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RIVER EAST

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

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Andover • Andover

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.

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.

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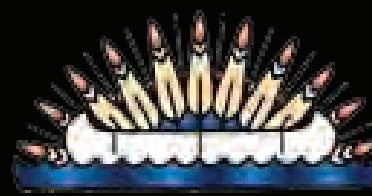


'Soup for Seniors' Potluck Dinner

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.



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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 or visit 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. 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.

Dominoes/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.

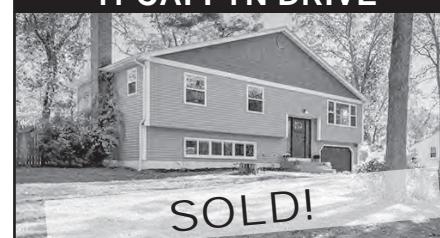
Shopping Trips: Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. Shop Willimantic 1/27, and shop in Manchester 1/20. Transportation is available—Contact Linda to reserve your ride. **Visit the Library:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. Free. Looking for a book? There's a lot to choose from! Check out a book, DVD, audio book, e-book, or a magazine. 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.

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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 Schrayer. 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.



Donation for Meals... Kim Talarczyk, co-founder of Colchester Cares, presents Leanne Ranheim (right), District Nutrition Program Coordinator/Cafeteria Manager, and Lory Faile (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.

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

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.

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

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-

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

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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. 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 Haddam, 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 1/2 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 rework 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 Millard 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

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 Beamslee'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 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:

- Permits for a DPW on this watershed.
- 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.
- 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 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 been 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!

See you next week.

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

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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 McGuiness, 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.



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

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

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



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!



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.

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Cover Story • Cover

★ 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 keeping 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

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

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 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.

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 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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RE1-26-25

Selectmen Make Moves on Various Projects

By Anne Lilburn

Portland's Board of Selectmen met for a regularly scheduled meeting on January 7, and while the meeting encountered technical issues with its Zoom and YouTube feeds, First Selectman Mike Pelton spoke with the *Rivereast* about the meeting and the upcoming agenda items that residents should be on the lookout for.

Pelton said much of the Jan. 7 meeting concerned the town's ongoing contract negotiations with water company MDC (the Metropolitan District). The town's 30-year contract with the water company is up at the end of the month, and Pelton said has been negotiating a future contract for the past year, ever since he was sworn in.

Complicating the negotiations with MDC, the town is currently working to develop a well which could potentially provide Portland with its own municipal water supply. The town didn't want to commit to the terms of another 30-year contract, said Pelton, but also needed to maintain a relationship with MDC.

"We know we want a long-term emergency hookup," Pelton said. "Let's say our well goes down or someone crashes into it, you have to have water, so getting a long-term connection

like Berlin and other towns in the state have" is important.

With that said, Pelton cautioned that there were a lot of unknowns. The town's potential well is still undergoing testing and the town is still determining any water quality issues it may have. They are also determining both the well's exact yield and the town's overall needs. In addition, both Brainerd Place and the Nordic spa will rely on municipal water, adding to the town's water needs.

In the end, Pelton said the town worked to negotiate a deal where they can extend the current contract for six months and then enter into a new contract that lasts two years, with the option to extend it to three years. While the contract requires the town to slightly increase the amount of water it buys from MDC, Pelton said he thinks the new development projects will need that additional water. Pelton said the town is moving forward with a request for proposals for the well construction and that he estimates the well could be completed in roughly two to two and a half years.

Another topic that was discussed at the Board of Selectmen meeting concerned the town's new

river access plan. The town is working to build a new boat launch and park that will provide river access to town residents.

"It's the first public access for Portland residents in a couple of generations," said Pelton. "So people have not been able to bring a kayak or a canoe to the river in Portland without going to a marina where you have to pay for it, so that's a big deal, because we used to build boats in Portland, right? So that was something that we lost."

The town is currently building a road to the new site, located off Airline Road, and Pelton estimated that it will be complete by April 1. He said that the town might be able to do a ribbon cutting ceremony sometime in May if all goes according to plan.

"You'll be able to park down at the river and unload your kayaks and canoes and get out there," he said. "We think that this is going to be the beginning of really making this one of our featured parks."

He said there had been discussion about possibly building a boathouse, and that the town was working on grant applications to get picnic tables, shade and lighting.

Lastly, Pelton said residents should be on

the lookout for information about the school construction project. He said he and other officials were meeting with architects in the coming days to get final pricing on the "renovation to new" costs for one or possibly two schools. Pelton said that, with state reimbursements for construction costs, as much as 74% of the new construction costs would be covered.

"It makes a big difference," he said, "so we can get a lot of bang for our buck, and the town's paying taxes to the state anyway, so it gives us some of the money back in a way that helps the town."

Pelton said the board was planning on getting information about costs, including comparisons between renovating the schools to new vs. just making necessary repairs to the school buildings, in the near future, with plans for community information sessions and web pages that explain the plans adequately. He hopes that residents will be voting on the issue at a referendum on May 11.

"There will be multiple meetings, on multiple platforms," he said, "This will be a very intensive information campaign to get the word out. We want everyone in town to know about it, and we want to hear everybody's voices out there."

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

Co-Ed Drop-In Volleyball: Tuesdays through April, from 6:30-8 p.m., at Gildersleeve School. This program is free to Portland residents and has a one-time fee of \$20 for non-residents. Registration is required for all participants. The program does not take place on days when the school is closed or has early dismissal.

