining reimbursement from state and federal sources. Baird told the board that these pressures are not unique to Hebron and are affecting districts statewide.

“We see a huge decrease in federal funding for special ed,” Baird said, adding that the burden of education funding in Connecticut has “shifted significantly” from the state to the town, particularly in special education.

The superintendent presented comparative data showing early projected budget increases across districts, noting that many superintendents were initially facing double-digit increases before attempting to reduce them. At the time of the meeting, Hebron’s working figure was approximately 5.9%, slightly above the statewide median of 5.54%, though Baird emphasized that the number remained fluid.

He also explained how the district has historically budgeted conservatively by anticipating staff vacancies rather than fully staffing every position on paper.

“We’ve budgeted for less than we anticipate having, knowing that we will have some vacancies,” Baird called it a “pretty accurate way to budget,” and noted that apparent reductions do not necessarily reflect program cuts.

**Staffing Adjustments, Cost Estimates**

Several staffing items were identified as high-impact considerations. Administrators stated that based on updated enrollment projections, the district may need to add two paraeducators to support students with disabilities. The total estimated cost for those positions, including salary and benefits, was approximately \$115,000.

Baird outlined how the proposed budget accounts for anticipated enrollment growth and staffing adjustments, noting it is built for 723 students, an increase of 24 over current enrollment, with most of the growth expected in kindergarten. While one additional kindergarten section was proposed, the budget also anticipat-

ed reducing one section each in second, third and sixth grades, with varying levels of confidence about those reductions.

“We feel comfortable with some of those and less comfortable in others,” shared Baird.

The plan maintained current special education staffing levels to address increasing student needs but proposed reductions in intervention services due to loss of grant funding.

Several staffing areas remain under development, including a proposed restructuring of music education – general music, band and chorus – into a single teaching position, with the possibility of restoring part of a position later to ensure coverage across all grades. Similar restructuring concepts were explored for the Challenge & Enrichment program.

Baird emphasized that many of the proposals were preliminary and intentionally lack detailed implementation plans, as staff input and community feedback are still being gathered. Proposed additions included a full-time speech-language pathology assistant to support increasing speech needs among younger students. Other proposed reductions included one school psychologist, a portion of social worker support, academic intervention staffing, most teacher leadership stipends and some student enrichment stipends, such as those for jazz-band and the music, which Baird described as low-cost items that could be restored later.

**‘These Cuts Will Hurt Our Kids’**

Public comment lasted about an hour and focused overwhelmingly on proposed reductions affecting music education, the Challenge & Enrichment program and school psychological services. A total of 16 speakers addressed the board, including parents, students, educators and community members.

Andrey Stolyarov described the potential elimination of a music teaching position as harmful to access and equity.

“One person cannot do the same level of music education as two people can,” Stolyarov said. “Especially if enrollment is projected to go up.

... These cuts will hurt our kids.”

Several parents spoke about the impact of the Challenge & Enrichment program on student engagement and confidence.

Robin Bansal described her child’s experience before and after entering the program, saying school for her son had become “a painful boring,” but now due to the Challenge & Enrichment program, “[he] is thriving.”

She argued that a teacher with 17 other students could not efficiently meet the needs of students who require education better suited to them.

Students also addressed the board, with some describing long-term benefits from participation in enrichment and music programs at earlier grade levels.

Concerns were also raised about the proposed reduction from four school psychologists to three following the expiration of grant funding. Juliana Veek warned that redistributing students among fewer psychologists could disrupt established relationships and limit access to timely support. “A school psychologist plays a role that no other staff member can replace,” she said.

**Preliminary Revisions, Next Steps**

Following the presentation and public comment, administrators announced several preliminary changes to the working draft budget. These included restoring one music position, restoring one Challenge & Enrichment/STEAM teacher, adding a sixth-grade classroom teacher, returning an academic interventionist to full-time status and adding two paraeducators.

“These are priority areas for now,” Baird said, and emphasized that the administrative team would continue to review other areas and actively pursue grant opportunities.

Board Chair Heather Petit announced that an additional budget meeting would be scheduled to continue review, underscoring that the January presentation marked the beginning of deliberations.

“This is the first night,” Petit said. “There’s weeks to go. Months to go.”

## Maple Festival Needs Your Help

For 35 or 36 – depending on who you talk to – years, Hebron has celebrated the agricultural wonder of maple sugaring. The Town Center Project (TTCP) is looking for folks to help with this year’s Maple Harvest Festival – and invite everyone to a planning meeting this Saturday!

What once stared as a small, one sugar house fundraiser for the local Douglas Library has turned into a thoughtfully planned, activity packed weekend that brings over 20,000 people to the center of Hebron and its surrounding sugar houses, donkey museum, art galleries and so much more.

All are invited Saturday, Jan. 17, at 10 a.m.,

to the community room of Douglas Library, 22 Main St., for a community-wide Maple Festival Meeting. TTCP is looking for community members to jump in, step up and take the lead on a number of important roles. The organization is also looking for day-of volunteers.

The Town Center Project is an all-volunteer-driven nonprofit organization devoted to “re-inventing the heart of Hebron.” To donate, volunteer or learn more about our events please visit our website at [thetowncenterproject.org](http://thetowncenterproject.org) and follow us on facebook [facebook.com/town-centerprojectinc](https://www.facebook.com/town-centerprojectinc).

## 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/clch-hebron/live](https://www.facebook.com/clch-hebron/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](http://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.

## The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

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

**Kingdom Women: Women’s Bible Study:** The study will be taking a break for January. It will resume on Feb. 5.

**Virtual Prayer Night:** Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., via Zoom. Contact the church office or website for

a link and meeting ID. There will be no Virtual Prayer Night on Jan. 20.

**Stewardship Sunday:** Sunday, Jan. 18; snow date: Jan. 25. RSVP by signing up on the church website.

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

**TWC Upward Running Club:** This 12-week class, Jan. 24 - Apr. 11, is designed to improve faith, fitness and fellowship within the community through a walking and/or running program custom made for your fitness level. Finish off the program by completing a 5k. Download the app, or contact the church office for more details. Training sessions meeting at the church on Saturdays from 8–9 a.m.

**Youth Ministry: YG Winter Retreat:** Friday, Feb. 13, 3 p.m. through Sunday, Feb. 15, at 5 p.m., in New Hampshire. Contact the church for details.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

#### TOWN OF HEBRON SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The electors and voters of the Town of Hebron are hereby given notice and warned that a Special Town Meeting will be convened on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Douglas Library, 22 Main Street, Hebron, Connecticut, to consider and act upon the following: Be it Resolved pursuant to Section 303 C of the Hebron Town Charter the Town of Hebron approve the purchase from Stephanie Marie Dinnen and Vanessa Lyn Simiola of property which is approximately 13.25 acres of land known as Lot 29-6 on Hope Valley Road, Hebron, Connecticut and authorize Andrew J. Tierney, Town Manager, to enter into a purchase agreement and to take action necessary to acquire that land described as follows:

**All that certain piece or parcel of land with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto situated in the Town of Hebron, County of Tolland and State of Connecticut, shown on a map entitled: "PROPERTY OF EDITH S. SMITH, HOPE VALLEY ROAD, HEBRON, CONNECTICUT PREPARED FOR: MARK SIMIOLA, PREPARED BY: CRISCUOLO ENGINEERING, 248 BRANFORD ROAD, NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06471 481-8749 SCALE: 1" = 40' DATE: 3-21-88 JOB NO. 4688 SHEET 1 OF 1 DRAWN BY: E W F CHECKED BY: K A S", which map is on file or to be filed in the Hebron Town Clerk's office. Said parcel is more particularly described as follows:**

Commencing at a point marked by a concrete monument on the westerly street line of Hope Valley Road, which monument marks the northerly bound of the subject premises;

thence running N29° 01' 17" W, 134.33 feet;

thence running N27° 17' 18" W, 99.33 feet;

thence running N10° 24' 47" W, 104.24 feet;

thence running N53° 25' 29" W, 29.43 feet;

thence running N59° 40' 14" W, 92.12 feet;

thence running N84° 39' 18" W, 66.53 feet;

thence turning and running S84° 17' 49" W, 174.52 feet;

thence running S83° 00' 53" W, 13.09 feet;

thence running S82° 13' 39" W, 72.51 feet;

thence running S55° 00' 51" W, 15.48 feet;

thence running S35° 36' 57" W, 27.90 feet;

thence running S00° 43' 47" E, 57.32 feet;

thence running S03° 14' 16" E, 151.66 feet;

thence running S04° 57' 38" E, 149.29 feet;

thence running S04° 18' 16" E, 111.18 feet;

thence running S02° 28' 36" E, 88.94 feet;

thence running S06° 45' 51" W, 166.11 feet;

thence running S01° 06' 37" E, 75.69 feet;

thence running S08° 01' 46" E, 43.11 feet;

thence running S14° 20' 56" E, 153.06 feet;

thence running S19° 52' 53" E, 73.57 feet;

thence running S40° 59' 10" E, 16.26 feet;

thence turning and running N83° 32' 47" E, 167.31 feet;

thence running S85° 52' 54" E, 32.07 feet;

thence running N89° 04' 57" E, 96.61 feet;

thence running N85° 47' 51" E, 46.58 feet;

thence running again N85° 47' 51" E, an additional 145.00 feet to the center line of the Salmon River; thence turning and running in a generally northerly and westerly direction along the center line of the Salmon River as shown on said map, to a point;

thence turning and running N28° 19' 41" W, 155.00 feet, more or less to a concrete monument; thence turning and running N57° 22' 51" E, 93.35 feet, to the point and place of beginning.