Youth Virtual Golf Clinics at Chris Cote's Golf Shop: One-night clinics are offered on Wednesdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 11, Feb. 25 and March 11, from 5-6 p.m. Clinics taught by PGA Golf Professional Kevin Telford.

Adult & Youth Dance Classes with Miss Aliacia: Various programs are available for participants as young as 13 months old.

Winter Break Art Program by Abrakadoodle: Tuesday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m.-noon, in the

Buck-Foreman Community Center. Kids ages 5-12 are invited to come create a penguin and snowman celebration.

Kids' Blast: This is an afterschool (3-6 p.m.) child care program available to students enrolled in grades K-6 in the Portland Public School System. Membership registration is now open for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

Tai Chi for Long Life: Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m., or Saturdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m., at the Buck-Foreman Community Center.

Plug Into Your Imagination Art Program by Abrakadoodle: Mondays, March 9-30, at the Buck-Foreman Community Center. Kids ages 5-12 are invited to explore new media such as video game art, rice painting, newspaper watercolor and a sculpture made with straws.

Spring Offerings: A Multi-Sport Program at Riverfront Park, Junior Golf Workshops for various grade levels, and **Ladies Spring Golf Clinics** for beginners and intermediates are coming in April and May; watch for more details.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

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

Children's Programs: Winter Reading is AFOOT!: Runs through Saturday, Feb. 28. Visit the library and you'll find a series of challenges. Register to become an official detective and check out the bulletin board each time you visit to see what mysteries are in need of solving. Complete the challenge and update your badge. If you complete at least three of the six challenges, you'll receive a small prize. The library will also offer a number of mystery-related programs in the winter months.

Jigsaw Puzzle Competition: Saturday, Jan. 24 from 10:30 a.m.-noon. The library is looking for teams of 2-4 people to compete in this third annual competition. Team up with friends and family to solve a 500-piece puzzle, and reserve your spot in this relaxed morning event. Registration is limited to seven teams. Coffee, tea and hot cocoa will be available. Space is limited to 7 teams so register early.

day, Feb. 7. There will be crafts, a special scavenger hunt – and a Bubble Poppin' Boogie from singer Joy Blooms at 11 a.m. With lively songs and a whole lot of bubble-poppin' action, kids will engage in rhythm, movement, and imaginative play while building early literacy, motor skills, and social connections. Designed for children ages 1-8 (and their grown-ups). Registration for Bubble Poppin' Boogie is required.

Adult Programs: Winter Reading Is Afoot: Runs through Saturday, Feb. 28. Visit the library throughout January and February and the library will give you some magnifying glasses to fill in with the books you read. Once you've read 6 books, you will have completed the challenge and will win a small prize. Everyone who completes the challenge will be entered into a drawing. The winner will select a book (up to a \$40 value) to be added to the library's collection.

Art Exhibit Reception – Portland Perspectives by Nancy Brault and Sarah Weeden: Saturday, Feb. 21, 1 p.m. This photo exhibit is a study of Portland's walking trails, riverfront, bridge, Main Street, and other unique views of everyday Portland. The exhibit runs through Feb. 28.

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

Book Clubs: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1:00 p.m. *The Twyford Code* by Janice Hallett will be discussed. **Talk About Books:** Tuesday Feb. 3, 1 p.m. *Mercy House* by Alena Dillon will be discussed. **1st Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, Feb. 5, 6:30 p.m. *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi will be discussed.

Movie: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1 p.m. *Fly Me to the Moon* (2024; rated PG-13) will be shown. Run time is 132 minutes.

Take Your Child to the Library Day: Satur-

St. Mary Church News & Notes

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

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

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

Bereavement Support Group: All are invited to attend. The group meets each month on the second Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall and every fourth Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the rosary

room. Call Susan Bongiorno at 860-685-1966 for additional information.

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

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

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

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

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

YMCA CAMP INGERSOLL'S CHILL FOR CHANGE

12th Annual Chill for Change
Saturday, February 28 | Jobs Pond, YMCA Camp Ingersoll
 94 Camp Ingersoll Road, Portland, CT

What is Chill for Change?

Chill for Change challenges participants to "Chill" by jumping into the icy waters of Jobs Pond—and create "Change" by raising critical funds that provide camp scholarships for children who otherwise could not attend.

We Need You to Join Us

Spread the word! Tell friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family members that you're making a difference. Invite them to join your team or support your jump with an online donation. Grab a costume (or don't!) and join us at 1:00 PM on February 28 at YMCA Camp Ingersoll to help change lives!

You can help us get there by registering as an individual or creating a team by scanning QR code below.

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Portland • Portland



Raya Doonan is the local winner of this year's Fire Prevention Poster Contest.

Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winner

Portland Fire Marshal Raymond Sajdak has announced the local winner of the 2025-26 Fire Prevention Poster Contest: fourth-grader Raya Doonan. The theme of this year's contest was "Fire Prevention - Everyone/Everyday."

Raya is a student at Gildersleeve School. Her teacher is Amber Ostrander. The art teacher is Andi Cherry. For winning, Raya will receive a check for \$75 and move on to the county level.

The first-place winning poster for the fourth-grade students are submitted for judging on the county level. Two county winners from the fourth grade will be chosen from this selection. The state winner will be used to promote fire prevention throughout the State of Connecticut and will be the Official State Poster.

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

check, and the state winner will receive a \$750 check. In addition, a matching grant will be awarded to the state winner's local fire marshal's office in the amount of \$500.

The Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest is a cooperative effort of the Office of State Fire Marshal, the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association, Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, State Board of Education, and the Connecticut Fair Plan (representing the insurance industry).