For a purchase price in the total amount of \$210,000; with funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance, as recommended and approved by the Hebron Town Council and Hebron Board of Finance.

Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 18th day of December, 2025.

Hebron Town Council  
Tiffany V. Thiele, Chair  
Jan Lawrence, Vice Chair  
Keith Petit  
Claudia Riley  
Sean Fitzgerald

2TB 1/9, 1/16



Obituaries

Marlborough

David D Rulli

David Rulli of California, formerly of Connecticut, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 59. David is the son of Donald and Dolores Rulli of Naples, Fla. David loved fishing on the family-owned island in Maine. David earned a BA in business from CCSU. He worked as a senior account insurance agent and as a car salesman. He is survived by his ex-wife Diane Rulli of Marlborough; son Joseph and his wife Kathryn, and daughter Melody of North Carolina; daughters Allison and Marybeth, both of Marlborough; his sisters Debbie (Wes) of California, Donna (James) of Florida, Dawn (Jeff) Galipo of Bristol, and Dale (James) Parent of Florida. He also leaves behind many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by sister Cheryl Ann Rulli. Services will be private for family members only.



Colchester

Sheila Mitchell

Sheila Mitchell (Klinsky) of Colchester, 85, passed away Saturday, Jan. 10, at Marlborough Medical Center. She was the cherished daughter of the late Jack and Belle Klinsky of Delray Beach, Fla., and was predeceased by her brother Stephen Klinsky of Endwell, New York. Sheila was the devoted wife of 55 years to Gerald Mitchell and a loving mother to her sons Scott Mitchell (Kate Doohan) of Maple Valley, Wash., and Brian Mitchell (Renee Allister) of Southington. She was a proud and adoring grandmother to Ty and Kylie Doohan-Mitchell of Maple Valley, Wash., and step-grandmother to Keegan and Maddie Allister of Southington. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Oct. 18, 1940, and graduated from Long Beach High School in 1958. Her first job was a bookkeeper at The Tailored Woman in Manhattan. She then worked at S&S in Colchester where she made many lifelong friends. Sheila volunteered as treasurer of the Colchester Baseball League and enjoyed attending all of her son's sporting events, never missing a game. After retirement, she enjoyed selling tickets at Bacon Academy's football and basketball games where she made many more friends. Sheila was a huge sports fan and loved watching the New York Yankees and the UConn women's basketball team. She was loved by everyone who knew her and will be missed by so many. Visitation will be held Friday, Jan. 16, from 10-11:30 a.m., followed by a memorial service, at Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester. In lieu of flowers, donations in Sheila's memory can be made to Bacon Academy Athletics. For online condolences, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).



East Hampton

Agnes Christina Lorenc

Agnes Christina "Chris" Lorenc, 84, of East Hampton, passed away Monday, Jan. 5, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Feb. 3, 1941, in South Kingstown, R.I., she was the daughter of the late Harold and Ruth (Hayes) Whiting. Chris was a retired psychiatric nurse having worked at CT Valley Hospital in Middletown for over 35 years and then for Capitol Region in Hartford as a visiting nurse. Chris was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton and was active in the East Hampton Senior Center. She was a past member of the Old Home Days and a former member of the Lions Club. She is survived by her daughter, Christina Bernard of East Hampton; her two grandsons, Cody and Dylan Bernard; and her great-granddaughter Bella Bernard. She was predeceased by her two brothers, John and Harold "Buddy" Whiting. A funeral liturgy was celebrated Thursday, Jan. 15, in St. John Paul II Parish of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in St. Patrick Cemetery. To Leave online condolences please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).