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.

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, UCC, located at 554 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 10 a.m. All are welcome. Pastor is the Rev. Judith Cooke. This Sunday, Jan. 18, Cooke will be preaching on the topic "Come and See."

Also at 10 a.m., elementary aged children will meet for Church School in the newly renovated

Zion Lutheran

Zion Lutheran Church is located at 183 William St. All are invited to participate in worship. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

Worship Notes: Zion offers Sunday worship each week at 9 a.m.

Learning: Sunday School classes, for children ages 3 through 8th grade, meet the first and third Sunday of each month, from 10:15-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Sylvia LeShane at 860-342-0658.

Year-Round Giving: Pull tabs are collected year-round and donated to the Ronald McDon-

classroom, and the middle school class will meet in the youth room. Infant - Pre-K children will enjoy playtime and an age-appropriate lesson.

Mardi Gras Fest: Sunday, Jan. 31, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Enjoy food, raffle baskets, and more.

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

News & Notes

ald "House that Love Built," supporting families with seriously ill children. Zion recycles computer ink cartridges to support office supplies for Sunny Hill Preschool and Zion. Pull tabs and used ink cartridges may be dropped off at the church on Sunday morning, or by calling the church office.

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

Mardi Gras Festival

The First Congregational Church of Portland (located at 554 Main St.) will hold a Mardi Gras Festival Saturday, Jan. 31, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., in the church's Fellowship Hall.

A variety of activities and treats will be available, with one highlight being the Mardi Gras Café, featuring a luncheon of authentic red beans and rice as well as chicken and andouille gumbo, both for eating in and taking out. This food is the "real deal," prepared by church member Jeffrey Fraulino and his kitchen helpers. Several New Orleans inspired desserts including New Orleans bread pudding with vanilla sauce and chocolate pecan pie will top off the delicious luncheon.

The event will also feature a basket raffle with

Historical Society Annual Meeting

The Portland Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting Sunday, Jan. 25, from 2-4 p.m., at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave. After a brief business meeting to present the proposed 2026 budget, an election will be held to determine the society's officers and directors.

A program, "Castles Along the Connecticut," will be presented by local resident and society member Alain Munkittrick. In 1604 Sir Edward Coke penned the dictum that has come to mean "a man's home is his castle." If perhaps relevant at a time when a nobleman sought defensible shelter from the Highwaymen (or the High Sheriff!), why has the fortress persisted as an architectural signifier in the modern age?

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

liam Gillette's "Seventh Sister" and St. Clements. While many of these high seats overlooking the Connecticut River appear in his book, *Historic Houses of the Connecticut River Valley*, Munkittrick will discuss many other examples discovered during his research.

All members as well as the public are invited to attend. A gathering time with refreshments will happen at the conclusion of the program.

Bereavement Support Group

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

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

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

Vocal Chords Seek Altos, Tenors and Basses

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC), directed by Samuel Tucker and accompanied by Alan Dougherty's 10-piece orchestra, are searching for men and women to join their alto, tenor and bass sections. No auditions or prior experience are required.

Rehearsals start on Tuesday, Jan. 20, from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Francis Church's Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, 10 Elm St., Middletown, as they prepare for their spring concert on Saturday, May 2 at Portland High School.

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 or call 860-342-3120.

Garden Club Seed Swap Event

Celebrate National Seed Swap Day with the Portland River Valley Garden Club on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

Bring labeled seeds saved from your garden - or unopened packets from last year - and exchange them for new varieties to grow this season.

Enjoy free demonstrations on making seed bombs, winter sowing and growing microgreens. Visit River Bend Bookshop's vendor table and learn about the Portland Library's Seed Library.

Admission is free; food bank donations are encouraged.

For more details, visit portland-river-valley-garden-club.blogspot.com.

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Free Home Energy Efficiency Assessments Available

By Anne Lilburn

Residents of Portland, East Hampton and other local communities have an opportunity to get a free assessment to make their home more energy efficient – and cost-efficient as well.

The Home Energy Solutions (HES) assessment is provided by Energize Connective, a state and utility-backed initiative that is funded by a charge on energy bills, and while it typically costs \$75, for a limited time in select communities, it's free.

Portland residents recently had a chance to hear about the opportunity at a presentation at Portland's Waverly Senior Center. Andy Bauer, Chair of the Portland Clean Energy Task Force, organized the HeatSmart Portland presentation that took place on Jan. 8, and about a dozen community members showed up to find out more.

At the presentation, Rhea Drozdenko, a representative from New England Smart Energy, walked attendees through the HES assessment process. New England Smart Energy is one of two vendors that conducts the assessments, along with Lantern Energy.

Drozdenko said that the HES assessment, which takes roughly two to four hours, consists of both evaluations of a home's current energy efficiency and also education about the opportunity.

'Chill for Change' Returns Feb. 28

The Northern Middlesex YMCA and Camp Ingersoll will hold the 12th annual Chill for Change, a winter fundraiser benefiting camp scholarships and life-changing camp experiences, on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Chill for Change challenges participants to "Chill" by jumping into the icy waters of Jobs Pond – and create "Change" by raising funds that provide camp scholarships for children who otherwise could not attend. The event also inspires personal growth, courage, and community through the shared camp experience.

YMCA Camp Ingersoll is a 77-acre outdoor center located on the shores of Jobs Pond in Portland, at 94 Camp Ingersoll Rd.

This winter, Northern Middlesex YMCA's goal is to raise more than \$40,000 with 70+ jumpers.