Portland

Philip R Olson

Philip R. Olson, 72, of Portland, also known to many as Uncle Phil, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Jan. 6, surrounded by his family. He was the son of the late Raymond P. Olson and Nancy E. (Gibbons) Olson of Portland. Philip was a lifelong resident of Portland and graduated from Portland High School in 1971. He received a college degree in business administration and accounting. A plumber by trade and a co-owner of Bald Hill Christmas Tree Farm until its closing in 2020. He was a long-time member of Portland Volunteer Fire Department Company No. 3 and the fire department's drill team. He eventually rose to the rank of deputy chief of the department, which was a great honor for him. He was a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church having served on the Church Council, Worship & Music, Property and Bell Committees. He also served as a greeter and most recently worked very hard on the 150th Anniversary Committee. Philip had a passion for history, loved old-time country music and John Wayne films. He enjoyed tinkering with projects and found tranquility mowing the fields on his property. The companionship of his Springer Spaniels brought him great joy. Later in life, he had a daily ritual of posting facts of today's date in history, weather updates and his poetry online. Philip cherished the memories he made with his family. He leaves behind his sister, Nancy Gandini and husband Jack, as well as two nephews, Joe (Allison) Gandini and Tim (Jordyn) Gandini; along with one great niece, three great nephews, many cousins and friends. Funeral services will be held Friday, Jan. 16, at 11 a.m., in the Zion Lutheran Church, 183 Williams St., Portland. Burial will be in Swedish

Cemetery, Portland. Family will receive friends on Friday morning at Zion Lutheran Church from 10 a.m. until time of service. In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations be made to Zion Lutheran Church. The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

Lebanon

Charles Haralson

Charles "Chuck" Haralson, of Lebanon, peacefully passed away Wednesday, Jan. 7, after a year-long battle with cancer, with his wife of 47 years, Diane, by his side. Born Feb. 28, 1947, in West Point, Ga., he was the son of the late Arthur "Harry" and Polly Haralson. Throughout his life, Chuck, being part of a Navy family, lived in many places—including California, Maryland, New Jersey, and Connecticut—where he built lasting friendships and raised his family. He enjoyed a long career in collections and banking and, even in retirement, remained actively involved in various small businesses. Chuck never stopped working, and he never stopped giving. He believed in supporting his community and was involved in several local organizations, including the Lebanon Lions Club and area farmers markets. Always willing to lend a hand, he was known for speaking his mind—always with the intent to help. Chuck lived a truly remarkable life and embraced it to the fullest. He loved classic cars and fine cigars, travel and good company, a Myers on the rocks with a twist of lime paired with a perfectly made crab cake, and sharing stories from his youth—always delivered with the humor and wit that made him unforgettable. He was admired for his tireless work ethic, generosity, and genuine care for others, but above all for his deep love of family. More than anything, Chuck will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, cherished uncle, and loyal friend. His legacy lives on through the countless lives he touched over the years. He wore many hats—both literally and figuratively—and his impact reaches far and wide. Chuck will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his wife, Diane, of Lebanon; his daughters and their families, Marisa and David Seng of Lebanon, Emily Haralson of Lebanon, and Jessica and Andrew Poluszejko of Pittsburgh, Pa.; his grandchildren, Vincent, Oliver, Amelia, Kash, and Kodi; as well as many extended family members and friends. While our hearts are broken by this loss, we are immensely proud of the man Chuck was and all that he accomplished in his 78 years. A celebration of life was held at the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester on Thursday, Jan. 15, from 4-6 p.m. A time to share memories began at 5:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Lebanon Lions Club. For online condolences or to share a story of Chuck, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).



East Hampton

Vincent J. Gervasi

Vincent J. Gervasi, 73, of East Hampton, husband of the late Julia Gervasi, passed away Sunday, Jan. 11, at Middlesex Hospital. Born July 30, 1952, in Meriden, he was the son of the late Patrick and Carmella (Zocco) Gervasi. Vincent proudly served his country in the Army and had worked as a supervisor for the Allegheny Ludlow Steel Company. He was a member of American Legion Post 95. In his retirement he enjoyed gardening and bringing joy to the community, playing multiple musical gigs. He is survived by his daughter, Kerri Wilson and her husband Paul of Higganum; his brother, Joseph Gervasi of Wallingford; two sisters, Patricia Damuck of New York, Maryann Ramos of South Carolina; his beloved granddaughter, Kaylee Wilson of Higganum; and multiple nieces and nephews. A committal service with military honors will be held Thursday, Jan. 22, at 10 a.m., in the State Veterans Cemetery on Bow Lane in Middletown. To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com)



Colchester

Andrew Martin Trusz

Andrew (Andy) Martin Trusz, 63, of West Columbia, S.C., (formerly of Colchester) passed away unexpectedly Monday, Dec. 1. Born Oct. 2, 1962, in New Brunswick, N.J., to the late Irma and Stanley Trusz, Andy lived a life marked by kindness, hard work, and a generous spirit. Andy was the proud owner of Beautiful Creations Landscape and Hardscape, where his passion for working outdoors and creating beautiful spaces touched the lives of many clients and friends. Before launching his own business, he spent many dedicated years with TruGreen, where he was known for his strong work ethic and willingness to help colleagues whenever needed. An avid lover of the outdoors, Andy enjoyed long walks, landscaping, and being active in nature. He cherished spending time outside – whether tending to gardens, walking and playing with his dogs when living in Colchester, or simply soaking in the beauty of the world around him. He had a warm, gentle soul and was always ready to offer help, a listening ear, or a kind word to anyone in need. Andy enjoyed cooking and hosting picnics at his house in Colchester, making wonderful meals and playing card games with friends and family. Even though he had lived in the south for many years, he still considered himself a "quiet old-school Connecticut Yankee." While in South Carolina Andy enjoyed spending time at church, attending Bible study, and volunteering at the local thrift shop. Andy's generosity, compassionate heart, and easygoing nature made him beloved by all who knew him. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, business associates, and the many people whose lives he touched. He is survived by five siblings, as well as his two children and a grandchild. A celebration of Andy's life will be held at a later date. In honor of his giving spirit, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to His House Min-



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Obituaries

istries, a local organization in West Columbia, S.C., dedicated to helping those in need. The main office and ministry are located at 765 Meeting St., West Columbia, SC 29169.

East Hampton

Steven R. Kastel

Steven R. Kastel (Stevie), 66, of East Hampton, passed away Monday, Jan. 5. He was the beloved husband of Sharon (Rocholl) Kastel, with whom he shared 37 wonderful years.

Steve was a proud father and father-in-law to Matthew (Chloe Sonnichsen), Morgan Garofalo (Marcus), and Ian (Jess Aleksiewicz); and “Pop-Pop” to his cherished grandchildren: Isla, Eli, Wren, Wyatt and Nora.

Born on Jan. 11, 1959, in Queens, N.Y., Steve was the son of the late Charles M. Kastel and Patricia (Lawler) Kastel, his loving mother of Clearwater, Fla. He is also survived by his sister Kathleen Sadocha of Howard Beach, N.Y., and her children (Robert and Eric Swain, and Lisa-Marie Hyde), and his sister Barbara Coyne of Clearwater, Fla., and her children (Hugh and Steven Coyne).

Steve served in the Army from 1976 to 1980. After being stationed in Germany he was honorably discharged in Texas where he lived for many years before moving to Connecticut in 1988. He immediately met his wife, Sharon, and together, they built a beautiful family and ran a successful concrete and masonry contracting business. Steve was very hardworking and loved what he did. The best days were when his two sons would be pouring concrete with him, and he beamed when Eli came to help.

Steve was devoted to his family, his work and he also had a passion for music. He loved all types of music but especially the blues. He was a talented drummer, playing in bands during his time in the Army, while living in Texas, and here at home. Stevie “Sticks” always had a blast playing with his fellow bandmates in The Hip Replacements.

Steve had so many great friends and a few that he considered brothers. He valued every single friendship and almost never met a stranger he didn’t want to engage in conversation. He is going to be missed every day.

Visitation will be held at the Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home, 34 Main Street in Centerbrook on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 9 a.m.-noon. The rendering of military honors will take place on the grounds of the funeral home at 11:30 a.m.

Memorial contributions in Steve’s name may be made to Tunnels to Towers Foundation at [www.t2t.org](http://www.t2t.org), or to Saint Jude Children’s Hospital Research Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).

To share a memory of Steve or send a condolence to his family please visit [www.rwwfh.com](http://www.rwwfh.com).



Portland

Beth MacFarlane

Beth MacFarlane was born Jan. 26, 1929, and on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, she found her way back into the arms of her loving husband, Robert, who passed away in December 2000.

Daughter Heather Shafer and granddaughter Chelsea (Beck) McRoberts provided comfort and held Beth’s hand while she completed her spiritual journey in the home built by Robert and Beth in 1949. Their loving reunion is cause for celebration for all eternity on both heaven and earth.

Affectionately referred to as ‘Blue Eyes’ by her husband, Beth provided a home filled with laughter, love and care for her children and grandchildren alike. As a devoted member of the Portland United Methodist Church, she made many lifelong friends and participated in all forms of church activity including dinners, bake sales, and services, for over seventy years. Adventurers in camping (in a tent!) at Lake Taghkanic in New York was a recurring event for almost 50 years that will be forever cherished and remembered by her children and grandchildren alike.

Beth is survived by her daughter Heather Shafer, ex-son-in-law Randy Beck, son Robert and his wife Rosaria.

Grandchildren that will forever miss their Gramma are Josh Beck and wife Lesli, Michael MacFarlane, Devon (Beck) Ericson and husband Clay and Chelsea (Beck) McRoberts.

Heartfelt appreciation and thanks goes to Ola of Home Helpers for the care she provided to our mom.



LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
IWWA

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Water-courses Agency will hold a Public Hearing at their meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday January 28, 2026 in the East Hampton Town Hall and via Zoom to consider the following application: IW-25-036: Reef, 206 East High Street, 253 Housing Development in HOD Zone - "Re-issue of Permit IW-2010-002, Map 32/Block 86/ Lot 4  
Chairman Joshua Wilson

2TB 1/16, 1/23

LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF PORTLAND  
REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE  
PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES

A certified list of 35 Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Portland for election as members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 33 East Main Street, Portland Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 40.  
A primary will be held March 3, 2026, if 10 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with §§9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 P.M. of January 28, 2026, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Pauline Neumann, Republican Registrar of Voters, 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut.  
ATTEST: Michael V. Tierney  
Portland Town Clerk  
Dated this 13th day of January, 2026

1TB 1/16

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LEGALS

TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At its Regular Meeting of January 7, 2026, the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission made the following decision (s): **PZC2025-011 Downing Park, LLC** – 90 day extension to file mylars. **Approved.**  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1TB 1/16

LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

A certified list of 25 Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Marlborough for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 25.  
A Primary will be held March 3, 2026, if 6 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with CGS 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 p.m. on January 28, 2026, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing opposingcandidacies, may be obtained from Sandra Camera-Adams, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut.  
Lauren A. Griffin, Town Clerk  
Marlborough, Connecticut

1TB 1/16

LEGAL NOTICE  
PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR  
TOWN COMMITTEE AT-LARGE

A certified list of 24 Republican party-endorsed candidates for the town of East Hampton for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 48.  
A Primary will be held March 3, 2026 if 12 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with §§9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 p.m. of January 28, 2026, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Rosemarie Hecht, Republican Registrar of Voters, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut 06424.  
Patricia Burnham, CCTC  
Municipal Clerk of East Hampton

1TB 1/16

LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF PORTLAND  
DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE  
PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES

A certified list of 34 Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Portland for election as members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 33 East Main Street, Portland Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 60.  
A primary will be held March 3, 2026, if 15 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with §§9-382 to 9-450, inclusive of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 P.M. of January 28, 2026, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Maureen O'Doherty, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut.  
ATTEST: Michael V. Tierney  
Portland Town Clerk  
Dated this 13th day of January, 2026

1TB 1/16

Town of Portland  
Board of Assessment Appeals  
Notice of Meeting

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet at the Town Hall, 33 East Main Street, during the month of March 2026, for the purpose of hearing Real Estate and Personal Property 2025 Grand List assessment appeals. **Written application must be submitted to the Assessor by 12:00 p.m. on February 20, 2026.** Applications can be found on the Town of Portland website and/or are available for pick up, during business hours, in the Assessor’s Office.

**HOMEOWNERS SENIOR TAX CREDIT**  
The Town of Portland Tax Assessor’s Office will begin taking applications from new applicants for the Senior Tax Credit Program beginning in **February through May 14, 2026.** If you are currently on the program and did **not** file last year, it is time to renew your application.  
If you and/or your spouse are 65 years of age or older or totally disabled, own your home and your income does not exceed \$46,300 if unmarried, or \$56,500 if married, you may be eligible for a tax benefit on your real estate taxes. Your **2025 Federal Income Tax Return and 1099 Social Security statement** are needed as proof of income to submit an application.  
Please contact the Portland Assessor **860-342-6744** if you have any questions or visit our website **[www.portlandct.org/assessor](http://www.portlandct.org/assessor)**

1TB 1/16

LEGAL NOTICE  
PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR  
TOWN COMMITTEE AT-LARGE

A certified list of 39 Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the town of East Hampton for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 40.  
A Primary will be held March 3, 2026 if 10 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with §§9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 p.m. of January 28, 2026, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Lisa Gravel, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut 06424.  
Patricia Burnham, CCTC  
Municipal Clerk of East Hampton

1TB 1/16

LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

A certified list of 27 Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Marlborough for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in my office at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut, and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee Members to be elected, under party rules, is 30.  
A Primary will be held March 3, 2026, if 8 candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of town committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with CGS 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 p.m. on January 28, 2026, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Michele Anne Kacy, Republican Registrar of Voters, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut.  
Lauren A. Griffin, Town Clerk  
Marlborough, Connecticut

1TB 1/16

Legal Notice  
Town of Hebron Connecticut  
Public Information Meeting-Martin Road  
January 28th, 2026  
10:00 AM  
Downstairs Meeting Room  
at Hebron Town Hall  
15 Gilead St. Hebron, CT 06248

Notice is hereby given, that the Public Work’s Department of the Town of Hebron shall hold a Public Information Meeting on January 28th, 2026 at 10:00 AM in the downstairs meeting room at Hebron Town Hall. This public meeting will be to inform and update the public about the Martin Road Reconstruction and Resurfacing Project. The project plan and status will be presented and there will be an opportunity for public comments. Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 13th day of January, 2026  
Paul J. Forrest  
Director, Hebron Public Work’s Department