Over the past 11 years, Chill for Change has raised more than \$200,000. Last year alone, more than 65 jumpers, in addition to donors and event sponsors, raised nearly \$35,000, making it the most successful Chill yet. Thanks to

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Avenue, announces the following. **Registration is required for all programs** unless noted; for more information or to register, call 860-342-6761. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. Visit www.portlandct.org/senior-services for more information.

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

Mobile Food Pantry: The Food Share Mobile Pantry comes to the Food Bank every other Monday. The next date is Jan. 26.

Weekly Programs: Unless noted, all programs are free. **Tuesday, 1/20: Bears on a Journey**, 9:30-11 a.m. – to donate light fleece for making teddy bears for cancer patients, call 860-342-0809; **Congregate Meal**, noon. Cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: baked potato and veggie chili with cheese and sour cream, broccoli, orange, cheddar biscuit and butter; **Coupons for Troops**, 1-4 p.m.; **Setback**, 1 p.m.; **SyncoCize**, 5-6 p.m., fee is donation to instructor.

Wednesday, 1/21: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia**, 10:30-11:15 a.m., fee is a \$5 donation to instructor; **Rug Hooking Group**, noon – whether a seasoned pro or looking to pick up a new skill, this group is for all. Call the center for more information.

Bridge, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Thursday, 1/22: Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m.; **Knit & Stitch**, 10 a.m.; **Congregate Meal**, noon. Cost is \$3 suggested donation (must fill out form). Menu: turkey and veggie pot pie, mashed potatoes, cranberry orange bread, peach cup, milk; **Mahjong (FULL)**, 12:30 p.m.; **Scrabble**, 1 p.m.

Friday, 1/23: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; **Mah Jongg**, 10 a.m.; **Chair Yoga with Gia**, 10:30-11:15 a.m., fee is a \$5 donation to instructor.

January Special Events: Unless noted, programs are free and registration is required. **Wednesday, Jan. 21:** Trip to New Britain Museum of American Art: Norman Rockwell Exhibit. Leave Center at 10 a.m., \$15 Admission, \$5 Ride Fee.

Thursday, Jan. 22: Shopping Trip to Noel's

tunities available to residents, including how to access state rebates and incentives. She said that technicians who show up to a home to conduct an assessment typically assess health and safety issues, checking for gas leaks and combustion issues, and that they also check for efficiency concerns, including insulation, air duct sealing, windows and doors.

Drozdenko said they were often able to make simple fixes on the spot at no charge via window caulking, weather stripping, and duct sealing, but that technicians were also able to offer advice and education on bigger upgrades, including attic and wall insulation and rebates on new heat pump-based appliances.

The rebates and tax incentives available for those looking to make bigger improvements are impressive, and may help to offset the cost of insulation, energy efficient windows, and heat pump HVAC systems and water heaters. Additionally, for income-eligible customers, the rebates and incentives may even cover 100% of some upgrades.

Drozdenko, as well as Bauer, talked about the benefits of heat pumps, modern HVAC systems that use electricity to move heat from one area to another, instead of generating heat like in traditional systems. Heat pumps can be ductless

Sponsors: Butler Construction, Rare Reminder & The Chronicle (Media Partner). Partners: Mercy High School, Stage 1 Cycling Club/Airline Cycles, Birdon Awards & Incentives.

All jumpers must preregister, and must be age 14 or older. Awards will be given for: Best Costume, Best Team Theme, Biggest Pig Sty (most funds raised by a team), and Biggest Piggy Bank (most funds raised by an individual).

The top individual fundraiser will receive a free session of camp – which can be redeemed by your own family or gifted to someone else.

Register, donate, or form a team at campingersoll.org – click on 'Chill for Change'.

For more information, contact Ben Silliman at bsilliman@midymca.org or 860-342-2267, or look for YMCA Camp Ingersoll on Facebook.

or incorporated into existing ducted heating and cooling systems, and they are more cost-effective than both oil or electric (baseboard) heating. While new HVAC systems can be expensive, both presenters emphasized that many efficiency changes, such as weather sealing, are not expensive and can make a big difference in terms of comfort.

For Bauer, his presentation was personal. He had an HES assessment done around 2012 and made significant changes to his home as a result, including adding a heat pump system and additional insulation. He shared slides showing some of the upgrades made at his own home back then.

Bauer described his home before the assessment as "a house where the curtains moved inside when the wind blew outside." He said he was impressed by how much the techs found and fixed during the initial assessment, including sealing leaky window jams, sealing gaps in plumbing, and adding a door sweep on a basement door.

Bauer added that "the happy ending [after the HES assessment] is when my wife came home and asked if I had turned the heat up."

He described the \$75 fee he paid as "the best \$75 I've spent on a home improvement."

Luckily for residents of Portland, as well as other towns participating in the HeatSmart campaign, including East Hampton, Chester and Deep River, that \$75 is being waived for a limited time. Drozdenko explained that the fee

would not apply for anyone who signed up on the HeatSmart Portland website, www.heat-smartct.org/portland, before March 31 and had their assessment completed before April 30.

In addition, utility company Eversource will donate \$25 to the Portland Food Bank for each of those signups.

Former first selectman Susan Bransfield was in the audience for Bauer's presentation. Bransfield said she wasn't currently eligible to do an HES assessment because she had done one a few years ago. People can only get the assessment done once every six years.

Still, Bransfield said she was there because "I really believe in the HES program." She said she wanted to learn more about the current program so that she could pass along the info to those she knew. She said she had been very happy with the upgrades she made to her own home, which included a heat pump.