1TB 1/16

COLCHESTER ZONING  
BOARD OF APPEALS  
LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. via Zoom and in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415 to hear and consider the following petition:  
**Application No. ZBA 2025-002** of Joseph and Maria Wilson (Owner/Applicant) – 9 Lakeview Drive (MBL #13-02/003-000) – Application for variance from Sections 3.4.4.A and 3.4.2 of the Town of Colchester Land Development (Zoning) Regulations to reduce the front yard setback requirement from 29’ to 10’, and to increase the lot coverage from 24.4% to 24.6%. At this hearing interested parties may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is available for public review 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).  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
Laurie Robinson, Chair

2TB 1/9, 1/16, 1/16

LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE  
COLLECTOR’S NOTICE

To the property owners of the Town of Andover:  
The Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes listed on the October 1, 2024 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on January 14, 2026. Payments must be US postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by February 16, 2026 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting February 17, 2026 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1½% per month) from the due date of January 14, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.  
View or pay taxes online at [www.andoverct.org](http://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](http://www.andoverct.org) for updated office hours. The Tax Collector’s office will be CLOSED February 5-22nd. Please plan accordingly.  
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 1/9, 1/16, 2/6



LEGALS

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at their January 21, 2026, 7:00 pm Meeting in the Andover Town Hall, 17 School Road and via ZOOM, to consider the following application:

#25-15 ZBA APPLICATION OF CHRISTINE GOMES, Bausola Road parcel, Map 32 Block 48 Lot 53CB. Applicant is seeking relief from lot area requirements of section 11.2 of the Andover Zoning Regulations. The overall proposal intends to decrease non-conformities that currently exist.

Interested parties may ask questions and/or offer comments, either verbally or in writing.

Applications are on file with the Building and Land Use Department. Building and Land Use Office 860.742.7305, X – 4219 or email [zoning@andoverct.org](mailto:zoning@andoverct.org).

Fred Oliver  
Zoning Board of Appeals - Chairperson

2TB 1/9, 1/16

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF ACTION**

At the regular meeting on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall and via ZOOM, the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions:

Referral from Joint Facilities under CGS 8-24 for Property Acquisitions, 288 & 292 West High Street – Favorable Recommendation

PZC-25-008: Cobalt Health Care & Rehab Center, 29 Middle Haddam Road, seeking a 90-day extension to file mylars related to a previously approved site plan modification – Approved

Ray Zatorski, Chairman

1TB 1/16

**LEGAL NOTICE**

A certified list of Republican and Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the town of Hebron for election as Members of the Town Committee At-Large is on file in the Town Clerk's office at 15 Gilead St. Hebron CT. Copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee members to be elected, under party rules, and the number of names of candidates included in the certificate from each political subdivision specified, is as follows:

NUMBER TO BE ELECTED	CERTIFIED	POLITICAL SUBDIVISION
36	35	Republican
35	34	Democratic

A primary will be held March 3, 2026, in each of the above political parties in which candidacies numbering at least 25% of the number of Town Committee members (9 members for each party) to be elected by such party are filed in accordance with §§9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates not later than 4:00 p.m. of January 28, 2026, provided the number of such candidacies, plus the number of endorsed candidates for such political party, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than such 25% in any party, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from:

**Michele R. May, Republican Registrar of Voters, 15 Gilead St Hebron CT**  
**Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 15 Gilead St, Hebron CT**

Francesca Villani  
Hebron Town Clerk  
Dated: January 14, 2026

1TB 1/16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

**ALWAYS BUYING OLD TOOLS:** old, used, antique hand tools. **MACHINIST,** wood-working, engraving, and workbench hand tools and tool chests. Hunting equipment also of interest. Fair and honest offers made. Stonework and Landscaping Services also offered. Call/text with confidence, Cory 860-215-5685.

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**WANTED JUNK CARS:** and unfinished projects. Contact 860-216-8144.

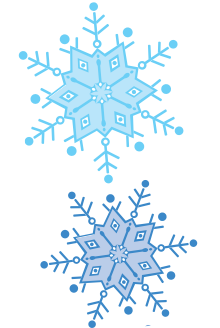
**WANTED TO BUY:** your sterling silverware, tea set, or any item made of sterling. Top cash price paid on the spot. I can come to your home or meet you at a place of your choosing. Call/text Dominic at 860-836-5013 or email [dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmbappraisal@sbcglobal.net).