Sitting next to Bransfield was Mary Maki, who said she was considering the assessment. She said she was thinking about insulation in her home and was interested in finding out more.

Also in attendance was Russ Kaplan, chair of the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force. He said that East Hampton was participating in the HeatSmart program as well, and noted that the Clean Energy Task Force would be hosting its own information session about free HES assessments on Feb. 3 at 10:30 a.m., at the town's Senior Center.

Trinity Episcopal News

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

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

Church in Connecticut's annual diaper drive.

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

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

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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.

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.

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.

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



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

Needleman to Seek Fifth Term



Needleman

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.

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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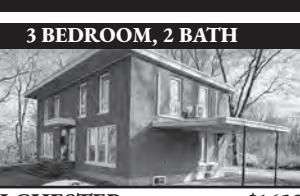
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this historic celebration and a wide variety of vibrant historical figures associated with that special parcel of land. This included the sixty Hebron men that grabbed their muskets and powder and marched to Lexington and Concord to face the Red Coats. 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 Petrucci + 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 Petrucci 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,
Kevin J. Tulumieri
Amston

Colchester • Colchester



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 snowfall threatened the event. Despite the uncertainty, the community showed up, with 140 runners registered for the 2025 Resolution Run.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 15 Louis Lane, has announced the following. Unless noted, registration is required for all programs. Credit Cards are currently not accepted. For full descriptions of programs and to register, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or for a full list of activities, visit www.colchesterct.gov/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,

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!

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 Ostrout. The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and can be reached at 860-537-5189 or cfc06415@gmail.com.

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

Twelve-Step Meetings: AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30

Dean's List

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

was established in 2020 and has donated over \$70,000 to Colchester causes since it began.

Colchester Cares always welcomes new members who are interested in giving back to the community. Attending meetings is not mandatory! For more information on the group or to join, stop by next week's meeting, or visit www.colchestercares.org. Follow the group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/colchestercares.

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

Senior Center Upcoming Trip

rope: Oct. 4-17. Explore Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest and Krakow. This 14-day, 13-night trip includes airfare, hotels, and meals (12 breakfasts, one lunch, and six dinners). Cost is \$6,499 per person for double occupancy, if booked before Feb. 26. This is a small group tour (only 24 people in total on the tour) so space is limited. For more information visit <https://gateaway.gocollette.com/link/1346389>.

Majestic Cities of Central & Eastern Europe

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.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$14 for seniors (ages 65+) and children (age 12 and under). Premium seating tickets are available for \$28 each. Tickets for this production are now on sale through the "Buy Tickets" page on CCT's website at www.colchestercommunitytheatre.com. New this year, audience members are able to select seats when placing an order.

Tickets will also be available at the door (cash, check, or credit card) on performance days, subject to availability. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. All ticket sales are final – no refunds or exchanges.

CCT is selling advertisement space in our digital program as well as sponsorship levels to offset the cost of our costumes, sets and props construction. For additional information, contact producer Donna Brown at 860-639-9315.

In case of inclement weather, visit www.facebook.com/ColchesterCommunityTheatre.

Recycling Project

Boy Scout 72 is continuing to accept recyclable containers from local residents. You can drop bags of recyclable containers on the left-hand side of the pavilion at the St. Joseph's Polish Club at 395 South Main Street Colchester. Email letendre@sbcglobal.net or text or call 860-917-8391, if you wish to schedule a pick-up.

Your donations will help scouts go to summer camp and enjoy other camping activities that they might have to miss due to a family's ability to afford issues.

Christian Life Chapel News

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

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

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

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

Dean's List

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

Jillian Hope Deangelis Callan, who is majoring in theatre arts; Trevor Andrew Howard, who is majoring in theatre arts; and Owen Jacob Ibey, who is majoring in political science.



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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.

East Hampton • East Hampton

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 com-

mitment 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 ehsprojectgraduation.judus.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.easthamptons.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 triptofrance26@gmail.com ASAP to get more information and a detailed itinerary.



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sent you! See you soon!
-Sarah

Amanda,
I know we will love each
other forever.
-Adam

Office Information Only • Must be received by February 6 • Please enclose check

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Christ Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

Bible Study: Contact Bobette Reed Kahn at 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 donnadbhryb@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, visit middlehaddamlibrary.com or call 860-267-9093. Mailing address: P.O. Box 123, Middle Haddam, CT 06456.

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

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 tensummits@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 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.



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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.

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

Stuffed Sole Crab meat stuffing served over spinach

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

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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.



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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 Park- ing 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 Kow- alczyk 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.

East Hampton • East Hampton

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 to 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

Taxes Due Jan. 1 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.

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 with any questions or concerns.

2026 Old Home Days Logo Contest

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.

For questions, email Carl Guild at carlguild@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. 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.

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.

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

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 or www.bethlehemeh.org.

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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 or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center for more information and a list of regular weekly and monthly activities, including games, quilting, Bible study, monthly men's and women's groups, and more.

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 Currier. 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.

Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough • Marlborough

Ukrainian Egg-Decorating Workshop

The Marlborough Arts Center will offer a Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 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 Ukrainian 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. 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!

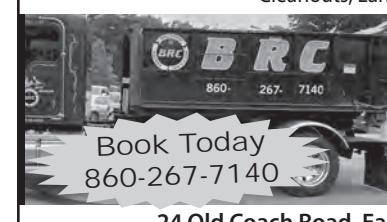
Advance purchase: \$20 (includes six cards; more available for purchase). Cost is \$25 at the door.