**WANTED TO BUY:** All antiques; toys, military, watches, advertising, jewelry, coins, clocks, signs, all musical instruments, guitars, saxophones, keyboards, trumpets, amplifiers, accordions, vintage electronics, hi-fi stereo, amplifiers, pro-audio, radios, ham equipment, tube type equipment, plus more. 1 item or entire estate. Call 860-707-9350.

**WANTED:** Individual firearms, collections & estates including, military & related items. Federally licensed firearms dealer. Appraisal. Richard Pleines. 860-663-2214.

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**DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES:** starting soon. Offering Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Need and Want; CGC/Therapy; Agility. Over 25 years experience. Michelle Larson, Paws-N-Heel DTC, 860-267-6040. [paws-n-heel-dogtraining.com](mailto:paws-n-heel-dogtraining.com).



**MINI AMERICAN SHEPHERD:** (Australian) puppies for sale. Killingworth Connecticut 475-331-5105. AKC puppies home raised. Wellness checked 1/8/2026. Microchipped 1/8/2026. Puppy shots 1/8/2026. Tested for parasites /negative 1/5/2026, Weaned, Potty trained. Beginning crate training. Available pending evaluation. Parents on premises. Contract required as well as deposit. puppy visits on premises required. 2,500 per puppy. Non refundable 500 deposit required to hold selected puppy.



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CT11-12-23

EMPLOYMENT

**Part-Time Library Assistant  
Douglas Library of Hebron**

The Douglas Library of Hebron is looking for a Library Assistant I to assist us as we work to provide a welcoming, safe, and diverse environment for the members of our community. Ideal candidates will be technologically-savvy, passionate about providing excellent customer service, and can work independently and in groups.

This position requires the ability to answer questions in person, on the phone, and through digital means. The Library Assistant I will need to interact with all age levels, be able to perform circulation functions using an automated system, shelve library materials and maintain shelf order. Must be comfortable with MS Office, web services and consumer electronics.

Requires a high school diploma or equivalent; relevant work experience preferred. Starting wage is \$16.94 per hour. Nights and Saturday availability a must; 10 to 15 hours a week with occasional opportunity for more.

Please send a completed town application found on the Town's website at: [hebronct.com](http://hebronct.com), a letter of interest and resume to the Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 by February 13, 2026. Open until filled. EOE.

1TB 1/16

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

These positions are in Colchester.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please feel free to call us and ask for more information at 860-531-9426

RE3-15-24

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REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE

**VACANT LAND FOR SALE:** Chestnut Hill Road, Colchester. Between Lot 169 and 195. 12.8 Acres. Sale by Owner. \$73,900. Call 860-913-6723.

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If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.

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**Resumes can be sent to 79A Norwich Avenue, Colchester CT 06415 or [TheCDG@sbcglobal.net](mailto:TheCDG@sbcglobal.net)**

RE1-16-26

**Land Use Enforcement Officer**

The Land Use Enforcement Officer plays a vital role in ensuring compliance with land use regulations and promoting sustainable development practices within our community. Responsibilities include conducting site inspections and acting as the enforcement official for violations of land use regulations and blight ordinance. Also assists the Planning and Zoning Official with evaluating land use proposals. The Land Use Enforcement Officer will collaborate with various departments and agencies to facilitate the permitting process and enforce zoning ordinances.

The ideal candidate should have a high school diploma or equivalent plus related experience in construction, architecture, geography, other land use setting or law enforcement. An understanding of land use regulations and proficiency with map and plan reading to identify wetland boundaries, easements, and other land notations along with strong customer service and computer skills including proficiency utilizing Microsoft programs. A Connecticut driver's license with a clean driving record is required. Current CAZEO certification is preferred or must be obtained. This is a part-time position consisting of 19.5 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$30.00

Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and employment application, no later than January 27, 2026, (or until filled), to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to [lseymour@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:lseymour@easthamptonct.gov)

A job description and employment application may be found at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov). AA/M-F/EOE

1TB 1/16

**ADVERTISERS**

*The Glastonbury Citizen and Rivereast News Bulletin* will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. *The Citizen* will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. *The Citizen* cannot guarantee specific placement.



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RE1-16-25

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RE1-16-26



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CT14-4-24

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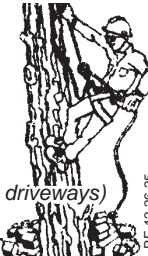
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RE3-8-24

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CT13-9-23

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RE10-3-25

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CT11-16-26

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RE10-24-25

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RE11-13-23

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RE11-16-26

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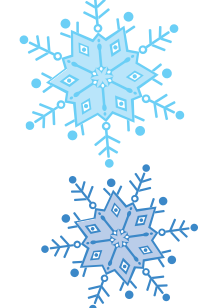
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