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

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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.marlborougharts.org, email info@marlborougharts.org or call the center at 860-467-6353.

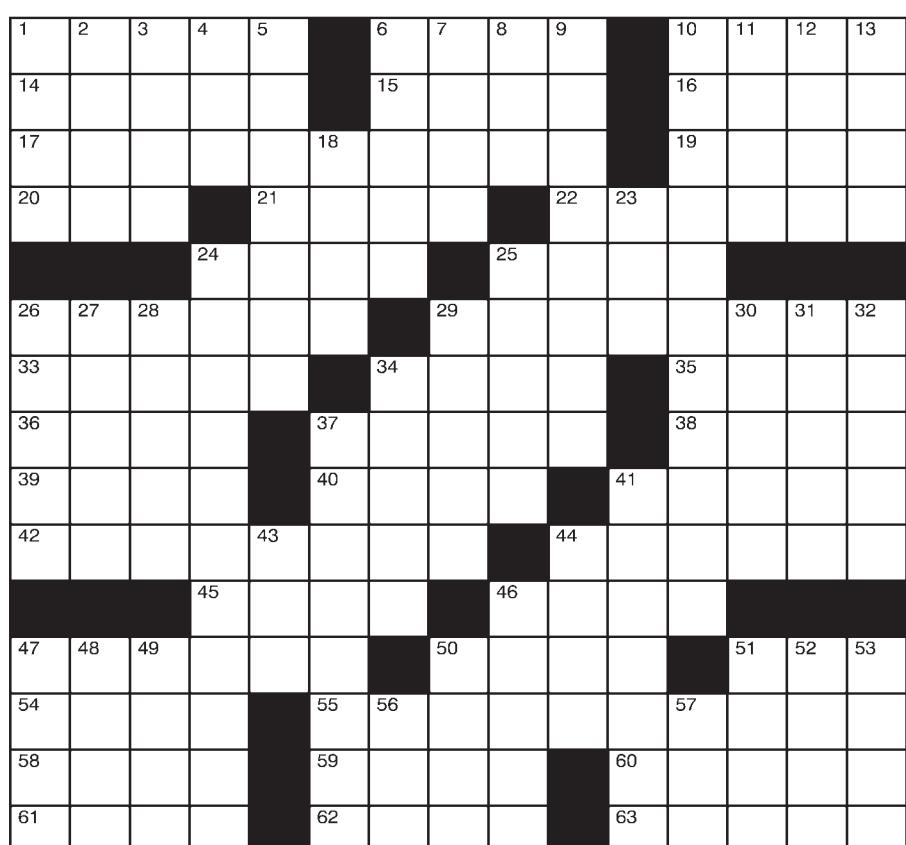
Marlborough Arts Center is a nonprofit regional center for the arts.

FIND YOUR PLACE HAPPY HARRINGTON REAL ESTATE



PRIME

Answers on page 21



By Neil Manausa

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

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

46 Bleats

47 Rotten deal: sl.

50 Not fem.

51 Shoe width

54 Swift steed

55 Get down to these

58 Estimate

59 Certain paintings

60 Fairytale villains

61 Axillary

62 New Haven university

63 Induce

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

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

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.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

Ministry, Social and Parish Community

Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive, is open for activities. For more information about any senior center program, call 860-295-6209 or email socialservices@marlboroughct.gov.

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

tionals 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 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.

Discovery Zone learning Center

Volunteer. The Benefits Are Extraordinary!

 **PROTECTORS OF ANIMALS**

Extraordinary Benefits:

You'll feel really, really good!

You'll meet delightful dogs,

fabulous felines, and some

pretty special humans, too!

Volunteer Positions

Day & Evening Hours:

East Hampton & Wethersfield facilities –

Dogs: walking,

clean & feed; socialization

East Hartford facility –

Cats: clean & feed;

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Marlborough

860-295-8003

2 Orlando Dr.

Hebron • Hebron

Council Funds Safety Needs, Debates Cell Tower Lease

By Toriana Williams

The Hebron Town Council's Jan. 8 meeting focused heavily on public safety, long-term infrastructure planning with emergency services and telecommunications policy emerging as the most consequential topics.

Among the most significant actions taken were the approval of multiple grant applications for fire and emergency medical equipment, a \$75,000 supplemental appropriation for a new ambulance stretcher and lift and renewed scrutiny of an existing cell tower lease that several councilors characterized as unfavorable to the town.

Emergency Services Funding

Public safety funding dominated the latter half of the meeting, beginning with three grant applications for fire department equipment, all of which were approved unanimously.

The council approved an application to the Firefighters Charitable Foundation Grants for Fire Departments Programs for the replacements of two ambulance stair chairs. Fire Chief Peter Starkel emphasized the operational importance of the equipment, stating that the stair chairs are "probably one of the most used pieces" on an ambulance and noted they are 14 years old.

A second grant application was approved for the Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder Outreach Grant, which would fund the replacement of two ambulance LUCAS devices. Starkel explained that the mechanical CPR devices are "very handy when you're short-staffed" and during patient movement because they provide accurate, consistent compressions.

The council also approved an application to

Good Shepherd Parish News

The Church of the Holy Family (CHF), located at 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron, is yoked with St. Columba Church (STC) in Columbia, and together are members of the Catholic Community of the Good Shepherd, with the Rev. Michael Phillipino serving as Pastor.

Mass Schedule: Weekend Masses: CHF Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; and STC Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Refer to www.goodshepherdct.org for weekday Mass times and more information about the parish.

Office Hours: The parish office can be reached at 860-228-3727 Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The pastor is available for the sacrament at CHF on Thursdays at 7 a.m. and on Saturdays at 4 p.m., and at STC on Wednesdays and Sundays at 7 a.m., or by appointment (church phone ext. 110).

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

"Neighbors Feeding Neighbors": The Social Outreach Committee collects breakfast cereal on the second Sunday of each month for the benefit of the Covenant Soup Kitchen (CSK) in Willimantic. The next collection date is Feb. 8. However, cereal is most welcome any time. Place bagged donations in the oak collection box near the CHF Robing Room.

Meatloaves for CSK: The parish also provides meatloaves to CSK each month. Parishioners are asked to deliver a cooked meatloaf

St. Peter's News & Notes

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

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

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

Project Hope Dinner Assembly: The Project Hope team will meet Saturday, Jan. 17, at 2 p.m. to prepare meals for the homeless shelter. Contact Candace O'Shea for more information.

Day of Tears Performance: Sunday, Jan. 18, at 3 p.m., in St. Peter's sanctuary. Based on the novel *Day of Tears*, the event will also feature a discussion and hors d'oeuvres following the performance. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at code-diversity.org.

Community Events Planning Meeting: The church's annual planning for all 2026 commun-

the Connecticut Water 2026 Firefighter Support Grant Program in the amount of \$2,000. Starkel stated he intended to use the funds to purchase two new fire nozzles, each costing approximately \$930.

In addition to grant funding, the council unanimously approved a supplemental appropriation of \$75,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance for the emergency purchase of an ambulance stretcher and lift, both of which are battery powered. Starkel shared that they're "designed to save our backs," with the ability to lift and move injured parties into the ambulance with ease. The resolution directs the request to proceed to the Board of Finance in accordance with the town charter.

'Horrible' Cell Tower Lease

One of the most pointed policy discussions of the meeting centered on the town's existing SBA cell tower lease, an issue previously acted upon but returned to the agenda for clarification.

Town Council Chair Tiffany Thiele, a Democrat, reminded the council that it had already voted not to extend the lease on the tower – located at 66 Wall St. – beyond its expiration.

"In the last meeting, we decided that we did not want to renew past 2030," she said, explaining that the intent was to pursue a request for proposals (RFP) to secure better terms for taxpayers while continuing to support Fund 15 for Parks and Recreation. She asked why the item had returned to the agenda.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said the carrier had presented the town with a limited

yes-or-no option to extend the lease, including a one-time payment and a percentage revenue increase. He noted the town cannot reopen the lease unilaterally and warned that pursuing an RFP under the current agreement could risk both revenue and cellular service. Tierney said the town currently receives about \$120,000 annually from the tower, calling it "pretty lucrative," particularly for Parks and Recreation, and said he hoped the council would reconsider.

Several councilors expressed skepticism about the lease terms. Councilor Jan Lawrence, a Democrat, also criticized the length and inflexibility of the extensions, while Thiele said it was "certainly not worth signing six terms of five years that we cannot get out of."

Councilor Sean Fitzgerald, a Republican, later said he believed the town would be "better off doing an RFP [Request for Proposals] for a new tower."

The discussion concluded with agreement on the need for advance planning. Petit proposed forming a subcommittee to begin RFP work well ahead of the 2030 expiration and Thiele suggested placing a motion to create the committee on a future agenda.

Budget Planning, Admin Updates

Tierney reported that budget preparation is underway for multiple entities, including the town, Region 8 and Chatham Health, with timelines "on track." He also reported that an RFP for curbside pickup is in process with the town attorney.

Tierney stated he met with the new owner of Ted's IGA, discussing plans for revitalization of the store. "He's keeping it a grocery store," Tierney shared, adding that the new owner "wants to make it a little bit more upscale." Tierney then said he would explore a possible ribbon-cutting or Economic Development Commission-related event.

Military Whist Tournament

There will be a Military Whist Tournament Saturday, Jan. 31, at 5 p.m., in-person at Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., in the Fellowship Hall.

As one of the final events in the kick-off for the 250th year celebration, The Town Center Project (TTCP) is scheduling an evening of Whist on Jan. 31. Whist is an old card game dating back to the 1500s, gaining popularity

in England in the 1700s.

In addition to the tournament, there will also be a potluck supper.

Attendance is limited to 40 players. Whist experience is not necessary, but some card play knowledge is helpful.

To sign up for this event, call the Gilead Church office at 860-228-3077. No reservations will be accepted after Friday, Jan. 24.

Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, call the library at 860-228-9312 or visit douglaslibrary.org.

Holiday Closing: The library will be closed Monday, Jan. 19, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Adult Programs: Historic Research: Saturday, Jan. 17, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Join Romano Ghirlanda, head of Marlborough Preservation Society as you learn how to begin your own historic and personal genealogical search using free online resources.

Mahjong Group: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. Stop in and play Mahjong no matter what your skill level is.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Tuesday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Register at redcross.org.

Cookbook Club: Tuesday, Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m. This month, read and choose a recipe from *Whiskey in a Teacup* to make beforehand and share with the group.

Storytimes: are every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday is ideal for ages 15 months to 3 years old. Thursdays are geared to ages 3-5 years old, as they learn letters, numbers and colors. Siblings are always welcome at either session.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Yoga: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10 a.m., through Jan. 29. Drop-in fee is \$5 per class. Instructor Laurie Pasteryak will have classes suitable for both the experienced and beginner yogis who can do their practice on either the floor or in a chair. To register, call 860-228-1700.

AARP Income Tax Preparation - Certified AARP Tax Preparation volunteers will be at the Hebron Senior Center to prepare basic Federal and State tax returns on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (first appointment at 9 a.m., last appointment at noon) on the following dates: February 3, February 10, February 17, February 24, March 3, March 11, March 17, March 24, and March 31. Sign-ups will begin starting TUESDAY, January 6th, 2026, call 860-228-1700.

Sound Healing - Wednesday, Jan. 28 1 p.m. This is a free presentation by Jeremy from The Residence at Glastonbury. Join the Senior Center for a Sound Healing Experience designed to calm the mind, relax the body, and restore inner balance. Come unwind, recharge, and let the healing sounds wash over you. Pre-registration is required, please call 860-228-1700 to sign-up.

Men's 'Golden Oldies' Social Activities Group: If you are 60 or older and interested in participating in a social activities group with other men, contact social worker Dennis Farrar, MSW, at 860-228-1700, ext. 204 to register for the first get together on Friday, Jan. 23, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Monthly Blood Pressure Screening: Monday, Jan. 26, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Public Health

Nurse Vicki Han, RN from Chatham Health will offer free blood pressure screenings and educate you on how to monitor it at home and how to reduce your risks for heart attacks and strokes. No registration required. It is free.

Caregiver Support Group: Friday, Jan. 16, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This group offers a safe place to discuss the stresses, challenges, and rewards of providing care for a loved one and learning about resources and ideas to assist you in through the process. For more information call Dennis at 860-228-1700 ext. 204.

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

Recurring Daily/Weekly Happenings: Some programs have a fee, and some are no-cost; most require pre-registration. More information in the monthly newsletter or at the senior center.

Monday through Friday: Exercise Equipment Room, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – though from 9 a.m.-noon on Fridays.

Mondays: Enhance Fitness via Zoom, 9-10 a.m.; Massage, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Tuesdays:** Yoga, 9-10 a.m.; Knitting/Crocheting Group, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Hand and Foot Canasta (cards), 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Card-Making, 1-2:15 p.m.

Wednesdays: Enhance Fitness via Zoom, 9-10 a.m.; FABBS 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. (start Jan. 14) **Thursdays:** Yoga, 9-10 a.m.; Sunshine Singers, 10:15-11:45 a.m.; Tai Chi, 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Chatham Health blood pressure screening, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month; Chatham Health Education Series, 12:15 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month; Massage, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Mahjong, 12:45-3:15 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; **Fridays:** Enhance Fitness via Zoom, 9-10 a.m.; FABBS 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Hebron • Hebron

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 up-front 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."

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-ebrown/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

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:

EWF 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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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-

Preplanning Funeral Services makes sense and is free to do at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home

Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, Inc. is located at 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester, CT 06415. For personalized information on costs and services, please call 860-537-9611. The building features a white exterior with a prominent entrance and a sign that reads "Aurora-McCarthy FUNERAL HOME INC."

Please call our office for personalized information on costs and services.

860-537-9611

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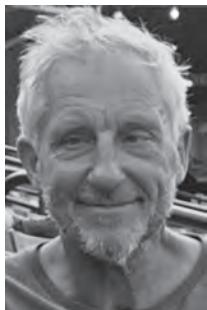
Obituaries

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 (Steve/ 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 Sonichsen), 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, or to Saint Jude Children's Hospital Research Hospital at www.stjude.org.

To share a memory of Steve or send a condolence to his family please visit 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 Watercourses 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 candidates (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 candidates plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of town committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidates filed is reduced to less than such 25%, no primary will be held.) Petition forms, instructions, and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidates, may be obtained from Rosemarie Hecht, Republican Registrar of Voters, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, Connecticut 06424.

ATTEST: Michael V. Tierney
Portland Town Clerk
Dated this 13th day of January, 2026

1TB 1/16

**MAKE SURE
CUTIE PIE IS IN
THE RIGHT SEAT.**
NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC
DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, January 22, 2026
6:30 P.M. AT TOWN HALL
LEGAL NOTICE

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:
Application 619 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Mary Jo Shafer of 20 Knowles Road, Middle Haddam, to replace 10 windows with white fibre/composite windows with full divided light grille style.
Application 620 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Ronald Kuivila and Barbara Tsumagari of 39 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam, to replace their front door with a six-light, wooden door with aged-bronze door handle.
The foregoing application is available for public review at the East Hampton Town Hall. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.

1TB 1/16

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
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

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 opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Sandra Camera-Adams, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut.

Lauren A. Griffin, Town Clerk
Marlborough, Connecticut

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

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

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

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

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

1TB 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 (1% 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. Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Typical office hours during collection months are Monday 8:15am- 7pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:15 am-4pm. Please refer to www.andoverct.org for updated office hours. 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.
 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

36

35

CERTIFIED

35

34

POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

Republican

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

1TB 1/16

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, 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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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

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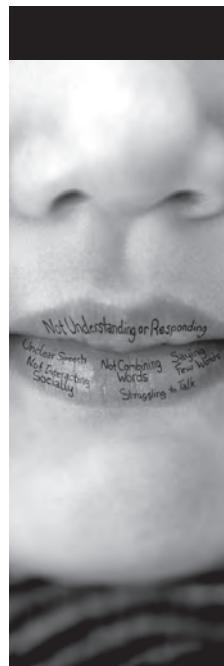
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RE1-16-26



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 bylaw 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 ls Seymour@easthamptonct.gov. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. AA/M-F/EOE

1TB 1/16

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

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RE1-9-26

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